

Quigley's Village



Main Concepts:

- It is good to cooperate.
- Cooperation means each person does his own task in a joint effort.



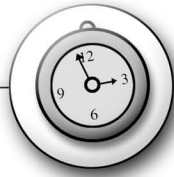
Summary of Today's Session:

- Cooperation means working together to get a task done.
- When we cooperate with others we can do things we could not do working alone.
- Adults can help children learn to work things out peacefully.



Scripture Verse:

Colossians 3:23a, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord."



Preparation:



1. Gather Materials

You will need *Quigley's Village Video, Cooperation: The Great Treehouse Disaster*, large wooden blocks, graham crackers and a can of chocolate frosting (or cream cheese and cheese crackers), and a small, flat spatula, juice, and a box of wet wipes such as Wet Naps. Before each session make enough copies of the parent letter. Give one to each family when they pick up their child.



2. Read the Bible Story

Nehemiah 3

God told Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but Nehemiah could not do it by himself. He needed the cooperation and help of the people.

You will want to keep this story very simple for the children. Explain that Jerusalem was a huge city but the gates and walls were broken. Tell them that Nehemiah and all the people worked together to repair all the walls and gates of Jerusalem. Ask the children if they have a gate in their backyards or at their schools and how they'd like to live in a house without walls. Take time to hear their responses. Tell them that the walls in their house were built by people working together, just as Nehemiah and the people worked together to rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem. Explain that gates and walls are important because they protect everyone living inside them.



3. Building a City

After you tell the children the story of Nehemiah, tell them that they will be building a city with walls using wooden blocks. Ask them to work as a team or, if you have a large class, divide them into several teams. Supervise the children as they build. After they have finished, ask the children what they liked about working together.



4. Making "Brick and Mortar" Sandwiches

In this snack exercise, the children work as a team to build graham cracker sandwiches. Have the kids pretend they are building with bricks and mortar. Have one group of children line up the graham crackers, another spread the icing, and others serve. Do this where everyone can see what's going on and let each child have a turn. If you'd rather not use frosting, use cream cheese and cheese crackers to build your sandwiches. Have some children help to pass out napkins and drinks. When you say a prayer of thanks for the snacks, be sure to mention you are thankful for the children's help and cooperation.

Session Schedule & Class Outline

SESSION GOALS FOR TODAY:

By the end of this session, the children should know the meaning of the word "cooperate". To cooperate means to do your part to work together. The children should also know that listening to their parents and teachers is a part of cooperating and that if we all work together, we can do great things.

Step #1: "Name Game" & Introduction

Greet each child as the children enter the room and have them sit in a circle. Have them play the "name game" by saying their name and then the name of the person next to them.

Explain to the children that today they will be learning the word "cooperate". Tell them that to cooperate means for people to work together to get something done. Let the children know that they will be watching a video about some folks who learned how to cooperate.

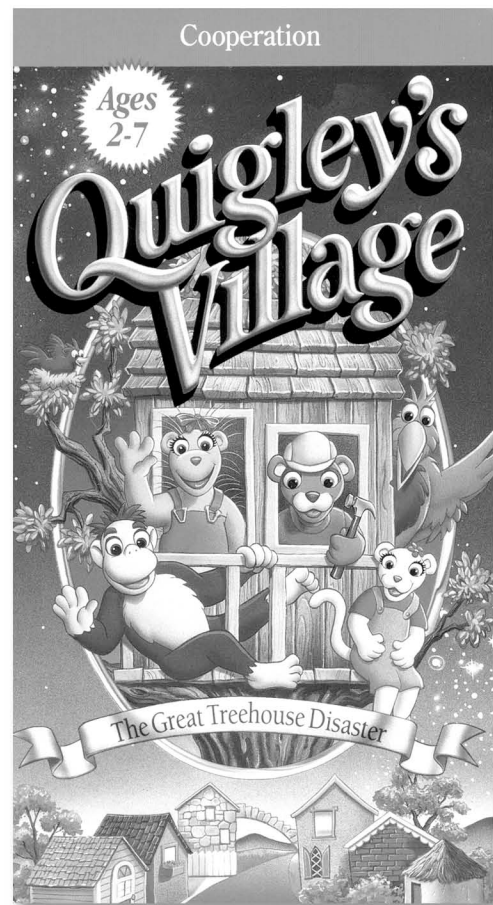
Step #2: Quigley's Village Video (25 min.)

Have the children sit where they each can see the video comfortably.

Cooperation - The Great Treehouse Disaster

Building the tree house becomes a disaster when nobody cooperates. Mr. Quigley teaches the kids "When there is a job to do, when we cooperate it will soon be through -- and working together is a lot more fun too!"

