

# Ready for Launch: Boldly do what needs to be done

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

**Week One**

**Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall**  
Nehemiah 1:1-2:18

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

**Week Two**

**Nehemiah Helps the Poor**  
Nehemiah 5:1-12

Look for ways to make things right.

**Week Three**

**Nehemiah and Sanballat**  
Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

Stay focused on what needs to be done.

**Week Four**

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

Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.



**MEMORY VERSE**

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



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# Elementary

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



## Morning Time

Start off your kid's day by telling them how amazing they are and mentioning a time when you recently saw them take initiative.



## Meal Time

At a meal this week, ask your kid: "What are some things that you see that need to be done that you feel like you could do—at home, school, etc.?"



## Drive Time

While on the go, ask your kid: "What's something new you've learned this week? Show me." (It can be a joke, a new skill, a fact, etc.) Then share something new you've learned this week.



## Bed Time

Pray for each other, that this week God will give you both the eyes to see what needs to be done and the grit to do it.



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# 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	

..... ,  
 ^ > \* : - + < : @ > .  
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 ) > { = > \* = = / ) =  
 .....  
 : > ^ > - ~ + :  
 .....  
 \* = = ^ ) : > # =  
 .....  
 ^ > \* =

## DAY 2

### Read Galatians 6:2

Taking initiative requires seeing a need and doing something about it. 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.**



### 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?

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#### 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.**



# 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.

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

.....  
.....  
.....

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

Look for ways to make things right.





# 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.***



Stay focused on what needs to be done.

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!



# 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.

DAY 3

**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!

.....  
.....  
.....

**Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.**

DAY 4

**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