

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

Key Question

What around you needs to be done?

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

Activity

Helping Hands

What You Need:

Lots of pieces of paper, scissors

What You Do:

Challenge your child to a "hand-off"! Take a sheet of paper for each member of your family. Without measuring, try to cut out an accurately sized handprint for each person in your family. You'll be cutting out a set, and your child will be cutting out a set. Don't forget to include your own hand, too!

While you're working, talk about the story. Say, "If you had been Nehemiah, what would you have done if your brother had told you that there was trouble in Jerusalem? Why do you think Nehemiah took the initiative to fix the wall? What did the wall do for the city? What might have happened if Nehemiah hadn't taken initiative?"

When you're finished cutting out a hand for every member of your family, line yours up beside the ones your child created. Which ones look the most accurate?

Finally, take the hands you cut out and measure them against everyone's actual hand. Who came the closest to everyone's actual hand size?

Say, "When it comes to taking initiative, it doesn't matter how big or small your hands are. Nehemiah was just a cupbearer. But he still saw what needed to be done and he did it."

Talk About the Bible Story

What job did Nehemiah discover that needed to be done? (*the wall in Jerusalem needed repairing; the people in Jerusalem needed help*)

Sometimes we ignore a job that needs to be done because it's not technically OUR responsibility—not OUR problem. Is there anything wrong with that way of thinking? Why or why not?

When you think of people who have shown initiative (*seeing what needs to be done and doing it*), who comes to mind? What do you appreciate or admire most about them? What can you learn from them?

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."