

grace  
**KIDS**

**ELEMENTARY**



WEEK ONE

NEHEMIAH 1:1-2:1-9

Nehemiah Hears  
About the Wall

SAY  
THIS

Be on the lookout for  
what needs to be done.

DO  
THIS



MORNING TIME

Say this as you say goodbye to your child this morning, "Find a task that needs to be done in school today and go for it! You rock!"

REMEMBER THIS

"Work at everything you do with all your heart.  
Work as if you were working for the Lord."  
Colossians 3:23a, NIV

LIFE  
APP

INITIATIVE—Seeing what needs  
to be done and doing it

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

It may be hard to believe, but summer is over! Maybe that fact makes you want to burst into tears—alarm clocks, homework, and bus stops. Or maybe it makes you want to throw a huge party—no kids saying, "I'm bored!" or begging to go to the pool. Probably for most of us, it's a mixture of both.

Either way, we want to help make the transition as smooth as possible for you and your family! Below is a checklist to help you start the year off on the right foot.

**CREATE A WEEKLY CHECK-IN.** Choose a time during the weekend to huddle around a calendar with your family. Maybe it's Sunday night after dinner—everyone shares their plans for the week and discusses any changes from the regular routine.

**CREATE A RHYTHM OF TABLE CONVERSATION.** Try to eat dinner together as many times a week as possible. Establish a habit of asking each other, "What was the best part of your day?" and "What was your least favorite part?"

**CHOOSE A DESIGNATED SPACE FOR DAILY SUPPLIES.** Grab a few hooks and a couple of baskets and create a go-to spot for collecting items your kids will take with them every day. This will help you get out the door faster and eliminate the potential for frustration.

**SET UP A DISTRACTION-FREE HOMEWORK AREA.** Determine what

the rules about homework are. Make a plan for whatever works best for your family. Then, create an area free of TVs, gaming systems, clutter, etc.

**REACH OUT TO YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER.** Send in some supplies and attach a note that introduces you and your kid. Offer your help and encouragement. Find out their favorite treat and surprise them with a few times in the year.

**START EACH DAY RIGHT.** The best way to start your kid's school day is with some daily encouragement. Send them off to school with words that fill their heart.

- "I've already been praying for you this morning."
- "You look beautiful/handsome/sharp this morning!"
- "I love starting my day with you!"

**CREATE CLEAR PARAMETERS.** Be clear and consistent with the rules about homework and bedtimes and the consequences for not following them.

**PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.** Gather your family (and other families, if you want!) and pray for the new school year. Reassure your child that you'll continue to pray for them as the upcoming year progresses.

For more blog posts  
and parenting resources, visit:  
**ParentCue.org**



## READ COLOSSIANS 4:2

## DAY 1

Have you ever wanted to help but you just didn't know how? Before you open your eyes to look around for what needs to be done, try closing them in prayer first! Ask God to show you ways that you can be helpful to others. Be specific in your prayers, mentioning people and places by name. When you open your eyes, write down some of your ideas below. Circle one you can do today. Then, go make it happen!

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**THANK** God for giving you family and friends who you want to help.

## READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

## DAY 2

Another way to take initiative is to read God's Word. The Bible has wisdom that can guide our lives, but we have to know what it says. Look up the following passages and match them to the situations they could speak to.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1) Proverbs 31:8-9 | a) Your friends are all saying mean things about the new kid                                     |
| 2) Matthew 6:14-15 | b) You don't have any homework on Monday, but you know you have a big test coming up on Thursday |
| 3) Proverbs 6:6-8  | c) Your sister borrows your iPod and breaks it   |

**KNOW** that God's Word can teach you how to do what needs to be done.

## READ JAMES 2:15-16

DAY 3

Have you ever heard the phrase "actions speak louder than words"? It's true. As comforting and helpful as words can be at times, if you don't follow through with action, they can be pretty meaningless or empty.

Ask a parent for help finding an empty food or plastic container. Place the empty container in your bathroom or somewhere you'll see it every day this month. Keep it as a reminder that you have to look for what needs to be done, and that you need to follow through and do it, or your words will be empty.

**ASK** God to help you see where you can make a difference with your actions.

## READ PROVERBS 6:6-8

DAY 4

Today you're going to observe nature like a scientist. Head outside and look on the ground until you find an ant. When you do, take a minute to observe the ant. Draw a picture of the ant here and describe its physical characteristics.

**DRAWING:**

**NOTES:**

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Take notes on what the ant is doing. Is it sitting still? Probably not! An ant is almost always at work. The ant sees what needs to be done, and it does it!

If a little ant can work that hard, so can you! As you go about your day today, if you're ever tempted to skip out on what needs to be done, remember the ant and get to it.

**KNOW** that God has given you all you need to get the job done.

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT  
FOR WHAT NEEDS TO  
BE DONE.**