

One of the world's most watched television events is happening in Russia right now. Soccer teams from 32 nations are competing in the World Cup FIFA Competition (which stands for Fédération Internationale de Football Association or in English, the International Federation of Association Football). One team that has really worked together and is surprising everyone is the Swedish team. Last year their attention-seeking star player retired and the team was not even expected to make it to the World Cup this year. But the Swedish team pulled together and focused on becoming a tight, selfless unit. The team is doing really well, despite not having a standout star. One of the Swedish players said it well: "As a team, we play as a collective, all the players together."

Think About It . . .

- What can happen when a team doesn't work together?
- When is a time that you were part of a team or group that worked together?

THE BEAT

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Lesson 6



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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Working Together

Have students brainstorm characteristics that they might observe in team players who *are* working together and in those who *aren't* working together. On the board, write their ideas in two columns. Divide the class into pairs or small groups and ask preteens to sketch a design for a Team Players' Trophy. Encourage them to write on their trophies a few characteristics of players who work together. When everyone is done, let students share their creations. **SAY: Whether it's a game or real life, things go better when we work together. Let's dig into God's Word and discover how the body of Christ is supposed to work together.**

Will you choose to work together as the body of Christ?