

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

Read Romans 12:10

DAY

1

Build Them Up

Nehemiah was in charge of rebuilding a wall. Just as importantly, Nehemiah also took initiative building up people. He saw an issue among the men building and decided to help. Think of friends in your neighborhood, school, or church that can use some encouragement. Tell them what you like about them and invite them to play with you! Make a plan to talk to them when you see them next. Who will it be? What will you try to do?

Look for someone that you can build up.

DAY

3

Outdo You

Look up this week's Bible verse, Romans 12:10. Grab a friend and take turns reading the verse aloud. Once you get the words down try and outdo the other person's actions while saying your verse. For example: The first person can stand on one foot while saying the verse and the next person might stand on one foot and hop around to outdo the first person.

Ask God to help you outdo one another in showing honor and initiative!

DAY

2

Be An Includer

Remember the person you thought about yesterday? Create something that you can give them to show you care. You can create a card, necklace, or even a game that you wish to play with them. Get creative and caring!

Know that when you include others, they feel loved.

DAY

4

Make It Right

When it comes to relationships, the time you spend on making them better is always worth it. Even when it's hard. Pray and ask God to help you to always strive to make things right.

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"Dear God, I pray that I can always see when people need help and that I can be a good friend. Please help me to do what is right. Amen."

**Look for ways to make things right.**



# 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 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 Philipians 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.

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

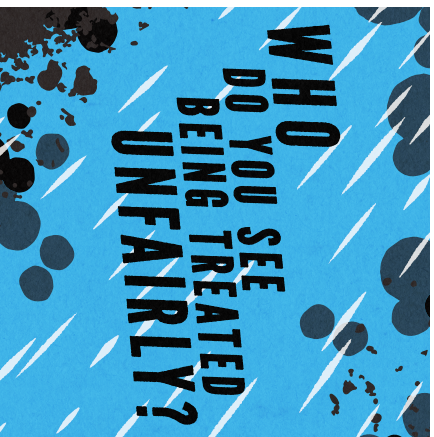
Look for ways to make things right.





# 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 Two**  
4th-5th



# Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

### 1. You liked:

Go to [bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreteen](http://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 5:1-12

As you read Nehemiah 5:1-12, circle the laments and cries of the people who are being wronged. Then underline the sentences where Nehemiah calls out the nobles and officials for the terrible things they were doing.

Lastly, highlight the things that Nehemiah does—and calls on others to do—to make things right.

Nehemiah shows us an important truth: it's not enough just to listen. See injustice and listen to the cries of those who are being treated unfairly; we need to **look for ways to make things right**.

## Day 3

### God cares about how we treat each other.

The prophet Amos wrote these words, which you can read in Amos 5:24: *I want you to treat others fairly. So let fair treatment roll on just as a river does! Always do what is right. Let right living flow along like a stream that never runs dry!* (NIV)

If you have a device nearby, play this clip of river sounds while you read this prayer out loud to God, asking Him to help you **look for ways to make things right**. <https://bit.ly/3yhu041>

Dear God, thank You for the example You show us in Nehemiah's life, and the words from Amos and so many others in Your Word that remind us that you care how we treat each other. You call us to treat others fairly—and to call injustice out when we see it. Please help me to be brave and bold and wise as I **look for ways to make things right** in the lives of people around me. As Amos wrote, 'So let fair treatment roll on just as a river does! Always do what is right. Let right living flow along like a stream that never runs dry!' In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

## Day 4

### When we see others being treated unfairly, it's sometimes easy to look the other way—especially if we're being treated fairly at the same time.

After all, we wouldn't want to rock the boat. What if speaking up means we get treated unfairly too?

But when everyone is being treated fairly, that's when "right living can flow along like a stream." When we stand up for others and treat each other fairly, it's contagious . . . justice flows like a river!

There are a lot of ways to talk about justice—to get the ball rolling so that others are treated fairly. Choose one of the ways below that you can stand up for others to make things right.

1. Talk to someone who you think is experiencing unfair treatment. Ask them about their experience, and what would make things better.
2. Talk to others about a situation you've observed in your life/ community. Together, **look for ways to make things right**.
3. Do you see someone in your family, neighborhood, school, or community being treated unfairly? Speak up to the people in charge—tell them what you see, and what you think should be done to make things right.
4. Don't know of any examples of others being treated unfairly? Talk to an adult or trusted older friend about experiences they've observed.

## Day 5

### Who do you see being treated unfairly?

Talking about justice and fairness is one thing, acting on it is another. But when we look at Nehemiah, we see how initiative means putting action to our convictions. Nehemiah demanded that the religious leaders give back what they had taken—including the interest they had charged the people for borrowing things when they couldn't afford them.

What did you uncover in your conversation yesterday? Maybe you learned about a situation you didn't even know existed. If so, your next step might be learning more, asking questions, and figuring out what a solution might look like.

Or maybe you listened to the perspective of others who are being treated unfairly, and now you know what would help—your next step could be taking that action (or speaking up to others who can take the action) to make things right.

Maybe you've seen enough now to know that this is a bigger problem that needs a bigger solution. Your next step could be talking to a trusted adult about what you could do to be a part of making things right.

Write down your ideas, and then commit to putting at least one of the ideas into action today!

Some ways to make things right:

