

Cooperation not Isolation

Two Lessons to be presented in two separate lessons:

First month--Building the Tabernacle (OT)

Second month--Sending out first missionaries (NT)

Lesson Aim for both lessons:

At the end of these lessons, the student will understand that we should cooperate or work together with others in good efforts, not seeking to do everything on our own. When the students sees others working for good and right causes, he will join in and strengthen the effort whenever possible, using his God-given gifts and abilities and letting others use theirs.

Cooperation (noun): The act of working together with others to achieve a good purpose.

Other forms of the word:

Cooperate (verb) He tried to cooperate.

Cooperative (adjective) He is a cooperative person.

Cooperatively (adverb) He is working cooperatively.

Opposite (noun): Isolation The act of working by oneself alone and not with others.

(Or we might say a person is uncooperative or shows a lack of cooperation.)

Song for both lessons:

Life! Is better, better

When we work together, gether

(Repeat three times.)

Co-oper---Co-oper---Cooperate!

Memory Verse for both lessons:

I Corinthians 12:20-21 "...There are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

Lesson Topic: Cooperating in Building the Tabernacle

Lesson 1 Lesson Text: Exodus 35:4-35, 36:1-4, 39:32-43

Beginning the Lesson:

Can you name some of the Black Stars of Ghana? (Let the students respond.) Have you ever heard of just one of them winning all by himself? Why is that impossible? (They are a team. They all need to play together.)

There are not very many things in life one person can do all by himself or herself? Can one person build a road? A great building? Can a girl have a baby all by herself? Can a teacher teach if there is no class? Can a pastor have a church all by himself? Can you have a choir by yourself? Can you have a village by yourself? No! Most of the worthwhile things in life require the cooperation or the working together of many people.

There were many times that the children of Israel needed to work together. Today we will learn about one of the times when they cooperated beautifully, and something great was accomplished.

Main Points:

Background information: The children of Israel were in the desert after coming out of slavery in Egypt. God told them to make a portable arrangement of tents for worship that they could pack up and take with them as they traveled toward the land God had promised them. This tent of worship was called The Tabernacle.

Visuals to show if possible:

- A map showing Egypt, the desert of Sinai, and the promised land (Israel).
- A picture of the completed Tabernacle.

Exodus 35:4-35

- Moses asked the people to bring an offering of many different kinds of things that God had shown him. (Emphasize: He did not ask for an offering of only one kind, but of many different kinds.)

Participation: Make signs showing some of the things the people brought, and practice reading them 2 or 3 times. (silver, purple thread, linen, ram skins, oil, spices, beautiful stones) Draw or paste pictures to show the item if possible. Use more or fewer of these items according to the level of the students. Then do this rhythm together:

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

I'll bring gold, you bring (hold up one of the signs you have practiced, & the students read it together in rhythm). Repeat for each item.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

- Moses called those who had various skills to volunteer to make the things God had commanded for the place of worship. (Emphasize: Many different skills were needed, not only one person's skill.)

Participation:

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

I'll make this and you make that.

I'll do this and you do that.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

- Many volunteered to help, both men and women.

Participation:

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

I'm a volunteer today.

I'm a volunteer today.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

- Each brought what he or she had and volunteered to do the work he or she knew.
- Some were especially skilled and gifted to teach others, so they did.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

I know this, so I can teach.

I know this, so I can teach.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Exodus 36:1-4

- They continued bringing gifts and coming to work on the project every morning until there was more than enough of all the different kinds of materials needed.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Come to work again today.

Bring your gifts again today.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

Clap! Clap! Let's all cooperate.

- Then Moses told them to stop bringing their gifts.

Exodus 39:32-43

- So the people completed the work of the place of worship outside and inside, just as God had showed them.
- They completed it by cooperation—by all working together with their different gifts and skills.

They cooperated, and the work got done.

They cooperated, and the work got done.

They cooperated, and the work got done.

- So Moses blessed the people because they had worked together until they finished the job. Now they had a house of worship that could be taken with them as they traveled. This was a benefit to everyone.
- Not even the most skilled person among them could have completed the work himself or herself. They could not do it in isolation. They did it easily by cooperating, all working together, and God was honored.

Participation:

Divide the students into two groups with two leaders. One group starts with, “No one could do it all himself, and so...”

The second group continues with
“Let’s all cooperate!” Continue repeating, rhythmically.

Applying the Bible to daily life:

Let’s look in on some students today who are planning a special event.

(Students show a skit showing students arguing about what to do, who to invite, and what each person’s part will be. In the end they get angry and several of them stomp off, saying they are going to have their own party and forget about everyone else.)

Oh, no. These students are trying to plan an event in isolation, each one all by himself. I wonder if those events are going to succeed. Let’s look in on another group of students.

(Students show a skit showing students cooperating with one another to plan an event. Everyone remains agreeable and the event is planned easily.)

