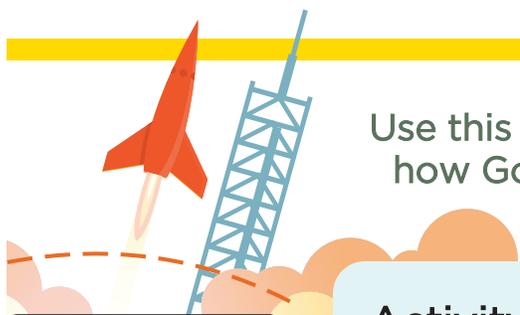


Ready for Launch: Boldly do what needs to be done



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

First, watch this week's video:

hillsideonline.com/kids



Talk about:

What does it mean to show initiative?

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 Plans to Rebuild the Wall

Nehemiah 1:1-2:18

Bottom Line

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

Activity

Don't-Fall Wall

What You Need:

Pillows, cushions, stuffed animals (or anything else you can use to build a wall)

What You Do:

Hold back the three largest cushions or pillows, but give your child the other supplies and instruct them to build a wall around themselves.

While they're building, ask the following questions. If they answer correctly, award them one of the bigger wall-building supplies you held back.

- What big problem did Nehemiah want to help fix? (*The wall of Jerusalem was broken, and the people there needed help.*)
- Why were walls important to a city? (*They protected a city from invaders.*)
- What was the first thing Nehemiah did before he went and spoke to the king? (*He prayed and asked God for help.*)

When the wall is finished, say, "Great job building an awesome wall. You showed initiative and did what needed to be done!"

If you have time, let your child rebuild the wall again, using other parts of the story as quiz questions.

Talk About the Bible Story

What was Nehemiah's job? (*cupbearer to the king of Persia*)

What did a cupbearer do? (*similar to a bodyguard, checked to make sure no one poisoned the king's food or drink*)

How did Nehemiah hear about the situation in Jerusalem? (*His brother, Hanani, returned from a trip to Judah, and Nehemiah asked him how things were.*)

What can you do if you see something that needs to be done, but you don't know what to do? How can you figure out where to start?

Parent: Share about a time when you saw something that needed to be done and took the initiative to do it. How did it make you feel?

Prayer

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

"Dear God, just as Nehemiah came to You for help, we want to do the same. Help us to recognize opportunities to show initiative. When we see a need, help us not to make excuses to avoid helping out. Instead, remind us that EVERYTHING we do can be done for You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

