

grace  
**KIDS**

**ELEMENTARY**



WEEK THREE

NEHEMIAH 5:1-12

Nehemiah Helps the Poor

SAY  
THIS

Don't wait for someone else  
to help people in need.

DO  
THIS



BED TIME

Read Nehemiah 2:11-18. Brainstorm some things you've seen that need to be done that your family could do together. Maybe it's inviting a new family in the neighborhood for dinner, or cleaning up the trash in an empty lot. Then, don't wait for someone else to do it. Instead, plan a time this week for your family to jump into action. Pray together and ask God to help you follow through.

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

FOUR WAYS TO TEACH YOUR KIDS INITIATIVE

By Dan Scott

Many kids are great at noticing what's going on around them. They say things like:

"Mom! My uniform is still in the wash. I need it for today's game!"  
"I'm BORED!"  
"Ugh! The lawn is FILLED with DOG POO!"

They are quick to tell us something needs to be done, then go about doing something else—expecting someone else to take care of the situation. It's not that our kids are ungrateful or lazy. Maybe they've just never been invited to help or don't understand they can take initiative to do it themselves.

Here are four ways to teach kids to take more initiative:

- 1. MODEL**  
When it comes to kids, they often need help making connections between what they see and what they can do about it. When we talk about the ways we're taking initiative, our kids see it in action and can learn how to take initiative in their own lives.
- 2. LET THEM DO**  
Kids can do more than we expect. If they come to you with a problem, help them think through how they could follow through and solve the problem. Then, let them do it. It might not be perfect, but at least they're learning what it means to see something and

do something about it. Empower your kids to know they have what it takes to get the job done.

**3. BE PREPARED**  
Think through the things in your house to give your kids a chance to help, like a cleaning kit in each bathroom. If your kids know they have access to what it takes to complete a job, they're more likely to do it on their own.

**4. PRAISE THE EFFORT NOT THE RESULT**  
Just because they're doing the job doesn't mean they're always going to get it perfect. If we get mad or frustrated at them for how they do a job, they may not want to risk taking initiative another time. Celebrate them for doing something they saw needed to be done.

Research shows that kids who demonstrate initiative are more successful in the long run. They get better grades, get in less trouble, and show increased resilience when faced with difficulty. The more we can help our kids learn the valuable lessons of initiative while they are young, the more prepared they'll be to face the world when they grow up.

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and parenting resources, visit:  
**ParentCue.org**



## READ LUKE 3:10-11

## DAY 1

This week is called Extra Week. Take a look around your house and set aside items that you have extra of. Maybe you have two coats, two of the same toy, or lots of extra canned goods in the pantry. Recruit your whole family, but even if your brother or sister doesn't want to participate, you can do this alone! Just keep growing the pile, and then we'll tell you what to do with it on Day 4!

**THANK** God for providing more than what you need so that you can help people in need.

## READ PROVERBS 3:28

## DAY 2

What is number one on your Christmas list this year? Draw a picture of it to the right.

Can you imagine if your parents had bought your Christmas present in September, wrapped it, and put it in your room but wouldn't let you open it until Christmas? That would be torture, right?

If you have the means to help someone who needs it, don't wait! Don't wait for someone else to step up to help them. Don't make someone wait while you have more than you need. Christmas can be every day when you're taking initiative!

**ASK** God to show you who you can help TODAY!

**READ JOHN 13:12-15****DAY 3**

Take off your shoes and inspect your feet. Maybe even sniff them if you dare. How would you feel about someone else washing them? Or, even more extreme, how would you feel about washing someone else's dirty feet? It sounds pretty gross, doesn't it? But that's exactly what Jesus did for His friends. He knew they needed not just a king, but a Savior who would wash them and clean them from their sins. If the Savior of the world can serve others so humbly, we certainly can help others too! Grab a sheet of paper and trace your foot on it. Cut it out and hang it up to remind yourself this week that you should help others in need.

**LISTEN** for the needs of others that you can help meet, and then get to it!

**READ 1 JOHN 3:16-18****DAY 4**

It's the end of Extra Week! Hopefully all week long you've been collecting the extra things you have around the house, but it's not too late if you need to play catch up. Go through the pile of extra things with a parent and get their permission to donate some or all of what you've collected to someone in need. Be sure and tell the person or organization why you are donating—that God's love for you makes you want to share that love with others!

P.S. For "extra" credit, consider creating a spot around the house where everyone can put their extra things going forward, and every time the pile gets big, donate again!

**KNOW** that your initiative can make someone's life better!

**DON'T WAIT FOR  
SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP  
PEOPLE IN NEED.**