

**Today's Bible Story:** One (Early Church Works Together / Believers Share Their Lives Together) • Acts 2:42-47

**Today's Bottom Line:** Make a habit of working together.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.* Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)

**Monthly Life App:** Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

**Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)**

## OPENER

**LEADER:** “Hi, everyone! It’s great that you’re all here today, because I’ve brought my trusty ‘Band in a Box’ again! We used this a couple of weeks ago to make a band with lots of different instruments.

*Hold up one of the “instruments” from the box and hit it a couple of times.*

“Everyone has a part to play in this jam session! We’re jamming together because we’re talking all month about cooperation.

**Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App**

**“Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.**

**Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme**

“God MADE us to cooperate and work together . . . and I’ve got a fun way to prove it! *(Hold up the box.)*

“But before we break out the instruments in here, we’ll start with a different kind of musical challenge. Raise your hand if you know what it means to sing in rounds. *(Pause for response.)* Here, I’ll explain. We’ll take a simple song, ‘Row Your Boat,’ and we’ll all sing it together . . . but we’ll start at different times. Here, we’ve got three groups—one, two, three.

*Indicate three general groups of kids. (This doesn’t have to be exact.)*

*Note: If you have other adults or older students in the room, you can designate them to lead the other groups, so the kids have someone to follow.*

“I’ll start, then your group can start singing when I point to you. When you reach the end of the song, start over. Are you ready? Let’s try it!

*(Sing)* “Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream.

*Point to group #1 after you sing “stream.” Use forceful hand gestures so they start singing (“Row, row, row your boat”) as you simultaneously move on to the next line.*

(Sing) “Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream.

*As you start the song again, point to group #2 to cue them to start.*

(Sing) “Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream.

*Point to group #3 after you sing “stream.” At this point, all groups should be singing simultaneously.*

(Sing) “Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream.

*Stop singing, and wait for the other groups to eventually trickle out.*

*Practice this until all the groups seem to get it . . . but it’s OKAY if it’s not perfect!*

“Awesome! That’s pretty fun, isn’t it? Well, it’s the last week of the month, so it’s time to level-up our cooperation. Let’s add some instruments to the mix!

*Hand out the pots, pans, garbage can lids, and other objects. You can also hand out the “shakers” that you made in week 2. Make sure you save at least one of the objects for yourself.*

*Start singing the “round” again—and this time, play your instrument. Guide the kids to do the same. Go through the song two or three times.*

“Well done, everyone! It may not have been perfect, but it sure was fun—and it was a lot better than what we could have done alone! Everyone, pass up your instruments and we’ll get ready to sing and worship God together.”

*Have the kids return their objects to the “Band in a Box” before you move on to Worship.*

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** “Before we sing, let’s watch this together.

**Video (Media Package):** *Live Loud Video from Get Reel*

“I love it when we come together to share God’s love with the world. Let’s worship God as we sing, ‘I want to love like You!’

**Video (Media Package):** *“Love Like You” Dance Moves Music Video*

“Yes! We can do so much more when we work together to show how great God’s love is. That’s the reason we’re here—to bring God glory and show everyone we meet how much God loves them.

“In fact, listen to what Paul wrote in Romans 15:5-6 (NIRV). *Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had. Then you can give glory to God with one mind and voice.*

“Let’s do that now. Let’s give glory to God with one voice. Let’s make a move to share God’s love!

**Video (Media Package):** *“Love Like You” Dance Moves Music Video*

**SLIDE:** *Theme Background*

## BIBLE STORY

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** *(Hold up Bible)* “Today, we’re looking at what happened in some of the earliest days of the church—back when people were just starting to gather together as followers of Jesus!

“First, let me set the scene for you. After Jesus died on the cross, then came back to life . . . but before He returned to heaven . . . He told His friends something important. Jesus told the disciples to wait for special power from God’s Holy Spirit.

“None of Jesus’ friends were sure what to expect. But sure enough, as the believers were gathered together in Jerusalem, God sent the Holy Spirit to them. The Spirit came like tongues of flame. Immediately, the believers were able to communicate in different languages!

“Peter taught the crowds who had gathered in the city for the feast of Pentecost. He told them about all the amazing things Jesus had done, and how Jesus is the

Savior who had been promised. That day, 3,000 people chose to believe in Jesus! Through the power of God, the brand-new church was off to an incredible start.”

### LUKE’S DESCRIPTION

**LEADER:** “Years later, a man named Luke described the early church like this.

**SLIDE: Acts 2:42-47 Slide 1 (with emphasis added)**

*“The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives **together**. They ate and prayed **together**.”*

**SLIDE: Acts 2:42-47 Slide 2 (with emphasis added)**

*“Everyone was amazed at what God was doing. They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs.”*

**SLIDE: Acts 2:42-47 Slide 3 (with emphasis added)**

*“All the believers were **together**. They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something.”*

**SLIDE: Acts 2:42-47 Slide 4 (with emphasis added)**

*“Every day they met **together** in the temple courtyard. They ate meals **together** in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere.”*

**SLIDE: Acts 2:42-47 Slide 5**

*“They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.”*

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

“Did you notice a pattern in all of that? There was one word that kept coming up again and again, right? What was it? *(Pause for response.)* Yep—TOGETHER. In everything they did, the early believers worked together!”

## HABITS OF COOPERATION

**LEADER:** “Let’s take a closer look at what we just read.

*Open the Bible to Acts 2:42 (NIV) and read.*

*“The believers studied what the apostles taught.*

“That means they learned about God together.

