



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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, NIV

HOST SUPPLIES

- Host
- Masking or gaffer's tape

STORY SUPPLIES

- Worship Leaders
- Bible
- Photos of the kids in your environment learning about God together, praying together, eating together, singing together, and sharing what they have (see "What You Do")
- Photos of people throughout your church learning about God together, praying together, eating together, singing together, and sharing what they have (see "What You Do")
- Cue card for the Storyteller with names of the people in the photos (optional; see "What You Do")

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **HAPPY MARCH**

- **COOPERATION Challenge**

- All month long, it would be amazing to see our groups or kids and leaders work together
- **COOPERATION: Working together to do more than you can do alone**
- **Challenge kids to look for ways to do this at home, in school, in their neighborhood, etc.**

- **3rd graders - Preteen Camp**

- **Sign up SOON... you'll get a flier when you leave today**

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

Week 2 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost

Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & Graves Into Gardens

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & The Blessing

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

One

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Believers Share Their Lives Together
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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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: Might Get Loud

AUDIO: The Blessing

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

AUDIO: KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING

HOST: "Hello, friends! Don't you just love that song? I could jam out to it all day. But it's more fun to jam out with all of you!"

AUDIO: BRING UP MUSIC

Nod your head like you're really feeling the music. Get the kids to clap along.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

"Yes! I love it. This month at [your environment's name] we've been talking about cooperation.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP



WEEK
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
		25 MINUTES	10 MINUTES		

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

“God MADE us to cooperate and work together, because we can do way more together than we could ever do by ourselves. To kick off our time today, I’ve got a great idea of how we can cooperate. Let’s make a BAND! Who’s with me? Let me hear you cheer! *(Pause for response.)*

“First, I’ll teach you some hand motions and sound effects for the different instruments. When I point to your section of the room, stand up and follow my lead.

Indicate the five different sections of the room by pointing to the tape lines.

“All right, this section *(point to one section)*, you’re playing the electric guitar! If you’re in this section, stand up and do this!

Pretend to “shred” on an electric guitar while making the sound effects with your mouth. Then point to the kids in that section and let them do the same thing.

“Next up is the drums. *(Point to the next section.)* Everybody in this section, stand up and do this.

Pretend to play a beat on a drum set while making the sound effects with your mouth. Then point to the kids in that section and let them do the same thing.

“Now it’s time to add the turntables. *(Point to the next section.)* Everybody in this section, stand up and do this.

Pretend to scratch on turntables while making the sound effects with your mouth. Then point to the kids in that section and let them do the same thing.

“What’s next? Ah, yes—the bass. *(Point to the next section.)* Everybody in this section, stand up and do this.

Pretend to thump on the bass guitar while making the sound effects with your mouth. Then point to the kids in that section and let them do the same thing.

“Now the only thing we’re missing are the lead singers. *(Point to the last section.)* Everybody in this section, stand up and yell, ‘Hello, Cleveland!’

Pump your fist in the air and yell, “Hello, Cleveland!” Then point to the kids in that section and let them do the same thing.

“Okay, I think we’ve got it down! Let’s put all those different parts together. When I point to your section, I want you to jump up and make your sound. Let’s go!



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PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
		25 MINUTES	10 MINUTES		

Walk around the room, pointing to different sections, sometimes more than one at a time. This will be chaotic, and that's okay!

"You know what? I have an idea. What if we pick a song to play ALONG with? I think that might work better; don't you?"

"I've got three different songs you can choose from. We'll play a short clip of each one, then you can vote by cheering for your favorite."

AUDIO: SONG CLIP #1 (CUED TO THE CHORUS)
AUDIO: SONG CLIP #2 (CUED TO THE CHORUS)
AUDIO: SONG CLIP #3 (CUED TO THE CHORUS)

Play clips of three different songs, then have the kids vote by applause to choose the song that you'll use for the game. Save the one you think the kids will pick for the last choice.

"All right—are you ready for this? Let's all play along with the song we chose. Remember, when I point to you, stand up and do your part along with the music. Six, seven, eight, KICK IT!"

AUDIO: SONG #1, #2, OR #3 (THE ONE THE KIDS VOTED FOR)

As the song plays, point to different sections, sometimes more than one at a time. Do the different instruments along with the kids.

"That was the COOLEST thing ever! Thanks for playing along in our band."



WEEK
FOUR
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! This month, we’ve looked at some amazing stories of cooperation from the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) We’ve seen how different people worked together to do great things and help the people around them.

“For today’s story, we’re looking at the time after Jesus died on the cross, came back to life, and went to be with God in Heaven. Before Jesus went to Heaven, He told His friends to wait for special power from God’s Holy Spirit.

“Sure enough, when the believers gathered together in Jerusalem, God sent the Holy Spirit to them—which looked like tongues of fire! Peter spoke to the crowds who had gathered for the feast of Pentecost, and he explained that Jesus had come to be the Savior of the world. That day, 3,000 people believed in Jesus! Through the power of God, the church was off to a really great start.”

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CHURCH

STORYTELLER: “If we look in the book of Acts (*hold up Bible*), we can find out what it was like in those early days of the church. Do you think the people knew how to cooperate with each other? Or do you think they argued and complained?

“Let’s see what that looked like with a little help from our friends—our worship team!

Worship Leaders enter and stand together. As you say each line, they should do the motions indicated below to illustrate it.

“All right, here goes. This is what it was like in the early church.

Open the Bible to Acts 2:42-47 (NirV) and read.

“The believers studied what the apostles taught.

Worship Leaders act like they’re holding something up and studying it closely.

“They shared their lives together.

Worship Leaders hold out the palms of their hands.

“They ate and prayed together.

Worship Leaders do a praying pose.

“Everyone was amazed at what God was doing.



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LARGE GROUP
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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Worship Leaders make a surprised face.

"They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs.

Again, Worship Leaders make a surprised face.

"All the believers were together. They shared everything they had.

Worship Leaders hold out the palms of their hands.

"They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something.

Worship Leaders act like they're counting out dollar bills, to each other, then act like they're holding them out to someone. (If you have three Worship Leaders, Leader #1 can count out bills to Leader #2, then Leader #2 can pretend to hold them out to Leader #3.)

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

Worship Leaders smile, close their eyes, and give a big, contented sigh.

"They praised God.

Worship Leaders smile and raise up the palms of their hands.

"They were respected by all the people.

Worship Leaders smile and nod forcefully.

"Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

Worship Leaders do the "come on" motion with their hands on both sides, like they're inviting people to join them.

(to Worship Leaders) "That was great. Thanks, friends!"

Worship Leaders exit.

IN YOUR CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENT

STORYTELLER: "The believers in the early church really knew how to cooperate, didn't they?"

"Here's the really cool part. The same things that the believers did in those days are the things WE do here at [your environment's name]! We're in the habit of doing things that Jesus-followers have done together since the very beginning.

SLIDE: PHOTOS OF KIDS IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT (FOLLOW THE STORYTELLER'S LEAD)



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LARGE GROUP
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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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HOME

25 MINUTES

Note: Use the pictures you've collected earlier this month to show the kids in your environment learning about God together, praying together, eating together, singing together, and sharing what they have.

Personalize this by explaining who's in the picture and what they're doing.

(For example)

"Here are [kid's name] and [kid's name]. They're sharing a snack out on the playground. That's a great way to cooperate—and they're eating together, just like the believers did in the early church!"

(Or)

"Here's [leader's name]'s small group. They're reading the Bible together and learning about all the amazing things Jesus has done for us. That's what the people in the early church did, too. They listened to people who had been with Jesus, and they learned what Jesus had done and said. That's why we all gather in small groups . . . read the Bible together . . . and find out how our relationship with God can make a difference in our lives."

Ideally, show a picture for each of the five categories mentioned above. Be sure to connect what the kids are doing to the way the people cooperated in the early church. Explain that these are habits we all do together—not that they're specific to the kids in the picture.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

IN YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

STORYTELLER: "Did you know that those same things the early believers did are also true for our whole church? It's not just here at [your environment's name]. We have the same habits all throughout our church—for people of ALL ages!"

SLIDE: PHOTOS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT YOUR CHURCH (FOLLOW THE STORYTELLER'S LEAD)

Note: Use the pictures you've collected earlier this month to show people throughout your church learning about God together, praying together, eating together, singing together, and sharing what they have.

Personalize this by explaining who's in the picture and what they're doing.

(For example)

"Here's everyone singing in the main sanctuary. We have guitars and drums today that they wouldn't have had in the early church. But the idea is the same. We're all praising God together!"

(Or)

"Here's one of our community groups taking time to pray together. We think it's important for people of all ages to get together and pray for each other. When someone we love is sick, we pray and ask God to heal them. When



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

someone is going through a tough time, we ask God to help them and give the strength they need. It's really amazing that we can talk to God together and pray for each other. That's what the believers in the early church did, too."

Again, try to show a picture for each of the five categories mentioned above. Include services your church provides for the community (food pantry, language classes, etc.). As before, make sure to connect what the people in your church are doing to the way the people cooperated in the early church.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Isn't that so cool? The things we're doing together today as a church are the same things the early believers were doing about 2,000 years ago. Those habits might look a little different now than they did back then. But together, we're learning about God. We're sharing what we have with each other and with our community. We're taking time to eat together, pray together, and worship God together.

"Back in the early days of the church, the believers valued ALL people—young and old, men and women, people who had a lot and people who didn't have much at all. Others could see that there was something very different and special about people who followed Jesus. They could see the difference that God's love had made in their lives. Because of this, God added more and more new followers of Jesus to the church. In the same way, we love to welcome new people at our church today!

"This is something we can all do as followers of Jesus.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Make a habit of working together.

"We can cooperate to make a difference in this world, and share the love of Jesus everywhere we go. Let's pray."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for this amazing example set by the early believers. They knew what it meant to love and serve each other and to make habit of working together. Help us to be a church that does that, too. Show us how we can honor You and share Your love with the way we live every day. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “That was so great! What amazing pictures! I love seeing how the things our church does today are the same habits that people had when they were just starting to follow Jesus . . . all those years ago.

“For those early believers, it was very normal for them to cooperate. That was just the way they lived. They ate together, prayed together, and shared what they had. It was clear that God was doing amazing things in their lives and working through them in all the different ways they gathered together.

“And that’s not all! Other people noticed, too. They wanted to put their trust in Jesus so they could experience the same kind of love, joy, and peace that was so clear in the lives of the believers. I’m so glad to be a part of a church that’s in the habit of working together. Aren’t you?

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Make a habit of working together.

“It’s important that we cooperate and **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated** because we can truly make a difference in each other’s lives. And the people around us will see what God is doing in our lives, too. We can follow the same habits of the people in the early church by sharing what we have . . . giving to people in need . . . and praying for each another. We can look around to see what other people need, then ask how we can help.

“Let’s head to Small Group now and talk about how we can **make a habit of working together.** I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP