

grace  
**KIDS**

**ELEMENTARY**



WEEK FOUR

NEHEMIAH 2:19-20, 4,6

Nehemiah and Sanballat

SAY  
THIS

Stay focused on what  
needs to be done.

DO  
THIS



DRIVE TIME

Make a special trip to grab some ice cream or any special treat and tell your child you are going to celebrate! What are we celebrating?

Ask them to think about what God has done this week in their life and talk about it while enjoying your special dessert. If they have a hard time thinking of an idea, prompt them with something you have seen!

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 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13**

### **DAY 1**

There are a lot of things that can take our attention away from what needs to be done, so it's important to keep our focus on what God has for us to do. That requires us to be on our guard and remain strong and brave!

Make up some hand motions to help you memorize 1 Corinthians 16:13. For example, you can put your fists up by your face as though you're a boxer "on guard," then flex your biceps for "strong," and then end with your arms down by your side, standing brave and proud. Make your own version and repeat it in front of the mirror a few times until you know it and believe it!

**ASK** God to help you remain strong as you focus on what needs to be done.

## **READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**

### **DAY 2**

Here's a fun challenge: say the alphabet backward. Z, Y, X, W, etc.

It takes a serious amount of focus, doesn't it? You probably didn't think about anything other than letters for a couple of minutes while you tried to complete the challenge.

Whenever you're trying to do what you know you're supposed to be doing, it takes focus. So many things can distract us. But by keeping our focus on what God has for us to do, we can get the task done and move on to the next thing He wants us to do!

**KNOW** that God has given you important work and all you need to get it done.

## READ JAMES 1:23-25

## DAY 3

Sometimes we hear what we're supposed to do, but then we get distracted and forget to follow through. What are some things that distract you from doing what you're supposed to do? Unscramble the list below to find some common distractions. *(Note: these aren't bad things at all; they can just distract us from what God wants us to do if we aren't careful.)*

NSLEETIOIV \_\_\_\_\_  
MSAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
PTSORS \_\_\_\_\_  
LECL NHOEP \_\_\_\_\_  
VOIDE SGMAE \_\_\_\_\_  
TETENIRN \_\_\_\_\_  
RDGNEAI \_\_\_\_\_

**ASK** God to help you ignore distractions when you have a job to do.

Answers: television, games, sports, cell phone, internet, reading, video games, cell phone, sports, games, internet, reading

## READ PROVERBS 4:25-27

## DAY 4

Try patting your head and rubbing your belly in a circle at the same time. Now, try reversing it: rubbing your head in a circle and patting your belly. Which one was harder for you? They both required a lot of focus though, right?

Choosing the right path, or making the wise choice, requires a lot of focus too. There are a lot of things and people that can distract us and steer us off course. But if we think carefully about the choices we are making, we can follow in God's footsteps and stay on the right path.

**LISTEN** for God's voice to guide you down the right path and stay focused on what He has for you to do.

**STAY FOCUSED ON WHAT  
NEEDS TO BE DONE.**