DAY 4

WHY WOULD GOD WANT US TO WORK TOGETHER?

Be honest. When you get a group assignment at school, when you get partnered up with a teammate at practice, or when your mom asks you to show your sister how to do a chore around the house there's probably a part of you that thinks:

I'D RATHER DO IT MYSELF.

That's natural. We all want to do things the way we want to do them. After all, it seems like the best way to us!

But think about it. What if the Israelites had thought that way when Moses told them about their big group project—building the Tabernacle? There's no way they would have been successful. Each part of the tent would have had a different style. Nothing would have fit together the way it was supposed to. Thankfully, they did cooperate. With God's help, they chose to work together.

God is so wise that He made us to cooperate. You can see that in any basketball, baseball, or football team. You can see it in rock bands . . . dance ensembles . . . and book publishers. You can look way back and see it with the Israelites—working together so they could do something important.

When you have a chance to cooperate, make the most of it. Make the choice to listen and respect the others on your team. Lean into the way God designed us to work in the first place—not on our own, but with each other.

BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name

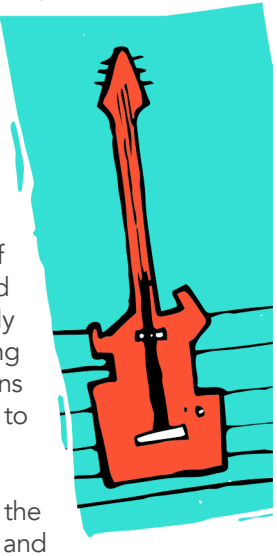
Parent Signature

LIVE FOR GOD

COOPERATION

WORKING TOGETHER TO DO MORE THAN YOU CAN DO ALONE

Kids' City



READ EXODUS 31:1-11

Bezalel and Oholiab played a BIG part in a BIG project that came early on in the history of God's people: building the Tabernacle. When we think of big projects, we often think of big leaders. Moses was the leader of the Israelites at the time, and almost everyone has heard of him. Moses knew that God wanted him to build a really special tent—a Tabernacle—where God would live among His people. God had given Moses detailed instructions about how it should be built. But did God want Moses to build it by himself? Of course not!

God wanted ALL the people to play a part in building the Tabernacle. God had a job in mind for Bezalel, Oholiab, and even the people whose names *didn't* end up in the Bible. He wanted everyone to cooperate so they could accomplish their goal together. God *chose* them for the work. He *filled* them with the Spirit of God, and with all the wisdom and skill they would need to do it. God knew exactly what Bezalel and Oholiab could do, because He had given them those abilities in the first place.

Imagine that you were a part of the community back then. Imagine how exciting it would have been to work on such an important project together. What do you think God would have said about you?

I HAVE **CHOSEN [YOU]**.
I HAVE **FILLED [YOU]** WITH . . .

PRETEEN WEEK 1

HEAR FROM GOD

DAY 1

DAY 2

Cooperation *sounds* great. What could be so hard about working together with other people?

Well, the very thing that makes cooperation so powerful is also the thing that can be the most challenging:

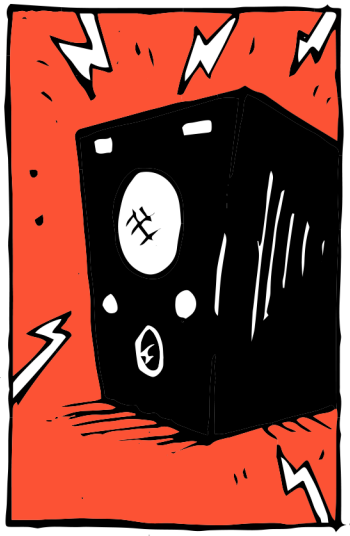
NO TWO PEOPLE ARE THE SAME.

Have you ever watched a cooking show on TV, when the contestants have to work together to complete a challenge? What usually happens? It usually turns into a disaster, because everyone wants to do things *their* way.

To cooperate, you have to be confident in who you are and you have to be willing to listen to others' ideas, too. That's not easy!

The good news is God knows how tough it can be. He knows the pressures we face when we try to cooperate. He thinks it's important for us to choose to work together—and guess what? He can help us do it.

TAKE SOME TIME TO TALK TO GOD AND ASK HIM TO HELP YOU WORK WELL WITH OTHERS.



PRAY
TO GOD

All right—it's time to build a beat. Wait until your family is together.

First, watch a video together of someone beatboxing.

Amazed yet? Wait 'til you try to do it yourself.

Take turns, giving each person a chance to make a beat by themselves.

