

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

Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall
Nehemiah 1:1–2:18

Bottom Line

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

Activity

Don't-Fall Wall

What You Need:

Pillows, cushions, stuffed animals (or anything else you can use to build a wall)

What You Do:

Hold back the three largest cushions or pillows, but give your child the other supplies and instruct them to build a wall around themselves.

While they're building, ask the following questions. If they answer correctly, award them one of the bigger wall-building supplies you held back.

- ▶ What big problem did Nehemiah want to help fix? (*The wall of Jerusalem was broken, and the people there needed help.*)
- ▶ Why were walls important to a city? (*They protected a city from invaders.*)
- ▶ What was the first thing Nehemiah did before he went and spoke to the king? (*He prayed and asked God for help.*)

When the wall is finished, say, "Great job building an awesome wall. You showed initiative and did what needed to be done!"

If you have time, let your child rebuild the wall again, using other parts of the story as quiz questions.



Talk About the Bible Story

What was Nehemiah's job? (*cupbearer to the king of Persia*)

What did a cupbearer do? (*similar to a bodyguard, checked to make sure no one poisoned the king's food or drink*)

How did Nehemiah hear about the situation in Jerusalem? (*His brother, Hanani, returned from a trip to Judah, and Nehemiah asked him how things were.*)

What can you do if you see something that needs to be done, but you don't know what to do? How can you figure out where to start?

Parent: Share about a time when you saw something that needed to be done and took the initiative to do it. How did it make you feel?

Prayer

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

"Dear God, just as Nehemiah came to You for help, we want to do the same. Help us to recognize opportunities to show initiative. When we see a need, help us not to make excuses to avoid helping out. Instead, remind us that EVERYTHING we do can be done for You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."



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

DAY 1

Read Proverbs 6:6-8

This month is all about initiative which is seeing what needs to be done and doing it! Seeing a need is only half the battle. In order to show real initiative, we actually have to get busy and help! When it comes to showing initiative, we can't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. Even if it's not your mess. Even if you have other more fun things to do. God wants you to see a need and do something to help.

Use the code below to find out what we're learning about initiative this week.

Key

+	A	=	E	<	I	*	N)	S
#	B	@	F	/	L	>	O	:	T
^	D	~	H	{	M	.	R	-	W

.....
 ^ > * : - + < : @ > .

) > { = > * = = /) = : >

 ^ > - ~ + : * = = ^)

 : > # = ^ > * =

DAY 2

Read Galatians 6:2

Taking initiative requires seeing a need and doing something about it. What does it look like to see a need? When do you know someone is in need? As our verse describes, it might look like someone carrying something heavy or it just might be noticing when a friend needs extra encouragement to finish a math problem. Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. Take initiative to solve the problem.

In the spaces below, fill in how you could take initiative for each example:

Your teacher is getting ready to lead the class to the library with a mountain of book in his hands.

Your grandparent just got back from the grocery store and all the groceries are on the counter.

Your friend just found out they won't be on the team they worked really hard to make.

This week, continue to look for ways you can take initiative and care for someone else.



DAY 3

Read 1 John 3:17

Have you ever watched a movie where someone needed help and people walked right by without helping? How did that make you feel? Were you frustrated? Maybe you even yelled at the screen, “Stop! That guy needs help!”

It’s pretty easy to point out when *other* people do this. But how about when it’s you? Are you tempted to sit back and let someone else deal with it?

When we see a job that needs to be done, the best thing we can do is to show initiative and help. And what’s even better, when you step forward to help, you show others God’s love for them. Pretty cool, huh?

Helping Hearts

1. Grab some paper and scissors.
2. Cut out several hearts.
3. When you see something that needs to be done or someone that needs help, step up!
4. Write down what you did or who you helped on each heart and stack them up somewhere in your room.
5. At the end of the week, read through your hearts and thank God for the opportunity to share His love with others.

DAY 4

Read Nehemiah 2:4-5

When Nehemiah found out about the broken-down walls and the situation happening in his hometown, he was sad and upset. He could have said, “I’m so sad to hear this news. I hope someone steps up to help.” But he didn’t. Nehemiah was brave enough to tell the king (his boss) what was happening. He had no idea how the king would respond. We know the rest of the story. The King agreed that he should go and even gave him what he needed so he could. Nehemiah didn’t wait for someone else to do what needed to be done. And you shouldn’t either.

Ask God to help you remove all the excuses when you see there’s a job to be done.

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