



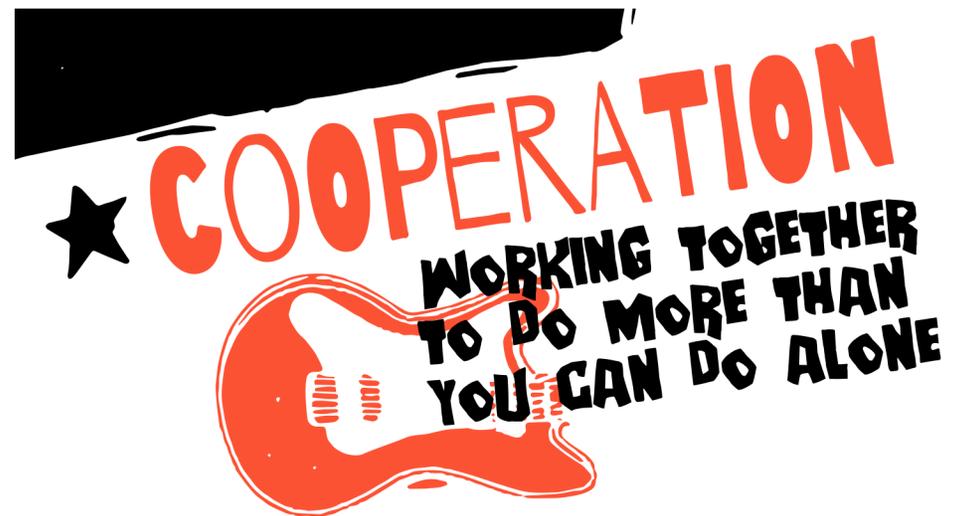
Think of all the different people you interact with during your day. Jot them down on some paper.

The people you live with, the adults you might see during your day and then, of course, you've got your friends.

Have you ever thought about the fact that God put you together with all those people for a reason? He wants your path to cross *their* paths for a purpose.

It can be hard to know exactly what that should look like. But think about what happens when people from those different categories come together. Maybe you've experienced something like that for yourself—like if your friends and family come to your playoff game or recital or when it's your birthday and everyone you see has something nice to say to you.

LOOK BACK AT YOUR LIST. HOW COULD YOU WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE TO DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE?



READ EXODUS 17:8-13

There's lots of cooperating in this story, isn't there? It all started when the Amalekites decided to attack God's people. But then Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur jumped into action. Let's look at the secret to their success.

1. Moses told Joshua to choose some warriors and fight. (That would take some cooperation for sure!)
2. Moses went to the top of the hill with God's staff and Aaron and Hur went with him.
3. When Moses got tired holding up the staff, Aaron and Hur put a stone under him. They held up his arms so he could keep the staff raised in the air.

If any of these men had decided not to work together, think about how their plans might have collapsed. In the end, Moses, Aaron, and Hur cooperated so well on the mountaintop that they ended up helping Joshua win the battle!

Sometimes we don't realize the effect our decisions will have on other people. Our days are full of opportunities to help others win—whether we realize it or not. And we don't always know what hangs in the balance.

If any of the men in this story had missed *their* chance to help, God's people might have lost the battle. The question is, how can you make the most of your opportunities like they did? How can you work with the people around you to help someone else succeed?

Have you noticed when some people stop and say: "You first." when you get to a door at the same time or maybe an elevator?

It's a simple thing but If you think about it, "You first" is kind of a big idea. It's a way of seeing the world. It's a way of treating people that's definitely out of the ordinary.

SO WHAT'S ORDINARY?

"ME FIRST."

"MY TURN."

"GIMME, GIMME, GIMME."

Unfortunately, a lot of people live their life that way. But you don't have to. Instead, you can become a "You first" kind of person by spending your time thinking of what you can do for *others*.

This gets really powerful when you join forces with other "You first" kind of people. All of a sudden, you're working *with* them to try to help *other* people win together! It's like a snowball rolling down a slope. It gets bigger and bigger and bigger. You can do even *more* for other people when you choose to cooperate.

When you pray, ask God to help you put others first. Ask Him to help you "snowball" your efforts with others so you can help someone succeed.



IF YOU'VE SPENT ANY TIME ON A BASEBALL FIELD, YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD SOME CHATTER.

Chatter isn't just talking. It's a team trying to build each other UP.

Let's say the pitcher is having trouble throwing strikes. He's run the count up to 3-0, and if he throws another ball, he'll walk the batter and put the tying run on base.

What could the left fielder do in that situation?

He could sigh and shrug his shoulders, and think to himself:

There's no way we're going to hold this lead.

Or . . . he could chatter. He could *encourage* his pitcher, all the way from the outfield.

You can do it, Taylor!

That's what good teammates do. They cooperate. They encourage each other. They work together to help each other play their best. At the end of the day, they're way more successful together than they ever could be alone.

WHO COULD YOU ENCOURAGE TODAY?

Your teammates? Your classmates? Your friends? Maybe even your siblings? How could you team up with others to help someone succeed?

