

Ready for Launch: Boldly do what needs to be done



Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us show initiative.

First, watch this week's video!

**Initiative:
Seeing what needs to be done and doing it**

Memory Verse

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

Bible Story

The Wall Is Rebuilt
Nehemiah 3-4,
6:15-16, 8:1-17

Bottom Line

Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

Activity

"Would You Rather?" Party

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Clear a room so you can both run from one side to the other safely. (Or go outside if you have a yard you can run through.) Read from the following list, assigning one side of the room to an answer, and the other side of the room to the other answer.

Say, "We're going to talk about our favorite ways to celebrate. I'll ask a question and then point to one side of the room for each answer. You and I will both run to the side of the room that represents what WE would choose. Here we go!"

"Would you rather have:

- a ZOOM™ party or a drive-through party?
- a summer party or a winter party?
- a party with friends or a party with family?
- a fancy clothes party or a pajama party?
- confetti or sprinkles?
- A party at your house or a party somewhere else?
- one big gift or lots of small gifts?
- the same birthday as your best friend, or having the day all to yourself?
- chocolate cake or vanilla cake?
- a big birthday breakfast or a big birthday dinner?
- cupcakes or regular cake?"

Say, "Parties are always fun because you're celebrating something special. We celebrate because we're excited and thankful—and we always have a reason to celebrate!"

Talk About the Bible Story

Why were Nehemiah and Israelites celebrating? (*God had helped them finish the city wall of Jerusalem.*)

What were the people remembering as they celebrated the Feast of Booths? (*They remembered how God took care of His people in the wilderness after He led them out of slavery in Egypt.*)

How has God helped our family?

What friends has God given you?

What are some other things you know about God that you can praise or celebrate right now?

When things don't turn out as we had hoped, why can we still celebrate? (*Brainstorm some creative ways you can celebrate what God has done.*)

Parent: Share about how you like to celebrate what God has done.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, today we just want to celebrate who You are and what You've done! You've always been there to help Your people . . . You sent Jesus so we can have a relationship with You . . . and You continue to work in our lives each and every day. This week, we'll continue to look for ways to celebrate what You've done. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

DAY 1

Read Psalm 121:2

When someone helps you, what do you say? Yes, you say, “thank you!”

So how do we thank God for all He’s done? The way we say “thank you” is through our worship. Worship happens when you realize that what you have to give is so much less than what you’ve been given. It’s not just about singing a praise song or performing motions along with the words. Worship is like a great big “thank you” from your heart.

There are lots of ways to worship and celebrate what God has done. He deserves our worship and praise because our help comes from Him. Below are some ideas. Pick one from the list below and take a few minutes to worship God in this way.

Ways to Worship:

- ➔ Sing or dance along to a praise song
- ➔ Paint a picture
- ➔ Write a poem of thanks
- ➔ Pray in a new place in a new way and tell God “thank you” listing specific things you are thankful for.

DAY 2

Read Nehemiah 6:15-16

Rebuilding the wall was a gigantic task. How many days did it take them?

Yep, 52. That’s less than two months to . . .

- ➔ rebuild a wall that wrapped around an entire city.
- ➔ restore 8 different gates.
- ➔ provide protection from enemies.

How? GOD. God helped them. He is the one who made it possible to stay focused and get the job done! And when they finished, the people recognized and celebrated what God had done!

We can do that too! When we finish something, we can stop and thank God! Pray a prayer of thanksgiving today by filling in the blanks below.

God, thank you for helping me finish . . .

Thank you for a mind that helped me figure out how to . . .

Thank you for friends and family like . . .
That helped me too.

Thank you for loving me and for helping every day.
I love you, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Read Proverbs 16:3

When you have a big job to do, getting started is sometimes the hardest part. But remember, initiative isn't just about seeing the job that has to be done. Initiative is about following all the way through to the finish.

One thing you can do is to invite God in to help. Right at the very beginning, you can stop and say, "Okay God. I'm not sure how this is going to go. It's a big job. Will you help me? Will you show me what to tackle first? Will you remind me that you're with me along the way?"

Write out today's verse in the space below. Circle, underline or highlight words that stand out to you. Repeat the verse aloud, emphasizing those words. Then thank God for His promise to always be with you and to help your plans succeed as you show initiative!

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Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

Read Psalm 16:8

Look carefully to solve each word picture puzzle and write the answer on the line.

NATURE

NATURE <<<

NATURE

BLANKPIGET

WHEEL



Did you solve the puzzles? Answers are below if you want to double check your work.

To solve these puzzles, you had to look first. Then your brain had to consider how to work it out to find the answer. When it comes to getting things done, first we have to pay attention to see the need. Then we can come up with a plan to tackle the job!

Nehemiah did that over and over and over again. He had to solve problems along the way to see this big job to completion. And when he was finished, he took time to thank God and to celebrate such a huge accomplishment.

Remember, that God is with you and He will help you come up with a plan to get the job done. When you finish it, don't forget to stop and spend some time celebrating what God has done!

Answers: second nature, pig in a blanket, big wheel