

Cooperation

Working with God and others to do more than we can do on our own.

DAY 1

Read Luke 5:18-19, Nlrv

Carry Me

Have you ever tried to carry someone on a mat? It's harder than it looks! Grab a beach towel and attempt to carry one of your siblings from one room to another. Impossible, right? Can you imagine carrying a grown man all by yourself? Not possible. Now enlist some help from your family members. Was that easier?

To get their friend in front of Jesus, these four friends had to cooperate and work together. Can you imagine how hard it must have been to carry their friend all the way to the house where Jesus was teaching?

But that wasn't their only obstacle. When they arrived, they realized that it was way too crowded to get him in through the door. No problem! They worked together again to carry him up to the roof, dig their way in and lower him down right in front of Jesus. Because they worked together, their friend met Jesus face to face. By cooperating, they changed their friend's life forever.

DAY 2

Read Luke 5:20, Nlrv

Did you notice the part of the verse where it says, "When Jesus saw their faith"? Jesus recognized that these friends believed in Him. They knew that Jesus could heal and forgive! And because they cooperated, the man was able to receive something even better than the ability to walk! Jesus forgave him. His life was completely changed because of his friends. They were willing to do whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus, believing that Jesus could help him.

The four friends saw a big need and worked together to make a difference in their friend's life. They chose to do something to help. It's not enough to see a need or even to talk about it. The important thing is to get busy working together to help.

Ways To Help

What is a need you see around you? At your next family meal, take some time to discuss some needs in your community. Pick one need and make some plans to work together to help.

DAY 3

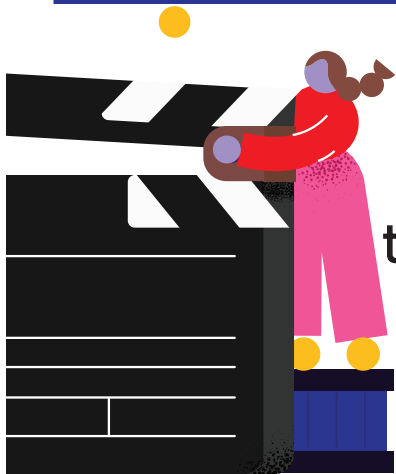
Read Luke 5:25-26, NIV

When Jesus healed the man, what were the three things He did? Write them in the space below.

He stood; He picked up his mat; He praised God.

What if his friends had given up? What if they'd arrived at the house, witnessed how crowded it was and just turned back around? Or what if they decided it was a lost cause anyway and hadn't even attempted to get their friend to Jesus in the first place?

They could have done any of those things, but they didn't. Instead, they figured out a way to get their friend to Jesus. They didn't let the distance, the crowd, or even a roof get in their way. They worked together to help someone in need. And you can too when you choose to cooperate.



Work together
to help someone
in need.

DAY 4

Read Romans 15:5-6, NIV

Have you ever been working with a friend and you cannot decide how you should solve a problem or help someone? The way you want to see the solution seems like the best way but your friend likes their way better.

If you and your friend are each working on your own ideas, you might end up working against each other. For example, you want to build an epic house out of bricks. Your friend really wants to make a secret entrance while you want to build the roof with certain bricks. So you both begin building, but you figure out you cannot have the cool roof without walls and you cannot have a secret door without the bottom of the building supported. So you figure out you must work together to create the best house.

When we stop and ask God to be in the center of our problem, He will guide us together. Next time you are working with a friend, stop and ask God to show you how to work together.

Decode It!

Use the key below to decode the message:

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Answer: Work together to help someone in need.