To make it easier for those who might be a little shy, you can turn on an instrumental beat in the background. It's easy to find one if you search "instrumental beat" on your favorite video website.

Now it's time to put your beats together. Go around the table, one by one—but this time, each person should keep their beat going. Keep adding layers until you've built the ultimate beat together. Take a video so you can remember it later.

Now read this as a family, and take a minute to talk about it after.

BUILDING A BEAT CAN BE A LOT OF FUN. IT ALSO SHOWS US WHAT COOPERATION LOOKS LIKE IN REAL LIFE—OR AT LEAST WHAT IT COULD LOOK LIKE.

A kick drum by itself is fine, but it gets boring after a while. Add in a high-hat and some cymbals and you're starting to get somewhere. Start scratching records and cycling loops, and all of a sudden that beat starts to get irresistible.

It's true—we're so much better when we work together! How have you seen that play out in *your* life?

TALK
ABOUT GOD

DAY 3

DAY 4

WHO COULD YOU WORK WITH TO HELP SOMEONE SUCCEED?

Think of all the different people you interact with during your day. Jot them down on some paper.

The people you live with, the adults you might see during your day and then, of course, you've got your friends.

Have you ever thought about the fact that God put you together with all those people for a reason? He wants your path to cross *their* paths for a purpose.

It can be hard to know exactly what that should look like. But think about what happens when people from those different categories come together. Maybe you've experienced something like that for yourself—like if your friends and family come to your playoff game or recital or when it's your birthday and everyone you see has something nice to say to you.

LOOK BACK AT YOUR LIST. HOW COULD YOU WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE TO DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name

Parent Signature

LIVE FOR GOD

COOPERATION

WORKING TOGETHER TO DO MORE THAN YOU CAN DO ALONE

Kids' City

READ EXODUS 17:8-13

There's lots of cooperating in this story, isn't there? It all started when the Amalekites decided to attack God's people. But then Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur jumped into action. Let's look at the secret to their success.

1. Moses told Joshua to choose some warriors and fight. (That would take some cooperation for sure!)
2. Moses went to the top of the hill with God's staff and Aaron and Hur went with him.
3. When Moses got tired holding up the staff, Aaron and Hur put a stone under him. They held up his arms so he could keep the staff raised in the air.

If any of these men had decided not to work together, think about how their plans might have collapsed. In the end, Moses, Aaron, and Hur cooperated so well on the mountaintop that they ended up helping Joshua win the battle!

Sometimes we don't realize the effect our decisions will have on other people. Our days are full of opportunities to help others win—whether we realize it or not. And we don't always know what hangs in the balance.

If any of the men in this story had missed *their* chance to help, God's people might have lost the battle. The question is, how can *you* make the most of your opportunities like they did? How can you work with the people around you to help someone else succeed?

PRETEEN WEEK 2

HEAR FROM GOD

DAY 1

DAY 2

Have you noticed when some people stop and say: "You first." when you get to a door at the same time or maybe an elevator?

It's a simple thing but If you think about it, "You first" is kind of a big idea. It's a way of seeing the world. It's a way of treating people that's definitely out of the ordinary.

SO WHAT'S ORDINARY?

"ME FIRST."
"MY TURN."
"GIMME, GIMME, GIMME."

Unfortunately, a lot of people live their life that way. But you don't have to. Instead, you can become a "You first" kind of person by spending your time thinking of what you can do for *others*.

This gets really powerful when you join forces with other "You first" kind of people. All of a sudden, you're working *with* them to try to help *other* people win together! It's like a snowball rolling down a slope. It gets bigger and bigger and bigger. You can do even *more* for other people when you choose to cooperate.

When you pray, ask God to help you put others first. Ask Him to help you "snowball" your efforts with others so you can help someone succeed.

PRAY TO GOD

IF YOU'VE SPENT ANY TIME ON A BASEBALL FIELD, YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD SOME CHATTER.

Chatter isn't just talking. It's a team trying to build each other UP.

Let's say the pitcher is having trouble throwing strikes. He's run the count up to 3-0, and if he throws another ball, he'll walk the batter and put the tying run on base.

What could the left fielder do in that situation?

He could sigh and shrug his shoulders, and think to himself:

There's no way we're going to hold this lead.

Or . . . he could chatter. He could *encourage* his pitcher, all the way from the outfield.

You can do it, Taylor!

That's what good teammates do. They cooperate. They encourage each other. They work together to help each other play their best. At the end of the day, they're way more successful together than they ever could be alone.

WHO COULD YOU ENCOURAGE TODAY?

Your teammates? Your classmates? Your friends? Maybe even your siblings? How could you team up with others to help someone succeed?

