

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 to stop and make things right. The people could keep working, keep taking care of their families because of Nehemiah's willingness to help.

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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 Philippians 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.

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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.

