

# Life Principle: COOPERATION

## Bundle of Sticks - Aesop's Fable

A certain Father had a family of Sons, who were forever quarreling among themselves. No words he could say did the least good, so he cast about in his mind for some very striking example that should make them see that [discord](#) would lead them to misfortune. One day when the quarreling had been much more violent than usual and each of the Sons was [moping](#) in a [surlly](#) manner, he asked one of them to bring him a bundle of sticks. Then handing the bundle to each of his Sons in turn, he told them to try to break it. But although each one tried his best, none was able to do so. The Father then untied the bundle and gave the sticks to his Sons to break one by one. This they did very easily.

"My Sons," said the Father, "do you not see how certain it is that if you agree with each other and help each other, it will be impossible for your enemies to injure you? But if you are divided among yourselves, you will be no stronger than a single stick in that bundle."

[Aesop's Fables: The Bundle of Sticks](#) - audio of story plus script - different version - Compare using a [Venn Diagram](#)

[The Bundle of Sticks](#) 3:02 min.

[Bundle of Sticks Original version 1867](#) audio and script

[Fasces - Roman history for bundle of sticks symbolism](#)

[Cooperation Fable Choice Worksheet](#)

[Cooperation Choice Worksheet](#)

Step 1: Question Focus: "COOPERATION"

[Question Focus Technique Resource -  
A Cooperative Learning Strategy](#)

Step 2: Produce Questions.

Rules for producing questions:

1. Ask as many questions as you can.
2. Change any statements into questions.
3. Write down every question exactly as stated.
4. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.

Step 3: Improve the Questions.

- 1) Identify open and closed-ended questions.
  - 2) Change questions: select one question to change from open to closed-ended and one closed question to open-ended.
- Example: *Closed to open*

What objects did the father use to show his sons that discord would lead to misfortune?

How could the sons apply the lesson of the bundle of sticks to the discord among them?

