

Ready for Launch: Boldly do what needs to be done



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

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 Helps the Poor
Nehemiah 5

Bottom Line

Look for ways to make things right.

Activity

True, False, and Fix!

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Read the following statements about today's Bible story. Tell your child to stand and give a thumbs-up if they think the statement is true, or stay seated/sit down and give a thumbs-down if they think the statement is false. For every false statement, challenge your child to think of what needs to change about the statement to make it true.

- Nehemiah decided to rebuild the wall all by himself. *(False; Nehemiah gathered the people living in Jerusalem to help with the rebuilding)*
- Each family or group worked on a different part of the wall to get the work done. *(True)*
- People from neighboring nations were super-excited that the wall was being rebuilt. *(False; they taunted and made fun of the people rebuilding the wall)*
- A group of people came to Nehemiah with sad news. The taxes were so high that they had to borrow money, then they couldn't pay the high interest. *(True)*
- When Nehemiah heard about how hard things were, he just ignored the problem. *(False; Nehemiah took it so seriously that he stopped work on the wall)*
- Nehemiah gathered all the leaders who were charging the high interest and said, "What you are doing isn't right." *(True)*
- Nehemiah told the leaders to give back anything they had taken as payment, even the interest. They said "NO" and threw a tantrum. *(False; they immediately agreed to give it all back.)*
- Once this big problem was taken care of, work on the wall began again. *(True)*

Talk About the Bible Story

What problem did Nehemiah see as he was building the wall? *(People were in need, didn't have food to eat, and had to sell their land to buy food.)*

How were people being treated unfairly? *(Officials were charging them too much when they had to borrow money.)*

Did Nehemiah keep working on the wall and ignore the need he saw? *(No; he stopped working on the wall and helped.)*

How can we help others like Nehemiah did?

Parent: Share about a time when you wanted to make things right, but you didn't. What happened as a result? What do you wish you'd done differently?

Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for giving us what we need to help other people! You've given us a voice, resources, the ability to pray, and the ability to love people who need it. Whether it's our neighbor or someone in another country who we've never met, help us look for ways to lend a hand. Please open our eyes and ears to ways we can stand up and help make things right. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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Key Question

Who do you see
being treated
unfairly?

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Activity

Handy

What You Need:

Several socks, random items with distinguishable shapes (for example, spoon, marble, fork, paper clip, etc.—some should be very difficult to guess just by touch)

What You Do:

Place each item inside a sock. Tell your child, "Each sock has a different item in it. I want you to pick up each sock and see if you can guess what's inside. First, start by feeling from the outside with just one hand."

Give your child a chance to try to guess every object. The items they can't guess go into round two.

For round two, tell your child, "In this round, you can feel each item with both hands before you try to guess!"

Allow your child to try to guess again. The items they can't guess go into round three.

Say, "In this round, I'll give you multiple choices. Then, you can pick from those choices to guess what the mystery item is."

Give your child a few choices, making sure the actual item is one of the choices. If they still can't guess, do a big reveal! Then say, "See? Your hands can do some pretty incredible things when you take the initiative to use them."

Talk About the Bible Story

What problem did Nehemiah see as he was building the wall? (*People were in need, didn't have food to eat, and had to sell their land to buy food.*)

How were people being treated unfairly? (*Officials were charging them too much when they had to borrow money.*)

Did Nehemiah keep working on the wall and ignore the need he saw? (*No; he stopped working on the wall and helped.*)

We should treat others the way we want to be treated, but that's not always easy. When do you find it particularly difficult to stand up for someone? Why do you think it's hard?

When is it easier for you to step in and help make an unfair situation right?

Parent: Share about a time when you wanted to make things right, but you didn't. What happened as a result? What do you wish you'd done differently?



Prayer

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

"Dear God, help us see ways this week that we can work to make things right. There are people all around us who are being treated unfairly because of the way they look, where they're from, how much money they have, or what they believe. We know that standing up for others is one way we can make things better, and it's one way we can show others the love You have for the world. So open our eyes to see what we need to see and do what we need to do. In Jesus' name, amen."