

Healthy, Effective, Gospel-Centered

The Trinity — Creator, Son, and Spirit —is the perfect example of a perfect team. They’re unified, moving effectively together toward their goal in perfect health, centered on the transforming message of the gospel as the Godhead brings restoration and transformation to the world. We’re (unsurprisingly) not God. We won’t likely experience that degree of perfection in this lifetime. But what if we shifted how we view working with others, especially those who are so very different from us? When we understand our differences, celebrate them, and defer to one another in team environments that are modeled after the unity we see modeled in the Trinity, how might we join Him in advancing the gospel?



Teamwork in the Cities: An Interview with Patrice Johnson

In an interview with Ellen Susman (TDC Design), Patrice Johnson (D4L, Ohio) discussed some vital characteristics of teaming in Cities.



Teamwork

What does teaming look like for Navigators everywhere? Craig Parker (D4L) discusses some scriptures that have been meaningful in his teaming experiences over the years.



Conversations on Teamwork with the Collegiate Executive Team

Ever wonder what team dynamics are like for the Collegiate leadership? They talked about their experience during the National Collegiate Conference 2021.

TEAMWORK ACCORDING TO ANTS

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- What aspects of my reputation am I working hard to protect? What is driving that? What is the Lord saying to me about my reputation?
- What it is it about failing that I don’t like? What does failure tempt me to believe about myself?
- How am I viewing this person as an obstacle? How does that affect what I believe about them? What does the Lord want to say to me about that?

So how about you? What can you learn from the ants? What could help you:

- Recognize your ego?
- View obstacles as opportunities?
- Remember people are not obstacles?

Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer...

PROVERBS 30:24-25 ◀

Team Building Assessment

Interested in knowing how your team's doing? Use this tool to determine your current level of trust, effectiveness, health, and hope. You can also request a teambuilding coach to walk you through your results and create a plan. Scan the QR code below to take the Team Assessment or visit app.assessmentgenerator.com/assessment/14632.



Keep an eye out for a **NEW** training on teaming together. Email TDC@navigators.org to be notified when this is ready.

Are you ready for refreshing?

Text **“Overflow”** to **(719) 652-1955** for occasional messages connecting you to reflections, resources, and media to help you in your journey towards greater spiritual and emotional health!

upfront

Real-Life Stories and Practical Tools to Advance The Navigators Calling

Flipping the Map

SHERI UNDERWOOD

Design Team
Train – Develop – Care

“If you flip the map over, you’ll get a bigger picture of where we are,” I suggested to my teammate.

His response? “I actually like to only look at the little square.”

Surprised, I mentioned that he might be missing out on a lot by seeing only one piece of the whole. But that’s my perspective, and my gift. I like the big picture, going fast, and figuring out things as I go. My teammate likes going more slowly and having precise details well thought out ahead of time.

This little interaction illustrates what happens when we team with someone who seems opposite. My teammate and I recognized our differences starting day one when we tried to coordinate a training event together. He wanted lots of time before our gathering to plan every word we’d say. He loved the details I avoided in favor of strategic planning, and he often teasingly threatened that he’d make me stand up and present without any preparation—something I actually enjoy doing, even though I know it isn’t always wise.

Over the last eight years of working together, I’ve grown to love partnering with him and truly cherish our differences. God continues to use our teaming to impact others. When I take my eyes off myself, focusing instead on the humility and communication it takes to work with someone so different, there’s a rich payoff: a deeper relationship with God and others, and a powerful picture of the Body of Christ.

Is God asking you to team with someone who might be a little challenging? If so, what might you have to learn from this? **In what ways can you learn to recognize, appreciate, celebrate, and defer to one another’s differences?** ◀





The Cost of Community

SERENE CHUA
Design Team
Train – Develop – Care



During my staff team's first get-together before the new school year, I felt impassioned by the Spirit to share about how crucial unity would be for us as a team that year. Little did I know what that unity would cost, and who would need to pay up. Spoiler: it was me.

A few weeks into fall launch, I had to initiate some hard conversations with a teammate. I felt hurt, unseen, and justified in the ways I believed I'd been wronged. The pain pushed me toward God. In the height of this, as I led a weekly worship set with a friend, I found myself singing these lyrics: "From the need to be understood...Deliver me, O God." (*I Shall Not Want*, Audrey Assad.)