Invitation:

You need the strength of God in your life if you hope to develop good character. Jesus can give you that strength. He is very powerful. He left His eternal home with his Father and came to earth to suffer and die as our sacrifice, so that our sins could be forgiven. He loves you, and He wants to be your Saviour too, if you will just ask Him. If you have never done that before and you are ready now to receive Him as your Saviour, just call on Him and ask Him to save you and forgive you. Tell Him you believe in Him and you want to follow Him. Then if you do take Jesus, would you just write me a note. Say “I took Jesus” and sign your name. Give it to me any time. Your note will help me remember to keep praying for you.

Lesson 2: Cooperation in Sending out the First Missionaries

Follow up from previous lesson:

Ask if anyone would like to tell how they worked together or cooperated to accomplish an important goal in the last week. Do not wait long for a response. If anyone gives a response, give them encouragement and quickly summarize their story so the whole group can hear it, if needed.

Lesson Aim, Definition, Forms of the Word, Memory Verse & Song—same as for last lesson. Don't reteach from the beginning, but do briefly review each one, have the students recite the memory verse about three times, and sing the song and the beginning and end of the lesson.

Scripture text for Bible story: Acts 13:1-5. 14:26-28

Beginning the Lesson:

Have you ever been assigned a job that was so big you wondered if you could ever do it? Think about what a big job Jesus gave His followers. After He had risen from the dead, he walked on earth 40 days before He went back to heaven. His job was done. He had come from heaven to become the perfect sacrifice to pay for all our sins. He had risen from the dead and had appeared to many people to prove it. His work was finished, but the work of His followers was just beginning. One day Jesus was with His disciples. He told them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations." To us who believe in Him, Jesus gave a huge assignment. Tell the good news everywhere and make disciples in every nation on the whole earth. Can any one believer do that big job all by himself? No, such a big job takes cooperation, cooperation, cooperation. Lots of working together. And that is just what the church did.

Main Points of the Lesson:

- In the church at Antioch, a group of people were cooperating together in ministry, some as prophets and others as teachers.

Participation—rhythmic repetition: Some were prophets (point left), some were teachers (point right), in ministry together! (3 times)

Question—What do you call it when people work together? Say cooperation!

- They were meeting together in a group, ministering to the Lord, fasting and praying.

Participation—Turn to a neighbor. Everybody raise your hands because you are ministering to the Lord. Everybody rub your tummy. You are hungry because you are all fasting together. Everybody raise your hands again because you are praying.

- As they met together, the Lord told them to separate Barnabas and Paul for a special work to which the Lord had called them.

Participation: Everyone pretend God has just showed you that you should all send out Barnabas and Paul. Everyone look at a neighbor and say, “Oh! We should send out Barnabas and Paul.”

- The church prayed and fasted together about this.

Participation: Gather together in small groups as if you are praying.

- The church laid hands on them and sent them away to their missionary work.

Participation: Everyone pretend you are laying hands on Barnabas and praying a blessing on him. Then pretend you are laying hands on Paul and praying for him.

Participation: Did one person in the church send out Barnabas and Paul, or did the whole church do it together? Answer: Together!

- John (John Mark) was also helping them. So they were a team of three, ministering and cooperating together, just as they had done in their home church at Antioch.

Participation: How did Barnabas and Paul and John Mark minister? Say “together”!

- They sailed off and began to preach the Word of God.

Participation: Pretend you are getting in a big boat. First Barnabas, then Paul, then John Mark.

- After awhile, they came back to the church and reported all God had done through them.

Participation: How did the church cooperate in sending out the first missionaries?

Rhythmic repetition: Together we can do much more

Than one can do alone

Clap! Clap! Let’s all cooperate. (Last line three times)

Applying the lesson to life:

Let the students make a list of ten big jobs that need to be done where they live which require cooperation. Have two people make a list on the board. The first will write the first idea, the second the second idea, etc. in two separate lists of five projects that require cooperation.

Then let two other students come up & read any of the jobs. For example, if one of the jobs is to build a new school, the student will say, “To build a new school...” (pointing to the writing on the board), and all the students will say rhythmically, Clap! Clap! “Let’s all cooperate.” Clap! Clap! “Let’s all cooperate.”

Note: It is possible that a student may say, “Build a mosque.” In that case, agree that the project requires cooperation, but then generalize the project: “To build a new house of worship...”

Invitation:

Cooperating with others will help you to accomplish much more in this life, but there are some things that cooperation with others cannot do. Cooperation cannot get you to heaven, it cannot take away your sins, and it cannot make you a child of God. Nothing good that you can do can ever achieve those things. Those things can be done only by God Himself. There is good news, though. God has already provided all those things for you through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God holds them out to you now as a free gift. Forgiveness of sins is yours when you truly turn to Christ. Adoption into God’s forever family is yours when you say “yes” to Jesus. An eternal home in heaven is yours when you take Jesus as your Savior. Will you take Him today?

If you have never done that before and you are ready now to receive Him as your Saviour, just call on Him and ask Him to save you and forgive you. You can do it right now quietly where you are, or you can do it at any time and at any place. Tell Jesus you believe in Him and you want to follow Him. Then if you do take Jesus, would you just write me a note. Say “I took Jesus” and sign your name. Give it to me any time. Your note will help me remember to keep praying for you.