



◆ STEP SIX

Stronger Together

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

PROVERBS 27:17 · ANCHOR VERSE - READ THIS ALOUD TOGETHER TO OPEN

Key Points

READ TOGETHER

- ◆ Work together to accomplish more than you could alone.
- ◆ Appreciate that God made everyone with different gifts.
- ◆ Encourage others to use their strengths.
- ◆ Great teams succeed because everyone contributes.
- ◆ Unity doesn't mean everyone is the same - it means everyone works toward the same goal.

Story One: Lily and the Church Picnic

AGES 6-10

READ TOGETHER

Every summer, Lily's church hosted a big picnic at the local park. There were games, hamburgers, singing, and hundreds of people from the community.

This year, Lily wanted to help.

"I want to run the whole picnic!" she proudly announced.

Her mom smiled. "That's a wonderful attitude, but one person can't do everything."

Lily didn't understand. "It can't be that hard."

The next Saturday, Mom took Lily to help with the preparations.

Mr. Jenkins was setting up tables. Mrs. Garcia was decorating. Teenagers were carrying coolers. The pastors were greeting families. Several people cooked food. Others organized games for the younger children.

Lily helped place napkins and cups on each table.

By lunchtime the park looked beautiful. As everyone laughed and enjoyed the day, Lily looked around in amazement.

She found her mom. "I get it now."

"What do you get?"

"If everyone had tried to do the same job, nothing would have worked."

Mom nodded. “God gave every person different talents.”

Lily looked around again. “The picnic happened because everyone worked together.”

That evening she thanked God that His family was made up of many different people with many different gifts.

Story Two: Olivia Builds a Robot

AGES 10–14

READ TOGETHER

Olivia’s middle school robotics team had qualified for the regional competition.

She loved programming. In fact, she thought programming was the most important part of the robot.

As the competition approached, Olivia became frustrated. One teammate kept redesigning the frame. Another spent hours adjusting the gears. Someone else focused only on presentations.

“Why can’t everyone just help me code?” Olivia complained.

That evening her father sat beside her at the kitchen table. “Tell me about your team.”

Olivia explained everyone’s different jobs.

Dad picked up a puzzle from the bookshelf. He dumped the pieces onto the table. “Build this.”

Olivia picked up one piece. “I can’t.”

“Why not?”

“I need all of them.”

Dad smiled. “So does your robot.”

The next day Olivia looked at her teammates differently.

When Jacob strengthened the frame, she thanked him. When Emma improved the presentation, she encouraged her. When Carlos fixed the drive train, she realized her code wouldn’t matter if the robot couldn’t move.

At regionals, the judges complimented something unexpected.

“This isn’t the best programmer we’ve seen.”

Olivia’s heart sank.

Then the judge continued. “It’s one of the best teams we’ve seen.”

They won the Engineering Excellence Award.

Driving home, Olivia smiled. “I finally understand.”

Dad looked over. “The robot?”

“No. The team. I thought everyone should become more like me.”

Dad laughed. “But God already made one of you.”

Jesus' Example

READ TOGETHER

Jesus could have done everything Himself. Instead, He chose twelve disciples.

Some were fishermen. One collected taxes. Another had been a political revolutionary. They had different personalities, backgrounds, and talents. Yet Jesus brought them together for one mission.

Later, the early church continued that example. Some believers preached. Some served meals. Some encouraged others. Some

gave generously.

Everyone had a role.

God’s Kingdom grew because ordinary people used their unique gifts together.

Why This Matters

READ TOGETHER

Have you ever wished you were more like someone else?

Maybe you wish you were faster. Smarter. More athletic. More musical. More outgoing.

But God didn’t make a mistake when He made you. He gave you gifts that someone else doesn’t have. He also gave other people gifts that you don’t have.

That’s intentional.

Imagine if every instrument in an orchestra were a trumpet. Or if every player on a baseball team wanted to be the pitcher. The music wouldn’t sound right. The team wouldn’t succeed.

God designed His family the same way. Each person is valuable. Each person matters.

When we appreciate each other’s strengths instead of comparing ourselves, we discover what real unity looks like.

Bible Verses

READ TOGETHER

- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 - *The Body of Christ has many parts, but all belong to one body.*
- Romans 12:4–6 - *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”*
- Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 - *“Two are better than one...”*
- Ephesians 4:16 - *“...the whole body... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*
- Proverbs 27:17 - *“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”*

Discussion Questions

PARENT LEADS

- What is one gift God has given you?

- What is one gift you’ve noticed in a friend or sibling?

- Why do people sometimes compare themselves to others?

- How would the church be different if everyone had exactly the same talents?

- How did Olivia’s attitude change during the robotics competition?

- How can you use your gifts to serve others this week?

7. Parent's turn: what gift do you see in each person in our family - and how have you seen it help others?

Vocabulary Words

READ TOGETHER

Teamwork: Working together by combining everyone's strengths to accomplish a goal. *Example: Each player on a soccer team doing their part to help the team succeed.*

Gifts (Spiritual Gifts): Special abilities God gives each person to help serve Him and encourage others. *Example: Teaching, encouraging, serving, leading, showing kindness, or giving generously.*

Unity: People working together with one purpose while appreciating each other's differences. *Example: A church family serving together during Vacation Bible School.*

Comparison: Measuring yourself against someone else instead of appreciating how God made you. *Example: Wishing you could sing like someone else instead of using your own talents.*

Diversity: The many different abilities, personalities, and backgrounds God uses to strengthen His people. *Example: A church made up of children, parents, grandparents, teachers, musicians, and volunteers, each serving in different ways.*

Faith Builder

YOUR MOVE

This week, become a **"Gift Finder."**

Each day, notice one strength or talent in someone else and tell them.

It could be:

- "You're really good at making people laugh."
- "I noticed how kind you were to that new student."
- "You're a great listener."
- "I love how hard you work."
- "You're really creative."

Then ask yourself:

- What gift has God given me?
- How can I use it to help someone else this week?

At the end of the week, write down:

- Three gifts you noticed in others.
- One gift you're thankful God gave you.
- One way you used your gift to help someone else.
- How working together accomplished more than working alone.

Closing Prayer

READ TOGETHER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for making me on purpose - with gifts You chose just for me - and for surrounding me with people whose gifts are different from mine. Forgive me for the times I compare myself to others or wish everyone would do things my way. Help me to notice the strengths You've placed in my family and friends, and to tell them what I see. Show me how to use my own gifts to serve You and to help others. Thank You for Jesus, who brought together very different people and made them one team with one mission.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

STEP SIX

NEXT → STEP SEVEN • GROWING EVERY DAY