TALK ABOUT GOD

DAY 3

DAY 4

Like we talked about last time, you don't always know what people need. Sometimes you have to ask.

Sometimes, though, it's more obvious. Sometimes there are opportunities right in front of you where you can cooperate and lend a hand.

Think about a mission trip. When you decide to go and serve with a team, you're choosing to help people with what they *need*—whether it's a safe place to live, medicine so they can stay healthy, or an awesome camp that you help put on for their kids.

It doesn't have to be a trip you take, either. You can help people right in your own community. If you've ever done something like that, make a few notes here.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT IT?

HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

WHAT SURPRISED YOU?

It feels so good to make a difference for others. And you know what? That's how it was meant to be. When we team up to help people, we can be a light shining God's love for everyone to see.

BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name

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LIVE FOR GOD

COOPERATION

WORKING TOGETHER TO DO MORE THAN YOU CAN DO ALONE

Kids' City

READ LUKE 5:17-26

Have you ever been riding in the car with your family, trying to get somewhere, and there was absolutely nowhere to park? At a certain point, you just feel like giving up! It must have been a little bit like that for the men who brought their friend to Jesus. They had carried him all the way to the house where they knew Jesus was teaching. Why? Look at the last part of verse 17.

They heard that the Lord had given Jesus the power to heal the sick. (Luke 5:17, NIrV)

Unfortunately, there were way too many people crowded around for them to get their friend inside. Everyone wanted to see Jesus!

That didn't stop them, though. They didn't give up.

They went up on the roof. Then they lowered the man on his mat through the opening in the roof tiles. They lowered him into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. (Luke 5:19, NIrV)

Have you ever tried to pick someone up like that? It's extremely heavy and extremely awkward. The fact is, you can do almost anything when you really care especially when you join forces with *other* people who care, too. If the four men didn't care that much about getting their friend to Jesus—if they weren't totally convinced Jesus could do something to help him—they probably would have given up as soon as they saw the crowds around the house.

But they *did* care. They *had* to do something for their friend in need. So they worked together, they persevered, and they found a way to help him!

PRETEEN WEEK 3

HEAR FROM GOD

DAY 1

DAY 2

It can be tough to step outside of your everyday world and think about what other people need. If we're honest, we spend a lot of time thinking about the things we need. (Or the things we *want*.)

MAYBE THE BEST WAY TO GET IN THE RIGHT MINDSET IS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT GOD DID FOR OUR BIGGEST NEED.

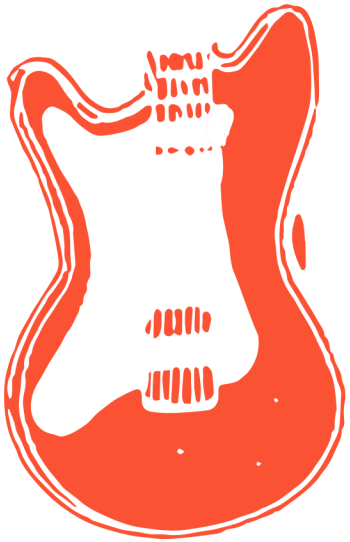
We need to be rescued from our sin problem. We sin—we do things that we know are wrong. Every single person has sinned. Since God is perfect and we're not, our sin separates us from Him. That's why He sent Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins so we could have a relationship with our perfect Heavenly Father—*without* sin being in the way. All we have to do is believe, and trust that Jesus died for us.

If you believe in Jesus, then that should be a great reminder. It should change the way you act and treat people, too. It should even change the way you *think*—to make you more aware of what other people need. It should make you want to do something to help!

That's what the church can do, together. It's made up of lots of not-perfect people who have experienced the very best thing anyone could experience—the love and forgiveness of Jesus. His love is so powerful that it makes us want to make a difference in the lives of others, too.

Take some time to thank God for doing something about your greatest need.

PRAY
TO GOD



Today, we've got a different kind of challenge for you. It has to do with your brother or sister. If you've got more than one sibling, you can do this same thing with each of them. If you're an only child, don't worry. You can do this with a best friend, a parent, or a cousin.

So what's the challenge? Find out what they need.

Tell them you're serious—you really want to know.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH RIGHT NOW?

You have no idea how they'll react, of course. They might look at you funny and say "no." That's okay. No problem. But what if they say "yes?" What if there's something that's bothering them that you didn't even know about?

It could be something you can do for them yourself . . . or maybe you could even think of a way to cooperate with others to help them.

This might seem weird at first, but think of it this way. Wouldn't you want someone to ask *you*?

TALK
ABOUT GOD

DAY 3

DAY 4

WHAT PART DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY?

