

## Life Principle: COOPERATION

### THE BELLY AND THE MEMBERS - Aesop's Fable

One fine day it occurred to the Members of the Body that they were doing all the work and the Belly was having all the food. So they held a meeting, and after a long discussion, decided to strike work till the Belly consented to take its proper share of the work. So for a day or two, the Hands refused to take the food, the Mouth refused to receive it, and the Teeth had no work to do. But after a day or two the Members began to find that they themselves were not in a very active condition; the whole Body quickly became debilitated: the Hands could hardly move, and the Mouth was all parched and dry, while the Legs were unable to support the rest. So thus they found that even the Belly in its dull quiet way was doing necessary work for the Body, and that all must work together or the Body will go to pieces.

[The Belly and the Members](#) 58 sec. video

[The Story of the Romans - The Fable of the Stomach](#)

[Members of the Body Balloon Race Activity](#)

["The Belly and the Members" | Aesop's Fables | Aesop | Lit2Go ETC](#) Audio and written version with activity

[Fable Belly and Members 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 part of the body did its members think wasn't doing any work?

Why do you think the body parts believed the belly wasn't doing any work?

