

Lesson 8 / May 3, 2020

The Opposite of Distancing

By Taylor Baird

for use as

STEP 1

**Lesson 8****Focus:**

Don't try to be a
Christian by yourself.

Lesson 8**Bible Basis:**

Acts 2:41-47;
1 Corinthians 12:12-18

Lesson 8**Memory Verse:**

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if
one part is honored, every part rejoices with
it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each
one of you is a part of it.
—1 Corinthians 12:26-27

As they consider the unity of God's people, your students will watch a couple of groups come together to accomplish tasks.

Materials:

Internet access

There's nothing worse than being part of a team where one member tries to do things by themselves or refuses to cooperate. Imagine if the quarterback of a football team never passed the ball to the other players, or if one member of a group project at school slacks off in his or her responsibilities. In each case, the whole team suffers!

But when a team comes together as a unit and everyone contributes, then we can do things we could never accomplish on our own. Check out the way these soldiers come together as a team to overcome an obstacle:

Share this brief video [:30]:

OUTSTANDING Example of Army Teamwork

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zxFFpVltcg>

There's no way that any of those guys could have gone over the wall by himself. Working together made *all* the difference. Now watch this 'inspirational' video that highlights what teamwork can accomplish [2:41]:

Teamwork | Igniter Media | Church Video (1080p)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8Kz_poR55E

Of course, this is a silly video—but it makes a good point!

➤ **Have you ever encountered a problem you couldn't solve on your own? Did you seek help from others? Explain what happened after you found help.** (Allow students to share; be prepared to share your own experience to get the conversation going.)

Encourage your students to consider some of the teams they have observed or have been a part of. Examples can range from movies to sports to day-to-day activities like work and school. Have your students share the various teams they are involved in.

➤ **What were you trying to accomplish in each of the teams you've been involved in?** (Answers will vary. Some might mention that they were trying to win the championship or that there was a specific goal such as a school team project assignment.)

➤ **What are some problems teams have experienced during this social distancing order?** (Teams other than first responders have not been able to meet physically. They aren't able to practice, etc.)

➤ **What might a team do to stay connected during a time of social distancing?** (Keep working out at home on individual skills. Watch plays of other teams and strategize offense and defense moves via a social conferencing platform. Encourage each other through calls and texts.)

We see teams doing amazing things all the time. The Avengers joined forces to save the world. The Kansas City Chiefs came together to win the Superbowl. Groups of passionate entrepreneurs collaborate on world-changing projects all the time. And it's no accident that we work best when we are working alongside of others—God Himself created us that way!

Following Jesus is also a “team sport.” And we are still a team even when we can't meet together physically. God places us in the Church so that we can be supported as we seek to obey and worship Him in all we say and do. Today we are going to take a close look at what the Bible says about God's Team.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4 

Lesson 8**Focus:**

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—1 Corinthians 12:26-27

Materials:

- Paper (preferably cardstock or construction paper)
- Pens/pencils

Remember the video we watched earlier of those soldiers going over the wall? The task before them was made possible because they worked together as one unit.

In just the same way, following Jesus isn't a "one-person" operation. Like the examples of teams we considered at the beginning of the lesson, we are also a part of a team—the Body of Christ. When we work together with God's people, we not only set ourselves up to better serve and love Him, but we come alongside others in helping them to do the same.

But this is such an easy thing to forget! So often it feels like we are alone in our Christian walk. This is because, for the majority of our day, we are not with other people from our church or with other Christians we feel close to.

If you are still sheltering in place, say something like this and ask the following question: **We talked earlier about things a team might do to stay connected during a time of social distancing.**

➤ **What kinds of things might we do as a team to stay connected during social distancing?** (Answers might include connecting with another Christian to study a book of the Bible together; touching base via chat or text to share verses that spoke to you; finding out from your church if someone needs something delivered if you're able to drive and pick it up for them; or encouraging each other through notes, calls, and texts.)

Now have your students engage in an activity to help them remember that we are not in this alone.

Make sure each of your students has a piece of paper (preferably construction paper or cardstock). Have them write their name in bold at the top. Then have them write the memory verse (1 Corinthians 12:26-27) and/or the words "I AM NOT ALONE" on the paper below their

name. Have students text one another with notes of encouragement and support. Be prepared to share some examples if your students are having a hard time with this. It could be as simple as: “Hey, Ryan—I’m glad you’re part of my team!” or “Chloe, you always have kind words for everyone—thanks for being an encourager.” As your students receive the texts, they should copy them onto their page. As the teacher, be sure you text every student with something encouraging and engage adult helpers and/or church staff to do so as well. Make sure every student has received at least three encouragement texts.

If you have returned to a classroom setting, have the students pass their papers around to their peers in the class, writing notes of encouragement and support to the person whose name is at the top of the paper. If it is a large class, split the students into smaller or manageable groups as needed.

As you go about your week, keep these notes of encouragement near you. You could put the paper in your binder, hang it on your mirror, keep it on the nightstand beside your bed—whatever works best. When you feel that you are alone, you can be encouraged as you look at what your Christian brothers and sisters wrote. Encourage your students to pay it forward throughout the week by concentrating on sending similar encouragement texts to others they know or following through on some of the other connection ideas presented earlier.

God knows we do better when we work together. It’s how He created us! On God’s Team we all have a part to play—and when we are all doing our part, we can know that we are never alone.

Close in prayer.

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