

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

Read Galatians 6:2

DAY

1

One and Done

Let's start this week off right by taking initiative. Pick three rooms in your house that can use some cleaning. Grab a timer and set it for one minute. Look around the room and take initiative by seeing what needs done and doing it until the timer runs out! Do this for each room you choose. If you don't know what to do, ask an adult. Bonus points if you do more rooms!

Look for ways that you can take initiative at home this week.

DAY

2

Bring Others In

Nehemiah saw what needed to be done and did it. He also brought others with him to help. Grab a friend or family member, think of something you can do for a neighbor, your community or a friend and do it together. Think of something small and simple that you can complete today!

Ask God to show you other's needs.

DAY

3

Lift Off

Make a Paper Rocket

1. Grab a piece of paper and something to write with.
2. Practice your verse aloud a few times, then write this week's verse on a piece of paper and fold it into a paper rocket (airplane).
3. Send it into orbit!

Know that even though you are young you can help others in big ways.

DAY

4

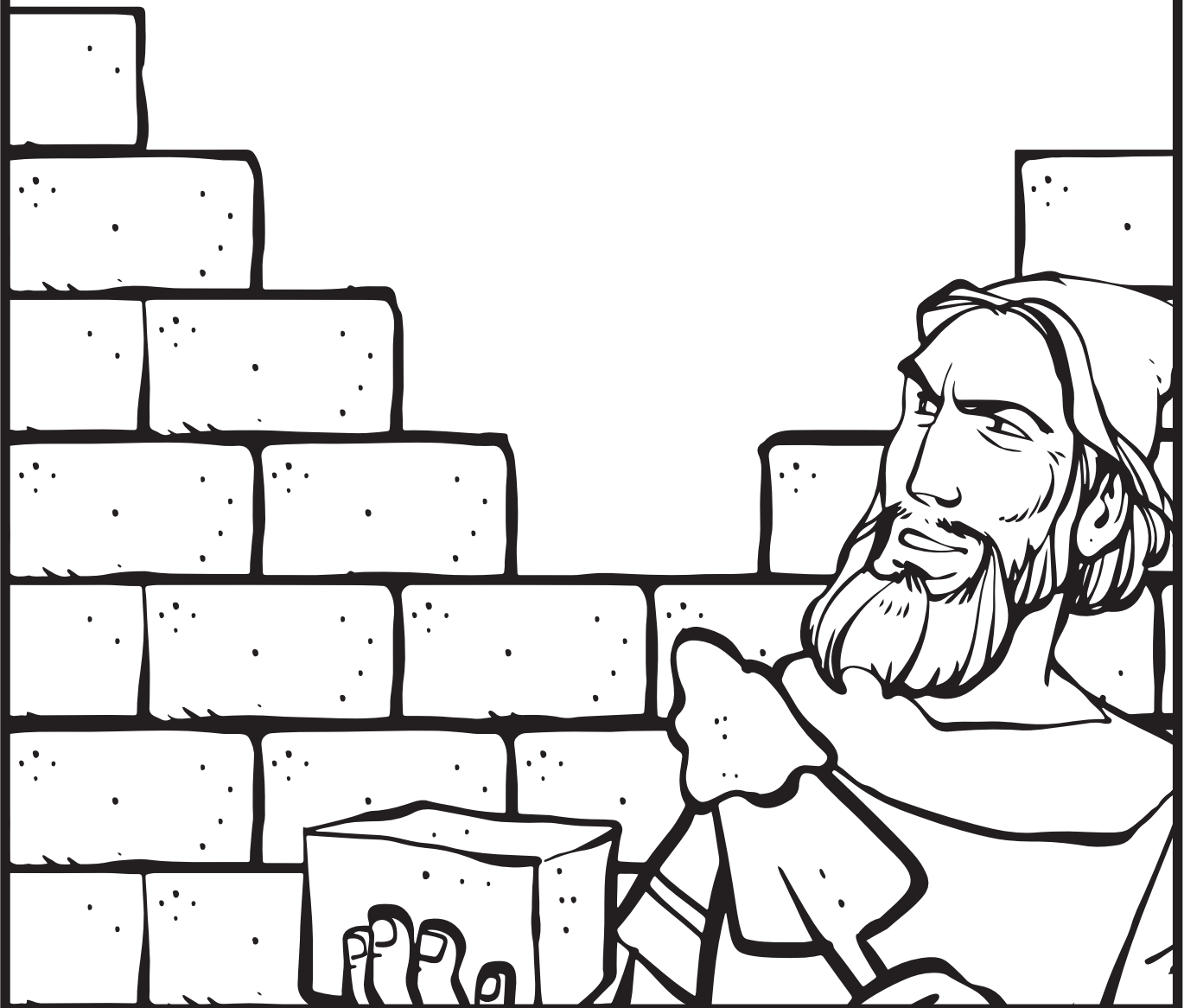
Initiate Prayer

Go ask someone in your house to pray with you! It is always nice to pray with someone else. You can talk about what you would like to pray about or you can read the example verse below.

"Dear God, I pray that we can work together to do the right thing. To see what needs to be done and do it. Give us opportunities to make a difference. Amen."

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

Help Nehemiah finish building the wall by adding your own bricks.



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

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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?

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.



Journal

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.

[illegible]

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September
2021

Week One
4th-5th



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

Go to bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreteen and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

2. You learned:

Even if you already saw it at church,
feel free to check it out again!

3. You'd like to know:

A Devotional on Initiative

FOR AN
everyday faith.

Day 2

Read Nehemiah 1:1-2:18

As you read Nehemiah 1:1-2:18, label each paragraph in your Bible with the following steps Nehemiah took as he showed initiative. (Note: Some of these will be used more than once.)

1. Forming a plan
2. Asking others for help
3. Hearing about the problem
4. Putting plan into action
5. Checking out the problem
6. Being sad about the problem
7. Asking God for help

Nehemiah heard about a big problem that required a big solution but he didn't wait for someone else to do what needed to be done!

Day 3

Nehemiah's first response when he heard about people suffering was to turn to God and ask for help.

Who do you know that needs help? Someone who is sick or hurting or lonely? Or what about a problem you see in your house, school or community that needs solving?

Now, use some of Nehemiah's prayer as a model for praying for that friend or situation. Don't forget to ask God to show you how you can be a part of meeting that need.

Lord, you are the God of heaven. You are a great and wonderful God. You keep the covenant you made with those who love you and obey your commandments. You show them your love. Please pay careful attention to my prayer. See how is suffering (or see how). Please listen to me. I'm praying to you day and night. I'm praying for Listen to the prayers of all of us. We take delight in bringing honor to your name. Give me success today when I

In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

Day 4

Nehemiah showed true initiative when it came to rebuilding the wall, but he also recognized he couldn't go it alone.

Think back to the person or situation you prayed about yesterday. How could you lean into others for support as you do what needs to be done? Maybe you don't even know what would help. Find a friend or adult to brainstorm ideas with. Maybe you have a great idea already, but you need friends to put it into action. Or, maybe it's something you can do on your own, but you need trusted friends to pray for you.

Find those friend(s) today and talk to them about what's going on and get them involved. You'll not only do what needs to be done, but you'll be a blessing to others by letting them be a part as well!



Day 5

What around you needs to be done?

Today is action day! Time to put all those prayers and plans into action and do what needs to be done.

Before you get started, reread Nehemiah 1:1-2:18 and pay attention to the steps Nehemiah took . . . from hearing about the problem and asking God and others for help, all the way to forming a plan and putting it into action. Then write out your own version of these steps, and follow your plan!

And remember, even if your friends don't follow through to help, you can get it done. **Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done!**

