

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

DAY 1

Read Luke 5:18-19

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

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.

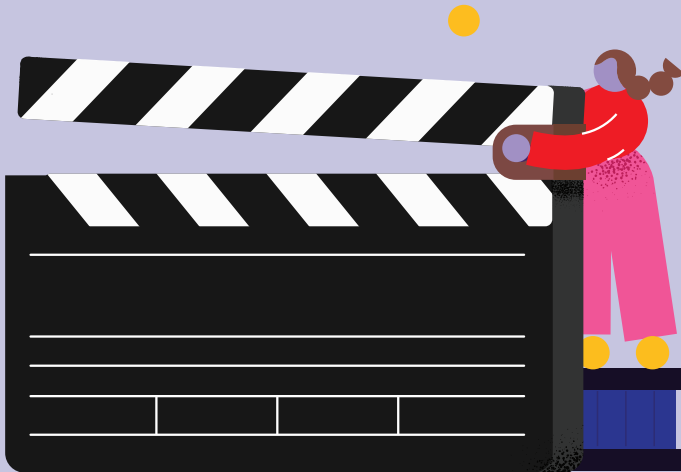
Read Luke 5:25–26

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.



Read Romans 15:5–6

Let's say you see a need and it's big— too big for you to handle on your own. You gather some friends to help you tackle it, but soon you start arguing because you all have different ideas of how to solve the problem.

Has anything like that ever happened to you?

The key to cooperation is to keep focusing on the goal—helping someone in need— and working to find solutions together. Cooperation will always take you further than flying solo.

Decode It!

Use the key below to decode the message:

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Answer: Work together to help someone in need.

Work together to help someone in need.