

Ready for Launch: Boldly do what needs to be done



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 and
Sanballat
Nehemiah 2:19–20,
4, 6

Bottom Line

Stay focused on what needs to be done.

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

Activity

Cupping Up

What You Need:

Lots of plastic cups

What You Do:

Start off with three plastic cups each, facing down. Stack two cups on the bottom and one on top to create a three-cup tower (one tower for you, and one for your child). Set the rest of the cups where you can both reach them.

Say, “I’m going to ask you questions from the Bible story. If you get a question right, you get another cup to add to your tower. If you get it wrong, I get another cup. Let’s see who can build the tallest tower! Ready?”

Bible Story Review Questions

- What did Nehemiah do about the broken-down walls? (*He gathered the people in the city to rebuild the wall.*)
- People from neighboring nations weren’t happy about Jerusalem rebuilding the wall. Why? (*Because if the wall was rebuilt, the people living there could defend themselves again.*)
- What did Nehemiah do when Sanballat and Tobiah laughed and made fun of the people as they worked on the wall? (*Nehemiah did not get upset. He kept working.*)
- When the people heard Sanballat and Tobiah making fun of them, did they stop working or keep going? (*They kept going.*)
- Even when Sanballat made up stories about Nehemiah, did Nehemiah keep going? (*Yes, Nehemiah trusted God and kept working.*)
- Today we learned to “stay focused on what needs to be ____.” (*done*)

When you’ve finished asking all the questions, count to see who has the most cups! Say, “Building a tower like that takes focus. You did a great job staying focused on what needed to be done!”

Talk About the Bible Story

What are some excuses or distractions that keep us from doing what needs to be done? (*Toys, screens, friends, just don’t want to do the task*)

Which excuses do you think you use the most?

What can happen when you don’t stay focused on what needs to be done?

Parent: Share about a time when you finished a BIG task. Maybe you completed a big home improvement project or finished a degree. Talk about the distractions along the way, and how you were able to stay focused so you could get the job done.

Prayer

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

“Dear God, thank You for giving us what we need to stay focused on what needs to be done. Please show us the important work You have for us this week. Help us to be like Nehemiah and finish what we’ve started, instead of getting distracted when things get in the way. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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

DAY 1

Read Colossians 3:23a

We all have big jobs that have to get done. Sometimes the hardest part is staying focused on the task in front of us. It's easy sometimes to let distractions get the best of us.



Unscramble the distractions below.

Having a
K N A S C

Playing video
S M G A E

Staring out the
W W N I D O

What if we decided to think differently about why we're working? What if think about every single job as if we're working for God? Even if no one else sees or notices what you've done, God does!

Circle your number one distraction from the list above. Each time this particular distraction shows up, repeat today's verse and ask God to help you stay focused on what needs to be done so you can finish strong!

DAY 2

Read Proverbs 4:25

Have you seen the movie *Up*? One of the funniest parts is when Dug the dog—right in the middle of speaking—turns his heads and says, "SQUIRREL!" He's so easily distracted by a squirrel crossing his path that he freezes to watch him.

Do ever feel like Dug? It's easy to get distracted if we're always yelling, "Squirrel!" and looking to the right or left. To keep ourselves on task, we need to focus.

This week, ask God to help you stay focused on what needs to be done! Ask Him to help you keep your eyes focused on the task in front of you so you can finish strong.

DAY 3

Read Nehemiah 6:3

Just like a good movie or story, every plot has a good guy and a bad guy! In the story of Nehemiah, it's pretty obvious which one he is! He's the good guy. But there were bad guys too. They tried over and over again to distract Nehemiah, to get him to come down off the wall so the work would cease. When they tried to distract him, Nehemiah said, "I'm doing a great work and I cannot come down."

What if you did that? It might sound like this: "Sorry, video games. I'm doing a great work and I cannot come down."

If you want to finish strong and be the good guy or girl, take your cue from Nehemiah and stay focused on what needs to be done. **Ask God to help you battle through the distractions by remembering this phrase: *I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.***



DAY 4

Read Ecclesiastes 7:8

Think about someone you know or someone you've read about that accomplished something big.

- A runner that trained for months to complete a marathon
- A writer who finished a novel.
- A student who graduated from college.

When you have a big job to do or a big goal to accomplish, it's worth it to think about the end. That's what Nehemiah did! He probably pictured a completed wall, a safe, strong, and sturdy wall that would protect everyone within it. Nehemiah stayed focused and patiently worked day after day (and encouraged others to do the same) until the task was completed.

As you grow up, you'll start to set big goals for yourself. You'll begin to recognize the things you're good at, the things you love to do. And as you discover those things, you'll have the opportunity to work every day towards that big goal. Remember, the same God that was with Nehemiah is with you. He will help you stay focused so you can finish what you start, no matter how big the task!

Stay focused on what needs to be done.