Tears came as my heart connected to the reality of my desire to be understood by my teammate. The Holy Spirit showed me that Jesus Himself was not understood. Ephesians 4:2-3 came to mind: "Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."

Now, how was I supposed to challenge that? Was I really committed to this whole unity thing? I prayed that God would help me humble myself and that He would give me the courage to pursue unity and let go of both my offenses and my need to be understood. That was my cost.

Our team continued to be tested in that arena, which made the school year a challenging and isolating season. I considered quitting, but I knew the Lord's call on my life and also that relationships are messy. I'm glad I didn't quit. Though that season was hard, I look back now and see how the Lord used it to bring me closer to Him and expose the pride and desires of my own heart. Because I can trust Him, I can also love people, even if—or when—there's a cost. ◀

Teamwork According to Ants

AIMEE HODGES
Train – Develop – Care



Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.
PROVERBS 6:6-8

A friend and I were talking about working with others. I wasn't at all surprised when he commented, "I recently heard a podcast about this.

It was a study about ants." I was so intrigued, I had to hear more!

My friend explained that a German scientist was studying ant colonies' movement patterns to see if we could learn anything that would apply to automotive traffic jams. While the podcast wasn't centered around teams, I haven't been able to stop thinking about two observations related to working with others.

The scientist observed that ants don't seem to have egos and they seem okay with accidents. When it comes to egos after they bump into another ant or an obstacle, they just keep going. For the most part, they stay in lines on their path, and they don't constantly try to get ahead by zooming past the ant in front of them. They don't seem to spend any time comparing their progress to another ant's. When it comes to ants seeming okay with accidents, they even seem to anticipate bumping into each other and having setbacks along the way.

I don't really like what this causes me to consider. In teaming up with others, I'm rarely ok with accidents, traffic jams, or bumping into others. (I obviously have no ego, so that one certainly doesn't apply!)

Since I'm focused and work fast, I have to remind myself of these tips—none of them new, but all of them are vital. I need to:

- 1. Recognize your ego!** I do have an ego, and it impacts my ability to work on a team. I'm learning to be more open and honest when I'm struggling with others who have other (often better) ideas, move at a different pace than I do, or get the credit.
- 2. View obstacles as opportunities.** This sounds so nice, and in theory, I love it! But it's so challenging for me to keep in mind that we need to be ok with trying and failing.
- 3. Remember people are not obstacles.** I wish I could say this goes without saying, I have to remind myself of this often. I can get so focused on the goal that sometimes I see people as obstacles to blocking me.

I'm practicing a few phrases and questions that help me in these situations:

- "I don't know."
- "I need help."
- "People are more important than the project/deadline."

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QUICK QUOTES

on Teaming



Teams transformed the way I view ministry. I now see ministry as a team sport.

OSAZE MURRAY, TDC

This past year through my director role with the Global Student Program Experience (GSPX) Virtual, I feel like God has been able to create a team in a virtual and international context that ignites me in ways nothing else does. I love my local team, but the international team has been so life giving.

LEIHLYN TINIO, Collegiate



Teams have taught me humility and freed me to be me. I can lean on others' strengths where I am weak, realizing I have needs. I am free to bring my strengths and they are received, realizing I have contribution.

STEVE BROWN, TDC

To be honest, I'm currently working on how to team with others in a positive way. I've tended to be the one who doesn't team well and turns into the "bull in the China shop." I'm trusting the Lord and my team as they journey with me in a Kingdom way.

VICTOR PADILLA, D4L



On my first team, I thought I wanted top-down leadership that would give structure, rules and make all the decisions for me and the team ... What I thought I wanted would have broken me. God knew what I needed, and He put me on a team that embodied the fruits of the Spirit to help me grow to be more like Jesus.

KIM INOSHITA, MPD



Over the course of the past 3 ½ years here, I was blessed with a leader who guided me both professionally and spiritually, also giving me a deeper understanding of The Navigators culture. Leaders with spiritual depth and high-level leadership skills are crucial to building a healthy, thriving team.

REGGIE GRAHAM, CARM/HQ

