

Showing God's Love By Being Cooperative

(1 Corinthians 3:9)

Objective: The students will learn that they can show God's love by cooperating with each other to do God's work.

Materials: Bible; dark and medium brown, red, green, dark green, white, black, yellow construction and tissue paper scraps; pencils; something to drink such as juice; submarine sandwiches (optional)

Before Class: The paper scraps will be used to tear meat and vegetable shapes such as ham slices (dark brown or dark red tissue paper), lettuce (green tissue paper), tomatoes (red construction paper), pickles (dark green construction paper), onions (white construction paper), olives (black construction paper), cheese (yellow tissue paper). Use your imagination and the scraps of paper you have available to determine what to put on your sandwiches. Cut two oblong shapes out of medium brown paper to make paper buns. Make sesame seed spots on half the "buns." Make enough bun halves so that each student will have one set.

Arrange two tables end to end on which to have an assembly line in your classroom. Start by having all the scrapes of paper randomly piled in the center of a large table.

Pre-Session Warm Up

Today we're going to learn that we can show God's love by cooperating with each other to do God's work. Do you know what it means to cooperate with someone? (To work together with someone to accomplish a goal.)

How do carpenters, electricians, bricklayers, roofers, and plumbers cooperate to build a building? (They each do their part. They all make everything fit with everything else.)

What would happen if these workers didn't cooperate? (Their building wouldn't get done; nothing would fit together right.)

That can happen in the church, too. When church members don't cooperate with each other, nothing gets done right in God's work.

Opening Prayer

Lord, one of the wonderful things about being in the family of God is that we are there to help one another. We are never left alone to do something for You. Thank you Lord for giving each of us spiritual gifts to use to bless one another. Teach us that we can show Your love to others by cooperating with them. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27) This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Lesson Review

We've been learning about how to show God's love to others.

1. In our first lesson we learned that God's love is everywhere and that he wants us to love Him back with all of our heart, mind, and soul.
2. Next, we learned that God knows all about us. He always knows where we are, what we're doing, what we're thinking and feeling. And, even so, He still loves us completely. In the same way, He wants us to love others, even people who do wrong to us and

don't deserve our love. Because that's the way He loves us.

3. Third, we learned that because planet earth belongs to God, we can show others that we love Him by taking care of our environment properly. We did an activity that showed the effects of an oil spill on the ocean, birds, plants and animals. We talked about ways to care for God's possessions.
4. Next we learned that one way of showing God's love is by being a good neighbor—that is, by thinking of others first and sharing what we have with them. We did an activity to show how sharing brings people together and often brings beautiful things into our lives—we put individual drops of food coloring in a dish of milk. Then when we added drops of dish soap it caused the food coloring drops to swirl together to make a beautiful rainbow.
5. Then we learned that we can show God's love by being compassionate to those who are hurting. God wants us to help those who are sad, lonely, scared, shy, or feeling rejected. We put Band-Aids on a broken heart and talked about ways we can help people with hurts on the inside.
6. Next we learned that we can show God's love by forgiving others when they do wrong things to us. We counted out 490 pieces of bird seed to show just how many times 7 times 70 is – that's the number of times God tells us to forgive others!
7. Next we learned that we can show God's love by using kind words. We put a paper clip on a ramp, but it just sat there like unkind words sit on a hearer's heart. But when we poured oil over the clip, it moved down the ramp, just like how kind words can help move sad things out of a person's life.
8. In last week's lesson we learned another way to show God's

love is by being a cheerful giver. We learned that when we give people gifts, it make our gifts become "larger" like seeing them under a magnifying glass. That's because they not only make the person we are giving the gift to feel special, it make us feel good, too.

Lesson

Before we start our Bible lesson, let's do something fun.

Do you all know what a Submarine sandwich is? Sub sandwiches are usually made on long loaves of bread that look like submarines. And, they can have many different things on them. Some have layers of meat, cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, or pickles.

Today we're going to set up the "Super Assembly Line Café." Let's pretend that in our café, we are supposed to make Submarine sandwiches for hundreds of people.