If you were in a band, what instrument would YOU play? (Maybe you already play an instrument, which is great!)

Would you be the lead vocalist? The drummer? The DJ? Would you play the bass? The tuba?

THE COWBELL?

In Paul's letter, he talked about how there are lots of different parts, but only one body—the body of Christ. It's our job to come together and cooperate as one. When we do that, we can make a big difference and point people to Him.

It's like that with music, too. If you've ever seen an orchestra, you know that it's almost as interesting to *watch* as it is to hear. There are SO many musicians, playing SO many different parts! Somehow, they all come together as long as everyone is following their sheet music correctly and watching the conductor.

As we cooperate, we've got to keep our eyes on God. We've got to trust that He's in control of our lives, and that He has big plans for us to work together. We've got to listen to each other along the way and remember that each person has a unique part to play.

Hopefully yesterday you got some good insights on what kind of part YOU can play. You'll continue to discover that more and more as you get older. For now, remember that you're never facing this life alone. You've got a community of people all around you who can cheer for you and help you along the way.

TOGETHER, YOU CAN MAKE SOME SWEET MUSIC!

BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name

Parent Signature

LIVE FOR GOD

COOPERATION

WORKING TOGETHER TO DO MORE THAN YOU CAN DO ALONE

Kids' City

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–20, AND VERSE 27

The world is full of so much creativity. Have you ever thought about how crazy it is that today, in 2018, people are still coming up with totally NEW songs with new melodies, new rhythms, and new lyrics? In case you ever wonder where all that creativity comes from, look how creative God is! He made each one of us with different gifts and talents and He wants us to use those gifts *together* to make a difference.

That should make you feel pretty special. No one else is quite like you. No one else has your unique combination of gifts, talents, and abilities.

THAT MEANS . . .

You can feel comfortable being YOU.
You don't have to wish you could be someone else.
You have a part to play in the big story of God.
You are part of the body of Christ.

Look at Paul's letter—in verse 18. (This would be a good verse to underline in your Bible.)

God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be.
(1 Corinthians 12:18, NIrV)

When we get this right—when we work together as one body, as the church—something amazing happens. *We point others to Jesus.* People can see what a difference God has made in our lives, and how well we work together. It's not always easy. But we can trust that our creative God put us together, with all our differences, for a purpose!

DAY 1

HEAR FROM GOD

DAY 2

Here's something you can pray as you're waiting for the bus or riding in the car to school.

GOD, HELP ME TO PLAY MY PART TODAY.

You don't even have to know what that means yet. That's the beauty of a new day! It just means that you're opening yourself up to whatever God might have for you as your day unfolds.

Praying that kind of prayer helps you to keep the right kind of attitude, where you remember:

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME.

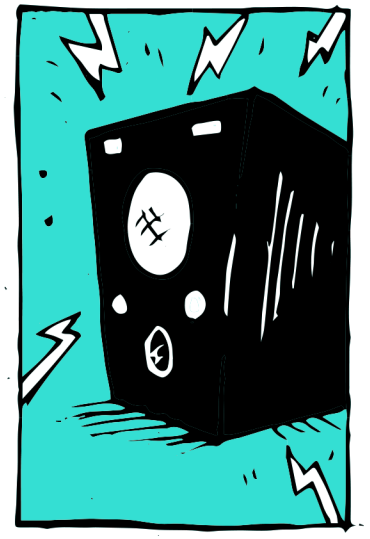
I'M PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER: SOMETHING GOD IS DOING AROUND ME.

I NEED TO RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE, TOO.

Take a minute to talk to God so you can start your day with the right attitude—an attitude that points others to Jesus!

PRAY
TO GOD

There's only one you! God made you with a totally unique blend of skills, abilities, and experiences.



IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT—WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

You know what? If someone asked your best friend that same question, they'd have a completely different answer.

Maybe you're a good listener. You make other people feel comfortable and safe, so they can tell you how they really feel. Maybe you can make people laugh. You bring joy everywhere you go. Maybe you're an encourager; you make other people better because they know you've got their back.

As you can tell, God's gifts aren't always things you can do—like ballet or gymnastics or piano. He's also given you a unique personality. (And He did it on purpose!) He wants you to put it to use and cooperate with other people. They may be very different from you, and that's a good thing. Together, you can make a big difference.

Talk to an adult who knows you really well—your mom or dad, your teacher, your coach, or your Small Group Leader.

ASK THEM:

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M GOOD AT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS UNIQUE ABOUT MY PERSONALITY?

HOW DO YOU THINK I COULD PUT THAT TO USE AS I WORK WITH OTHER PEOPLE?

TALK
ABOUT GOD

DAY 3