Ask the children if they heard the word "cooperate" in the video. Have them tell you how the animals worked together. Take time to listen to their answers. Say the little verse to them that Mr. Quigley said to the animals. "When there is a job to do, when we cooperate, it will soon be through, and working together is a lot more fun too!" Have them repeat it back.



Step #3: Stretch Activity

Have the children pretend they are climbing ladders to the Quigley's Village tree house. Then ask them to pretend they are swinging from a tree limb. Have them "jump down". Make this fun by varying your voice to go with the activities.

Session Schedule & Class Outline

Step #4: The Bible Story

Have the children sit in a circle. Place your Bible in your lap and tell the children that the Bible story is about a man who had lots of help and cooperation in rebuilding the walls and gates of a big city called Jerusalem.

Open your Bible to *Nehemiah*. Explain to the children that the story today comes from the book *Nehemiah*. Tell the story in your own words. You can use the ideas in the preparation section of this session. Remember to keep the story simple.

Step #5: Building a City Together

Tell the children they will be working together to build their own city, just like Nehemiah. Ask them to work together to build walls and gates with the blocks. You will need to help them get started as well as supervise their progress. After the walls have been built, admire their work and thank them for cooperating so well with each other.

Step #6: Making the Snack Together

Have all the children clean their hands with the wet wipes and then sit down. Set out the can of icing (or cream cheese), rubber spatula, graham crackers (or cheese crackers), napkins, juice and juice cups or juice boxes on a table. Explain that you will need their help in putting the snack together. Show them how to build graham cracker sandwiches using the graham crackers and icing. Ask for volunteers to put out the crackers, spread the icing, put a graham cracker on top of the icing, place the "sandwich" on a napkin, and serve the "sandwiches" and the juice boxes or cups of juice. Have one group of kids put out the crackers, another group spread the icing, etc. Emphasize to them how cooperating together, they got the job done.

Step #7: Bible Verse

"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord", *Colossians 3:23a*. Mention to the children that whenever they are working they should always try to do their best. Tell them that God is pleased when He sees families and friends working together. Have the children say the verse with you. Then let as many as would like to say the Bible verse by themselves. Say it together one last time. Thank the children for cooperating.

Step #8: Thanking the Children & Closing in Prayer

With all the children sitting, ask them to bow their heads and close their eyes for the prayer time. You can pray or have a friend pray to close the teaching time.

(Sample Prayer)

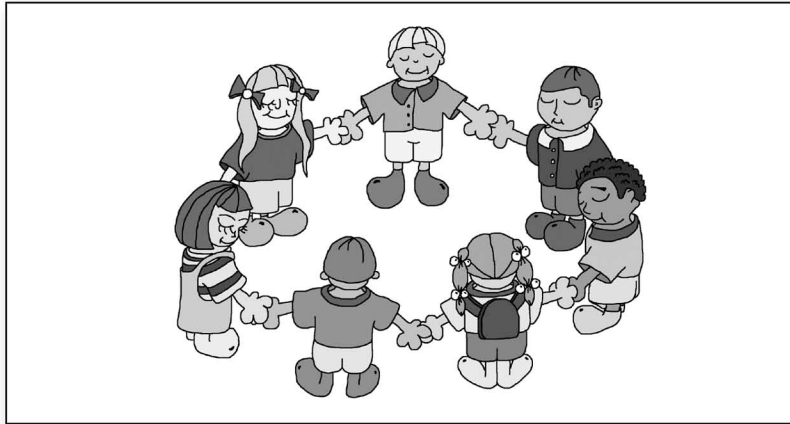
"Dear God

We thank You for helping us learn the meaning of "cooperate". Please help us to remember to do our best to work together.

In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Thank each child for coming to class. If certain children were especially cooperative, be sure to mention it to them as they leave.

Your Child's Lesson



Dear Parents,

Thank you for sharing your child with us today. In today's lesson, we explored the meaning of the word "cooperation". We learned that cooperating includes listening to each other and doing our parts in working together.

Our Bible verse today was Colossians 3:23a, "Whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord." It reminds us that when we are doing something we should try to do the best we can.

The video we viewed today is from the *Quigley's Village Series* and is called *Cooperation – The Great Treehouse Disaster*.

Building the tree house becomes a disaster when nobody cooperates. Mr. Quigley teaches the kids "When there is a job to do, when we cooperate it will soon be through - and working together is a lot more fun too!"

As a parent, you can encourage your child to cooperate with you by being specific about what you want done. If you praise children for a job well done, they will feel what they have done is important and will continue to try their best. Let them know they are a part of your family team and you like working together. This will help them throughout their lives.

See you next week!