



Be honest. When you get a group assignment at school, when you get partnered up with a teammate at practice, or when your mom asks you to show your sister how to do a chore around the house there's probably a part of you that thinks:

**I'D RATHER DO IT MYSELF.**

That's natural. We all want to do things the way we want to do them. After all, it seems like the best way to us!

But think about it. What if the Israelites had thought that way when Moses told them about their big group project—building the Tabernacle? There's no way they would have been successful. Each part of the tent would have had a different style. Nothing would have fit together the way it was supposed to. Thankfully, they did cooperate. With God's help, they chose to work together.

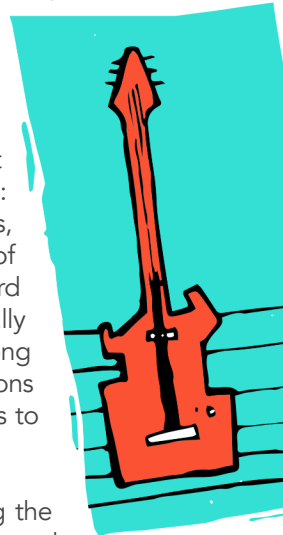
God is so wise that He made us to cooperate. You can see that in any basketball, baseball, or football team. You can see it in rock bands . . . dance ensembles . . . and book publishers. You can look way back and see it with the Israelites—working together so they could do something important.

When you have a chance to cooperate, make the most of it. Make the choice to listen and respect the others on your team. Lean into the way God designed us to work in the first place—not on our own, but with each other.



**READ EXODUS 31:1-11**

Bezalel and Oholiab played a BIG part in a BIG project that came early on in the history of God's people: building the Tabernacle. When we think of big projects, we often think of big leaders. Moses was the leader of the Israelites at the time, and almost everyone has heard of him. Moses knew that God wanted him to build a really special tent—a Tabernacle—where God would live among His people. God had given Moses detailed instructions about how it should be built. But did God want Moses to build it by himself? Of course not!



God wanted ALL the people to play a part in building the Tabernacle. God had a job in mind for Bezalel, Oholiab, and even the people whose names *didn't* end up in the Bible. He wanted everyone to cooperate so they could accomplish their goal together. God *chose* them for the work. He *filled* them with the Spirit of God, and with all the wisdom and skill they would need to do it. God knew exactly what Bezalel and Oholiab could do, because He had given them those abilities in the first place.

Imagine that you were a part of the community back then. Imagine how exciting it would have been to work on such an important project together. What do you think God would have said about you?

**I HAVE CHOSEN [YOU].  
I HAVE FILLED [YOU] WITH . . .**



PRETEEN  
WEEK 1



Cooperation *sounds* great. What could be so hard about working together with other people?

Well, the very thing that makes cooperation so powerful is also the thing that can be the most challenging:

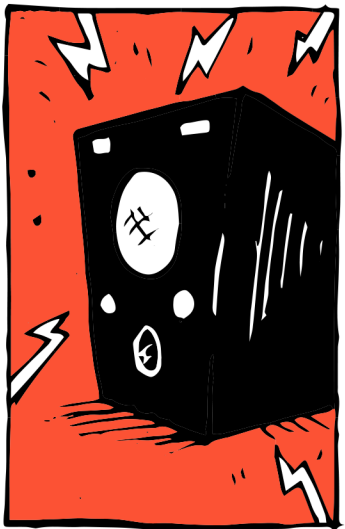
**NO TWO PEOPLE ARE THE SAME.**

Have you ever watched a cooking show on TV, when the contestants have to work together to complete a challenge? What usually happens? It usually turns into a disaster, because everyone wants to do things *their way*.

To cooperate, you have to be confident in who you are and you have to be willing to listen to others' ideas, too. That's not easy!

The good news is God knows how tough it can be. He knows the pressures we face when we try to cooperate. He thinks it's important for us to choose to work together—and guess what? He can help us do it.

**TAKE SOME TIME TO TALK TO GOD AND ASK HIM TO HELP YOU WORK WELL WITH OTHERS.**



PRAY  
TO GOD

All right—it's time to build a beat. Wait until your family is together.

First, watch a video together of someone beatboxing.

Amazed yet? Wait 'til you try to do it yourself.

Take turns, giving each person a chance to make a beat by themselves.

*To make it easier for those who might be a little shy, you can turn on an instrumental beat in the background. It's easy to find one if you search "instrumental beat" on your favorite video website.*

Now it's time to put your beats together. Go around the table, one by one—but this time, each person should keep their beat going. Keep adding layers until you've built the ultimate beat together. Take a video so you can remember it later.

Now read this as a family, and take a minute to talk about it after.

**BUILDING A BEAT CAN BE A LOT OF FUN. IT ALSO SHOWS US WHAT COOPERATION LOOKS LIKE IN REAL LIFE—OR AT LEAST WHAT IT COULD LOOK LIKE.**

A kick drum by itself is fine, but it gets boring after a while. Add in a high-hat and some cymbals and you're starting to get somewhere. Start scratching records and cycling loops, and all of a sudden that beat starts to get irresistible.

It's true—we're so much better when we work together! How have you seen that play out in *your* life?



TALK  
ABOUT GOD