

# 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 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.

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

## 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."

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### 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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### Bible Story

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

### Bottom Line

Stay focused on what needs to be done.

## Activity

### Cupping Up

#### What You Need:

Lots of plastic cups

#### What You Do:

Start off with three plastic cups each, facing down. Stack two cups on the bottom and one on top to create a three-cup tower (one tower for you, and one for your child). Set the rest of the cups where you can both reach them.

Say, “I’m going to ask you questions from the Bible story. If you get a question right, you get another cup to add to your tower. If you get it wrong, I get another cup. Let’s see who can build the tallest tower! Ready?”

#### Bible Story Review Questions

- 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.*)
- When the people heard Sanballat and Tobiah making fun of them, did they stop working or keep going? (*They kept going.*)
- Even when Sanballat made up stories about Nehemiah, did Nehemiah keep going? (*Yes, Nehemiah trusted God and kept working.*)
- Today we learned to “stay focused on what needs to be \_\_\_\_.” (*done*)

When you’ve finished asking all the questions, count to see who has the most cups! Say, “Building a tower like that takes focus. You did a great job staying focused on what needed to be done!”

## Talk About the Bible Story

What are some excuses or distractions that keep us from doing what needs to be done? (*Toys, screens, friends, just don’t want to do the task*)

Which excuses do you think you use the most?

What can happen when you don’t stay focused on what needs to be done?

*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, thank You for giving us what we need to stay focused on what needs to be done. Please show us the important work You have for us this week. Help us to be like Nehemiah and finish what we’ve started, instead of getting distracted when things get in the way. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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### 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.

## 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!"