

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

Nehemiah and Sanballat
Nehemiah 2:19–20,
4, 6

Key Question

What distracts you from doing what needs to be done?

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

Activity

FOCUS!

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Say, "Everyone can get distracted from time to time. I'm going to give you some examples of different activities. I want you to tell me what might distract you from doing each activity."

Activities:

- Listening in class
- Reading a homework assignment
- Cleaning your room
- Memorizing a Bible verse
- Stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something new
- Praying
- Helping someone in your family

Ask, "If you know that you'll be easily distracted by something, what can you do to remind yourself to stay focused?"

Together with your child, come up with a funny saying or gesture you and your child can do when you're feeling distracted from an important task. The saying or gesture should remind both of you to stay focused on what needs to be done.

Talk About the Bible Story

What did Nehemiah do about the broken-down walls? (*He gathered the people in the city to rebuild the wall.*)

People from neighboring nations weren't happy about Jerusalem rebuilding the wall. Why? (*Because if the wall was rebuilt, the people living there could defend themselves again.*)

What did Nehemiah do when Sanballat and Tobiah laughed and made fun of the people as they worked on the wall? (*Nehemiah did not get upset. He kept working.*)

In your life right now, what would you say are the most important things for you to stay focused on?

Parent: Share about a time when you finished a BIG task. Maybe you completed a big home improvement project or finished a degree. Talk about the distractions along the way, and how you were able to stay focused so you could get the job done.



Prayer

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

"Dear God, even when others tried to distract Nehemiah or when those around him were discouraged, Nehemiah stayed focused on what You wanted him to do. Help us to follow Nehemiah's example this week. When we start to get distracted by fears, problems, or [name some distractions your child mentioned earlier], remind us to ask for Your help. Amen."