

grace
KIDS

ELEMENTARY



WEEK TWO

NEHEMIAH 2:11-18

Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall

SAY
THIS

Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

DO
THIS



MEAL TIME

Q & A for kids: What is something you never seem to see that needs to be done? (e.g., dirty clothes on the floor) (*Hint: Your parent probably knows the answer to this if you don't.*)

Q & A for parents: Are you more distracted by people, technology or other tasks when it comes to finishing a job?

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

MAKING THE MOST OF MORNING TIME

By Sarah Anderson

Mornings can be rough. If you have anywhere to be with your kids in the morning, getting out the door is a task of epic proportions. But maybe part of what makes mornings hard is we try to get *through them* more than we try to *use them*. If we had a goal—like instilling purpose, and a mode of accomplishing it, like encouraging words, we could change the look and feel of our day.

My husband literally treats morning like a coach with his team—giving our two boys a pep talk before he heads out the door. It's like a motivational speech—which is the point: to encourage and inspire the boys for the day ahead. He tells them how he knows they are going to be kind to each other, treat each other in a loving way and give their mama no drama. Some days it feels like a "name it and claim it"—like if he puts the idea in their head, there's a better chance of it actually happening.

Sometimes it works. Other times it doesn't.

But the point is to start the day that way because it gives kids, even in an indirect way, a really crucial understanding: Every day is fresh and new. Every day is the chance to do this all again, and to maybe even do it better. Mornings are where forgiveness and lack of grudges can show up best.

Here are some practical morning time tips:

- Communicate ideals for the day, in conduct and behavior with *hope—not demands*. Let your kids know you want them to win for the day.
- Let your kids know what the plans are for the day. A play date? An errand? When kids know their routine will be or how it will change, they have a better chance of having a good day.
- Tell your kids how proud you are of them, how much you believe in them, and the potential you see in them. No matter how old they are, they will never outgrow the need for encouraging words.
- Reserve at least five minutes for yourself, before your kids get up. It's hard to instill purpose in others if you feel depleted.
- Set the tone for your home. Don't let your kids' emotions steer the ship. Decide how you want mornings to feel and do everything you can to make them feel that way.

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



READ GENESIS 6:9

DAY 1

Can you imagine what it must have been like to be Noah? He was the only one following God and making wise choices. He was probably already used to standing out in a crowd for being willing to stand up for God, but then God asked him to build a giant ship to save him from a flood when it wasn't even raining! Noah could have put off doing what God told him to do until he could convince others to do it with him, but if he had, he might have missed his window to get the ark built in time! Instead, Noah obeyed God and did what needed to be done, all by himself.

What in your life needs to be done that you might have to do alone? It might be a task, like a neglected chore, or helping someone else with their work. Or it might be standing up for someone else or for what is right when no one else is.

LISTEN to what God might be telling you to go and do all by yourself today.

READ DANIEL 3:28

DAY 2

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't wait for others to do the right thing. They knew that bowing before a fake god would be wrong, so they stood up to the king. Even when we know what God says to do, sometimes doing the right thing means taking a stand when no one else will.

Choose a scenario below—what should you do in that situation? On the last one, fill in the blank and create your own scenario where you have to choose your own adventure.

- You're at a sleepover and your friends want to get on a website you know you're not supposed to look at.
- Your friend forgot to do his homework and asks to copy yours.
- Everyone looks the other way as the new kid searches for a place to sit at lunch.
- _____

LISTEN to what God says in His word and follow Him even when others don't.

READ PSALM 119:60

DAY 3

How fast are you? Time yourself doing each activity once, then go back and try to do it faster for round two.

ACTIVITY:

ROUND 1 TIME:

ROUND 2 TIME:

10 sit-ups

10 jumping jacks

Run across the room

Five push-ups

20 squats

You might be a fast runner or able to do jumping jacks faster than anyone you know, but how fast are you to do what needs to be done? When you see a need, do you hang back to see if someone else will do it first, or do you step up to be the first person and lead by example? This week, try to be the fastest in responding to needs that you see!

KNOW that you can do what needs to be done right away.

READ ROMANS 12:2

DAY 4

Sometimes people are so focused on changing the world that they forget they can start by making the lives of people around them better. Instead of only thinking about yourself and your own chores, responsibilities or even fun things you want to do, look for ways you can help others.

Match the phrase below to uncover some ways you can help others.

**FOLD
HELP TEACHER
CHEER UP
DO A CHORE
STAND UP FOR
CLEAR**

**THAT'S NOT YOURS
SAD FRIEND
SOMEONE BEING PICKED ON
THE DISHES
CLEAN ROOM
LAUNDRY**

THANK God for changing your heart and mind to be more like His.

**DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEONE
ELSE TO DO WHAT NEEDS
TO BE DONE.**