

Better Together

By Lea Vaverchak

for use as

STEP 1


Lesson 13**Focus:**

God wants us to cooperate to do His work.

Lesson 13**Bible Basis:**

3 John 1-12

Lesson 13**Memory Verse:**

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.
—Proverbs 3:27

Students will watch an example of people working together to help others as they discuss how God’s work is a team effort.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and markers

As students enter the room, have them write the name of any teams they are involved in (examples: sports team, academic team, family, Girl/Boy Scouts, band, school projects).

If you are meeting online, you can open a blank document and share your screen. As students enter the virtual meeting, you can ask them to share the name of any teams they are involved in. As they share examples, you can type them into the shared document.

Once everyone has gathered, have a few volunteers talk about the teams they wrote down and what they like about being part of that unit.

➤ **What other activities require a team effort?** (Answers will vary; allow students to think of other forms of team effort not listed on the board.)

You can look back through history and see huge feats, such as building the pyramids, the Revolutionary War, or even the Olympics, that were accomplished when people came together to pursue the same goal.

Recently, a large explosion in Beirut (bay-root), a city in the country of Lebanon, caused many people to lose their homes. Some people also lost family members in the explosion. Let’s watch this video clip to see how some people have chosen to help others in this difficult time.

Share the following video with your students [2:56]:

Title: Beirut explosion: Exploring the damage after the blast

Source: BBC World News

URL <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-53675653/beirut-explosion-exploring-the-damage-after-the-blast>

Short Description: Beirut resident shows people working together to help clean up the city.

➤ **What does this video teach us?** (Answers: Illustrates people helping others; we can see what it looks like to work together; caring for others in difficult times.)

➤ **What qualities should we have to be a good teammate to others?** (Answers: We should be unselfish, patient, kind, helpful, etc.)

It's important to be a person who can work well with others. When work well with others, we can accomplish anything God has purposed for us to do. Today we're going to read about a time in the Bible when God's workers weren't working together as a team to complete the job He had assigned. Let's see how the situation was handled and what we can learn from their experience.

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

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STEP 4 

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Materials:

- Strips of paper (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils
- Staplers or tape

Earlier we learned how one person hindered the work of God by not working well with his fellow workers. Diotrophes was worried about serving himself, not God. But God made sure to also give us the example of Gaius, who opened his door to others and was willing to help in whatever way he could. This is the example we should follow!

We all have different skills and abilities that God has given us. When we are each able to combine our talents together, so much can be accomplished. That's the way God made us!

➤ **What abilities has God given you to do His work?** (Answers may include: I'm helpful; I'm a writer; I have a listening ear, etc.)

➤ **How can you use those abilities to serve God?** (Answers: I can help my elderly neighbor mow the lawn and take out her trash; I can write stories that teach others about Jesus; when my friends are sad they text me—I can pray with them and offer them godly advice, etc.)

If you are meeting in a physical classroom, hand a strip of paper to each child. Invite each student to write his or her name on the paper, followed by an ability God has given him or her to serve others. Once children have finished writing, have the class work together to create a paper chain using the strips—putting the writing facing out so that it can be read. Challenge your children to remember their abilities this week as a reminder to work with others to accomplish God's purposes. Also challenge them to pray for the others in their group and for opportunities to serve.

If you are meeting online, invite each student to share one ability God has given him or her. As they share, write each student's name and ability on a strip of paper. Then, quickly create a paper chain using the strips—putting the writing facing out so that it can be read. Challenge your children to remember their abilities this week as a reminder to work with others to accomplish God's purposes. Also challenge them to pray for the others in their group and for opportunities to

serve.

God has given us a lot of abilities to serve Him. We are His hands and feet. If each of us had the same ability, we would never be able to accomplish anything for God. But, because some of us are good at sports, others are good at art, some at listening, our outreach is much larger and greater. We can reach so many people because of the different abilities within this class! Now imagine all of Jesus' followers around the world. How many millions of gifts and talents we all have; our ability to reach the world is unstoppable!

As you pray this week, remember that you are one link in a worldwide chain of people serving God. You are not alone. Your teammates are not only in this class, but all around the world. Look for ways to join forces and cooperate together to serve God for His glory! We are better together!

Pray to close.

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