

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 Helps the Poor
Nehemiah 5

Bottom Line

Look for ways to make things right.

Activity

True, False, and Fix!

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Read the following statements about today's Bible story. Tell your child to stand and give a thumbs-up if they think the statement is true, or stay seated/sit down and give a thumbs-down if they think the statement is false. For every false statement, challenge your child to think of what needs to change about the statement to make it true.

- Nehemiah decided to rebuild the wall all by himself. *(False; Nehemiah gathered the people living in Jerusalem to help with the rebuilding)*
- Each family or group worked on a different part of the wall to get the work done. *(True)*
- People from neighboring nations were super-excited that the wall was being rebuilt. *(False; they taunted and made fun of the people rebuilding the wall)*
- A group of people came to Nehemiah with sad news. The taxes were so high that they had to borrow money, then they couldn't pay the high interest. *(True)*
- When Nehemiah heard about how hard things were, he just ignored the problem. *(False; Nehemiah took it so seriously that he stopped work on the wall)*
- Nehemiah gathered all the leaders who were charging the high interest and said, "What you are doing isn't right." *(True)*
- Nehemiah told the leaders to give back anything they had taken as payment, even the interest. They said "NO" and threw a tantrum. *(False; they immediately agreed to give it all back.)*
- Once this big problem was taken care of, work on the wall began again. *(True)*

Talk About the Bible Story

What problem did Nehemiah see as he was building the wall? *(People were in need, didn't have food to eat, and had to sell their land to buy food.)*

How were people being treated unfairly? *(Officials were charging them too much when they had to borrow money.)*

Did Nehemiah keep working on the wall and ignore the need he saw? *(No; he stopped working on the wall and helped.)*

How can we help others like Nehemiah did?

Parent: Share about a time when you wanted to make things right, but you didn't. What happened as a result? What do you wish you'd done differently?

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 help other people! You've given us a voice, resources, the ability to pray, and the ability to love people who need it. Whether it's our neighbor or someone in another country who we've never met, help us look for ways to lend a hand. Please open our eyes and ears to ways we can stand up and help make things right. 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 Acts 20:35

Sometimes when we see others that need help, we assume it's not our problem. We think someone else will pitch in. Or that we're not old enough to make a difference. But the truth is, anyone can help. Look the last part of today's verse: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In other words, giving is better than the getting.

Nehemiah understood this. He was right in the middle of the biggest building project ever when he heard about a big need. The people were being charged so much interest (that's extra money on top of what they owed) that they couldn't feed their own families. When Nehemiah heard this, he stopped rebuilding and called a meeting. He was firm but clear, telling them to immediately to stop and make things right. The people could keep working, keep taking care of their families because of Nehemiah's willingness to help.

Fill in the missing vowels below. Repeat this phrase every time you see a need this week.

"..... t s m r bl ss d
t g v th n t
r C V"

DAY 2

Read Philippians 2:4

Can you think of a time when you were looking out for someone else need? Maybe you saw a sibling reaching for something that you could easily grab or a kid on the playground being bullied that needed a friend. What did it feel like to know that you could help them?

In that moment, you were looking out for the good of others; just like this verse says! Paul, the one who wrote this verse, said we shouldn't just look out for our own good. We should look out for others.

When it comes to showing initiative, sometimes we need to look at the world around us through different lenses. We need to take our "me" lenses that focus on ourselves and put on our "others" lenses instead.

Grab a pair of sunglasses. Walk around for the next hour with them on (inside or outside). As you wear them, remind yourself to watch out for the needs of others.

DAY 3

Read Hebrews 6:10

Have you ever forgotten your lunch or your homework? Have you ever walked into a room and thought, “Why did I come in here again?”

We all forget things sometimes. But you know who never forgets one single thing? God! He knows every single thing about every single thing, even the things that are constantly changing.

When you stop to help others, when you show initiative to meet a need, God sees you. He remembers what you have done. So look for ways to make things right this week whenever you have a chance. When you do, stop for just a second and remember, “God sees me.”

DAY 4

Read Ephesians 4:32

This past week, we learned the Nehemiah had kindness and compassion for the people being treated unfairly. It would have been easy for Nehemiah to look past this because he had a job to do. Instead, he found a solution to the problem and helped the people suffering.

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What do you think kindness, compassion, and forgiveness have to do with initiative? Write your answer below. Then talk about it with an adult.

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**Ask God to help you take the initiative to be kind and compassionate to those around you.**

Look for ways to make things right.