**SLIDE: Illustration #1 (believers learning about God together)**

*Hang up the printed Illustration #1 on the clothesline.*

“The people who had been with Jesus—His closest friends—shared the things Jesus had taught them with the new believers. They would have reminded each other why Jesus came, and why it was important for them to share Jesus’ love with others.

“Luke went on to describe how the believers PRAYED together.

**SLIDE: Illustration #2 (believers praying together)**

*Hang up the printed Illustration #2 on the clothesline.*

“These believers knew that just a short time before, God’s power had raised Jesus from the dead! And they knew that they couldn’t continue doing God’s work without God’s power.

“The believers also ATE together.

**SLIDE: Illustration #3 (believers eating together)**

*Hang up the printed Illustration #3 on the clothesline.*

“People who had lots of food brought extra so that everyone had enough.

“In fact, food wasn’t the only thing the believers shared with each other. As Luke explained it . . .

*Open the Bible to Acts 2:44-45 (NirV) and read.*

*“They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something.*

***SLIDE: Illustration #4 (believers sharing what they had)***

*Hang up the printed Illustration #4 on the clothesline.*

“The believers shared whatever they had with each other. No one who was part of the early church went without food or shelter or clothing.

“And that’s not all! The believers also praised God together.

***SLIDE: Illustration #5 (believers praising God together)***

*Hang up the printed Illustration #5 on the clothesline.*

“They took time to worship God and thank God for all the ways they could see God working in their lives.

***SLIDE: Theme Background***

“In everything they did, the believers in the early church worked TOGETHER. And soon, other people started to notice! They saw that there was something special about Jesus-followers. The believers valued EVERYONE—including younger and older people, men and women, people who had a lot, and people who had very little. Others could see the love the believers had for each other and for people they had never even met. Because of this, God added more and more new believers to the church . . . every single day!

*Step back to look at all the illustrations on the*

*clothesline.*

“Wow—when you look at it like this, you can really see how the early church had a habit of working together!”

### **WE'RE IN THE HABIT, TOO**

**LEADER:** “And here’s the really cool part. These kinds of habits weren’t just something that people did in the earliest days of the church. These are things that we do in OUR church today—2,000 years later!”

“Of course, some of these habits look a little bit different now than they would have back then. But we’re doing our best to follow Jesus by cooperating together, just like the people in the early church did.

**SLIDE: Illustration #1 (believers learning about God together)**

*Point to the printed Illustration #1 on the clothesline.*

“We learn about God together—by meeting in small groups here at [your environment’s name]. People of all ages meet in [groups/classes] at our church to study the Bible and talk together about what we believe.

**SLIDE: Illustration #2 (believers praying together)**

*Point to the printed Illustration #2 on the clothesline.*

“We PRAY together, just like the early believers. We ask God to help us show love to others. We ask God to comfort us when we’re going through something tough. We thank God when something great happens—to us or someone we love.

**SLIDE: Illustration #3 (believers eating together)**

*Point to the printed Illustration #3 on the clothesline.*

“We EAT together.

*Explain how your church shares meals, shares food with the community, etc.*

**SLIDE: Illustration #4 (believers sharing what they had)**

*Point to the printed Illustration #4 on the clothesline.*

“We share what we have with others.

*Explain how your church shares with others (donations, clothing drives, etc.)*

**SLIDE: Illustration #5 (believers praising God together)**

*Point to the printed Illustration #5 on the clothesline.*

“We praise God together, too. We sing and worship God—here in [your environment’s name] and in our other services, too. And it’s not just about singing. We also worship God by living with love and kindness, and doing our best to **[Basic Truth] treating others the way we want to be treated.**”

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

## **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** “Our church is here to serve people, love people, and care for people. That’s just as true today as it was for the earliest believers. We can do that by following these good habits (*reference the clothesline*)—by learning about God together . . . praying together . . . eating together . . . sharing what we have . . . and praising God together.

“If we can do those things well, then other people will see how God is working through us TOGETHER. They’ll be able to see how God is making a difference in our lives. We hope they’ll understand how much God loves them, too—and that they’ll want to join us and be a part of the amazing things God is doing here in our community.



“It’s important that we do this.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “Make a habit of working together.**

**Video: BIBLE STORY**

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

### **PRAY**

**LEADER:** “Dear God, thank You for bringing all of us together to be part of this church. It’s such a gift to be able to meet together, worship You together, and share the things we need with each other. We know that when we’re in the habit of working together, we’re able to show Your love to other people. Help us come together here in [your environment’s name] and in our church as a whole. Help us share Your love that has truly changed our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

### **CLOSER**

**LEADER:** “For the early followers of Jesus, cooperation was a way of life. It’s just what they did! They ate together. They prayed together. They shared everything they had. As you might imagine, other people noticed . . . and they were curious to find out more. They saw how God was working in the lives of the believers, and they wanted to be part of what God was doing, too!

“In our church today, we’re trying our best to live out the same habits as the people in the early church. And that all starts when we decide to cooperate and work together.

“Remember . . .

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “Make a habit of working together. Say that with me.”**

**LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Make a habit of working together.”**

**LEADER:** “It’s not always easy to work with others—especially when we have different opinions and different ways of seeing things. (*Reference the clothesline.*) That’s why it’s important for us to PRACTICE these good habits together.

“It’s important that we open our eyes and really look for people who might need something. Then we can ask one simple question: How can I help? Or, even better, ‘How can WE help?’ We can do SO much more when we work together than we could ever do on our own!

“Let’s look for ways to work together. Let’s make a HABIT of doing the things that will truly make a difference in each other’s lives. If we do, I know God will work through us in amazing ways. Let’s talk about that some more in Small Group!”

OFFERING

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*