

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

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

Bottom Line

Look for ways to
celebrate what
God has done.

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

Activity

"Would You Rather?" Party

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Clear a room so you can both run from one side to the other safely. (Or go outside if you have a yard you can run through.) Read from the following list, assigning one side of the room to an answer, and the other side of the room to the other answer.

Say, "We're going to talk about our favorite ways to celebrate. I'll ask a question and then point to one side of the room for each answer. You and I will both run to the side of the room that represents what WE would choose. Here we go!"

"Would you rather have:

- a ZOOM™ party or a drive-through party?
- a summer party or a winter party?
- a party with friends or a party with family?
- a fancy clothes party or a pajama party?
- confetti or sprinkles?
- A party at your house or a party somewhere else?
- one big gift or lots of small gifts?
- the same birthday as your best friend, or having the day all to yourself?
- chocolate cake or vanilla cake?
- a big birthday breakfast or a big birthday dinner?
- cupcakes or regular cake?"

Say, "Parties are always fun because you're celebrating something special. We celebrate because we're excited and thankful—and we always have a reason to celebrate!"

Talk About the Bible Story

Why were Nehemiah and Israelites celebrating? (*God had helped them finish the city wall of Jerusalem.*)

What were the people remembering as they celebrated the Feast of Booths? (*They remembered how God took care of His people in the wilderness after He led them out of slavery in Egypt.*)

How has God helped our family?

What friends has God given you?

What are some other things you know about God that you can praise or celebrate right now?

When things don't turn out as we had hoped, why can we still celebrate? (*Brainstorm some creative ways you can celebrate what God has done.*)

Parent: Share about how you like to celebrate what God has done.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, today we just want to celebrate who You are and what You've done! You've always been there to help Your people . . . You sent Jesus so we can have a relationship with You . . . and You continue to work in our lives each and every day. This week, we'll continue to look for ways to celebrate what You've done. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

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Key Question

What is God
doing in your
life that you can
celebrate?

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

Activity

Praise Chain

What You Need:

Strips of paper, something to write
with, tape

What You Do:

Say, "Let's think about some things
God has done for us. Think about
what He's done for you, for our
family, and for our friends."

Write down as many things as you
have time for. As you write each
idea down on a strip of paper, create
a paper chain by taping each link
around the next.

When you have a decent-sized chain,
find somewhere in the house to
hang it. All week, add to the chain as
you think about something new or
different that God has done.

Say, "There's nothing too big or
too small to celebrate when we
remember what God has done for
us. Let's keep the celebration going
all week long by adding to our chain
whenever we can."

Talk About the Bible Story

Why were Nehemiah and Israelites celebrating? (*God had helped them finish the city wall of Jerusalem.*)

What were the people remembering as they celebrated the Feast of Booths? (*They remembered how God took care of His people in the wilderness after He led them out of slavery in Egypt.*)

How has God helped our family?

What friends has God given you?

What has Jesus done for you that no one else could ever do?

What are some other things you know about God that you can praise or celebrate right now?

If we want to make a point of noticing what God has done and remembering to thank Him, what might help us do that?

When things don't turn out as we had hoped, why can we still celebrate? (*Brainstorm some creative ways you can celebrate what God has done.*)

Parent: Share about how you like to celebrate what God has done.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, You deserve our praises every day! You care for us . . . You help us make wise choices . . . You answer our prayers . . . and You remind us of Your amazing power as we look at all that You've created. Best of all, You love us so much that You gave us Jesus! Thank You for making a way for us to be forgiven and to know You forever. Remind us often of the things we've learned this month from the life of Nehemiah. Help us take initiative by seeing what needs to be done and doing it. In Jesus' name, amen."