Let's decide what to put on our submarine sandwiches. [One by one, hold up the colors of scrap paper and decide what they could represent: brown paper could be ham, red paper could be tomatoes, etc.]

What do you think the best way would be to make lots of sandwiches fast and efficiently? Do you think it would be best to have each one of us make a sandwich at the same time? Would that be the fastest way to make lots of sandwiches? Or, do you think there might be a better way?

What do you think if we assigned each person to add a single kind of item? We could work together like an assembly line. We could start out with the buns at one end of the line and then assign each person a different thing to put on the sandwich as the bun gets passed down the line. That way each item could be put on in order.

For example, perhaps you will decide to put on meat first, then lettuce, then tomato, and so forth. The very last student will on put the bun top with the sesame seed markings. [If you have too many students, you could provide yellow and red crayons for students to add mustard and catsup to the bun by coloring it in or a marker to make sesame seeds on the top bun half. These students should be last inline.]

We call that *cooperation* or teamwork—working together as a team.

[Let the students decide how to divide up the tasks and to prepare their ingredient (i.e., tear their colored paper how they think it should be). The lettuce person may want to tear shreds; the tomato person may want to tear circles; the pickle person may want to tear long spears or circles; and so on.]

We'll put the bottom bun halves at the beginning of the assembly line. When I say, "Go," the first "cook" will tear and add his item to the bun half and pass it on to the next student. The first student will then take the second bun bottom. Each bun will go along the assembly line until the last student puts on the bun top and set aside the sandwich.

[When the assembly line has assembled all sandwiches, have students sit in a circle away from the table.]

Did you see how much better it was to have a plan and cooperate with each other? The Bible tells us we need to cooperate with other Christians to do God's work. God calls us fellow workers.

For example, the people of the early Christian church worked together to help one another:

[Teacher, read about Paul's Travel Plans in Romans 15:23-28]

How did the church work together to help one another? (The church

gathered money and probably food and other supplies to send to other believers. And, surely they prayed for them, as well.)

God does not want any of us to work alone. We are to help each other.

Does any one know how the following partners helped each other in the work of God? [Teacher, let the children tell you what they remember about these Bible stories.]

- Barnabas helped Paul
- Jonathan helped David
- Joseph helped his brothers
- Elijah helped Elisha
- Ruth helped Naomi
- Jesus helped Lazarus

God wants us to cooperate to build up the family of God. We must all do our part.

What sorts of ways can you cooperate or participate with others to do God's work? (You can pray for missionaries that are living overseas; you can send money or other needed supplies to them. You could work in a soup kitchen to help feed the homeless. You could do fund raisers to help raise money to help send kids to Youth Camp.)

What sorts of ways can you help God's work at church? Perhaps your job could be to pick up litter on the church parking lot or be friendly to a visitor to our class. We can all cooperate by praying for each other. You can pray for me so that I can be an even better teacher. I can pray for you, too.

You've heard the expression, "Many hands make work light." Cooperating is more fun than doing things alone. It breaks a big job down into small parts.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for helping us be fellow workers in our church. Help us cooperate with each other so we can do more for You. Thank You for giving us fun things to do and also hard things to do so we can grow to be more like You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Snack Idea

Bring a long Submarine sandwich and cut it into pieces to share with the children.

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

Review Questions:

1. What was the best way to make lots of sandwiches in our pretend café? (By working together like an assembly line.)
2. What does God want us to cooperate with others Christians to do? (To do God's work; to further the Gospel.)
3. How did the whole church work together to send out Barnabas and Saul? (They all prayed together seeking God's guidance. I'm sure the church gathered money and food and other supplies to send with them on their journey. And surely they prayed for Barnabas and Saul while they were gone.)

4. How can you cooperate or participate with others to do God's work? (You can pray for missionaries that are living overseas; you can send money or other needed supplies to them. You could work in a soup kitchen to help feed the homeless. You could do fund raisers to help raise money to send kids to Youth Camp.)