

# INITIATIVE

Seeing what needs  
to be done  
and doing it

WEEK

1

## READ PROVERBS 16:3

## DAY 1

This month is all about initiative-seeing what needs to be done and doing it. So, the first step is to pay attention and actually NOTICE the things that need to get done. The second part is following through to complete the task. But what if the task is REALLY big? What if it's rebuilding-a-wall big like the challenge Nehemiah faced? What if the thing in front of you that needs to get done seems so big that you're not even sure where to start?

First, ask God for help making a plan to tackle the big job. Then break that big task down into steps. Need to clean your room? Think through some logical steps that would help you get to the finish line. Below is a random list of simple steps for cleaning a messy room. Read through the list and number them in the order that you would complete them.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| _____ Make bed            | _____ Hang up or put away clean clothes |
| _____ Put away books/toys | _____ Place dirty clothes in the hamper |
| _____ Throw away trash    | _____ Dust surfaces                     |

**THANK** God for helping you make a successful plan, no matter how big the task.

## READ 1 JOHN 5:14-15

## DAY 2

Do you ever feel like no one is listening to you? Has anyone ever told you that YOU aren't listening to them? It's hard sometimes to give another person your total attention, especially when you're distracted or have a lot on your mind.

But here's the amazing thing about God. When we pray, He ALWAYS hears us. When there's a big job to be done and we need help, we can always talk to God about it. He's never distracted. He's never too busy with other things. He always hears us!

Is there something big you need help with? Take a few minutes on your own to talk to God about it. Pray out loud so you can stay focused. As you talk to God, remember that the big task you face isn't too big for Him.

**ASK** God to help you tackle a big job and get it done.

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## READ PSALM 121:2

## DAY 3

Look around the room you're in right now. How many things can you count that need a power source? Things like the lamp, or the TV, or your remote control car all require some kind of power in order to work. Apart from those power sources, all the things you listed can't really do their job.

What if we thought about ourselves in the same way? When it comes to showing initiative, we have access to the ultimate power source. Our help comes from God—the maker of heaven and earth. There is NOTHING more powerful than that. The one who created the entire world with just His voice has promised to help us. Isn't that amazing?

Draw a line to match the item to the right with its power source.

**LOOK** for ways to "plug in" to your power source and ask God to help.

Flashlight  
Lamp  
Grill  
Car  
Bicycle  
Pinwheel

Electricity  
Charcoal/ Match  
Air or minty fresh breath  
Your two legs  
Gasoline  
Batteries

## READ PHILIPPIANS 4:13

## DAY 4

Have you ever faced a BIG job? A job that seemed so BIG that you didn't even know where to start? What if Nehemiah had ignored the BIG job of rebuilding the wall? What if he'd received the news and just said, "oh well, that's someone else's problem. Good luck with that." Nothing would ever get done if we all just sat around, hoping that someone else would do it!

But how DO we tackle a big job that seems completely overwhelming? Read today's verse again. We can do all things through the power of Jesus Christ. That means big jobs. Little jobs. Jobs that seem WAY too big for you or jobs so small that no one would even notice anyway. Initiative isn't just seeing what needs to be done, it's following through and getting it done. So remember, when you see something big to be done, ask God for the power to get it done.

Write the words of this verse on a card and place it on a mirror where you can see it as a reminder this week.

**KNOW** that God can give you the strength you need for ALL things.

When you see something big to be done, ask God for help.

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## READ PROVERBS 6:6-8

DAY 1

Ants are pretty amazing little creatures. Have you ever taken the time to observe them? They are hard workers! Ants can lift up to 20 times their body weight. To put that into perspective, that would be like a second grader with the ability to lift a car! Ants understand what it means to work hard when there's a job to be done.

Sometimes when there's a job to be done, we try to avoid the work or hope that someone else will do it. But that's not what an ant would do. He doesn't stop to think about all the other ants around him. He picks up his load and gets busy moving it down the line behind all his other ant buddies. When there's a job to be done this week, remember the ant. Don't wait for someone else. Get busy and get it done.

Head outside and observe some ants. What do you see? If you can't get outside, look up some fun ant facts on these websites (with an adult's permission of course).

<http://www.pestworldforkids.org/pest-guide/ants/>

**THANK** God for creating the tiny ant to remind us about initiative this week.

## READ MATTHEW 7:20

DAY 2

In the open space to the right, draw some fruits that grow on trees. Great job! Now circle your favorite fruit. Imagine you had an apple tree right outside your window. One morning you look out the window and see that your tree hasn't produced any apples. Suddenly that tree that used to grow delicious fruit is now looking pretty sad.

Jesus compared our lives to a fruit tree. No, you're not supposed to grow apples from your fingertips or figs under your arms! Jesus meant that our lives should count for something. Are you growing good fruit? Do you see a job that needs to be done and then take the initiative to do it? Or, are you waiting around for someone else to get started? If not, why?

**ASK** God to help you grow good fruit by showing initiative this week.

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## READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:10

DAY 3

Imagine this: It's the morning of a school day. Your mom wakes you up and reminds you to complete your morning routine. You throw on your clothes and head downstairs for breakfast. But there's no bowl of cereal waiting for you. Why? Because you didn't make your bed or brush your teeth. And the rule is, if you don't work you don't eat. So, the kitchen is officially closed to you. Can you just imagine if that was true?

When someone asks you do so something, do you ignore them or do it halfway? Do you ever think, "they'll just do it for me later anyway?" When there's a job to be done, don't wait for someone else to do it.

Here's an initiative challenge: Think of something someone else does for you regularly and write it in the blank to the right. For an entire week, you cannot eat until YOU take the initiative to complete the task. Are you up for the challenge?

**LOOK** out for all those jobs that are your responsibility.

## READ COLOSSIANS 3:23A

DAY 4

When you think of the word "work", you might not always think of the word "fun" too. But that doesn't mean that it has to all be terrible. Working hard to get something done can bring a huge sense of accomplishment. So, when there's a big job to be done this week, remember WHO you're really working for. God sees all that you do and He is so proud when you work hard and put in the effort it takes to finish what you've started. Remember that everything you do, even cleaning the bathroom or taking out the trash, can be done in a way that honors God.

Since this is our memory verse this month, let's make sure it's memorized! Write down each word of the verse on index cards. Place all the cards in front of you and repeat the verse. Now remove three random cards and repeat. Continue removing cards until you can say the verse entirely from memory.

**KNOW** that God loves it when we see our "jobs" as opportunities to honor Him.

When you see  
what needs to be  
done, don't wait  
for someone  
else to do it.

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**3**

## READ 1 JOHN 3:17

**DAY 1**

Do you have a brother or sister or a close friend or neighbor? When was the last time you helped them? This verse talks about what we should do when we see someone in need. AND if we choose to help, we're showing others the love of God.

When it comes to taking care of people who need help, we have to remember to show initiative. When we see a problem, we have to act and DO something about it. It's not enough to notice the need. God wants us to show others HIS love by pitching in to help a brother (or sister or friend) out.

How can you help your brother or sister? Name five things you can do on a regular basis to help your brother or sister or friend. If you can't think of five, leave the lines blank and pray that God would show you new ways to help this week.

**THANK** God for giving you all sorts of people in your life to help this week.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## READ ACTS 20:35

**DAY 2**

When you see someone that needs help, what do you normally do? Do you stop what you're doing and lend a hand, or do you secretly hope that he or she can figure it out on their own?

Often, we don't like taking initiative when we have to give something up, even if it's our time. But like this verse says—giving is better. Helping others gives you purpose. Helping others makes you feel needed. Taking the time to focus on someone else other than yourself helps you remember that it's never all about you. Initiative isn't just about getting a job done. It's about helping others too.

Pick one day and make it your Help Day. All day long, look for ways to help, give, and serve. At the end of the day, how did saying "yes" and helping others make you feel?

**ASK** God to help you show initiative by helping others this week.

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## READ PHILIPPIANS 2:4

**DAY 3**

Have you ever walked outside only to be blinded by the sun? Have you ever been to a 3D movie without wearing the special glasses? In both of these situations, you need a pair of glasses in order to see clearly.

What about when it comes to seeing a need and showing initiative? Is there a special pair of glasses for that? Not really, huh? You can't buy a special pair of "initiative specs." But there is a BIG key to seeing a need that's found in this verse. God is asking us to take the focus off of ourselves and to pay attention to others instead. That means we need to stop looking in at our own needs and look out to see the needs all around us.

Find a pair of glasses, sunglasses or swim goggles and pretend they can help you focus on others. Put them on and begin to look for a way to help someone else. Don't take off your special glasses until you show the initiative to help.

**LOOK** for ways to help others this week.

## READ HEBREWS 6:10

**DAY 4**

Can you think of the last thing you forgot? Was it your library book? Your glove for baseball? Your lunch? Write it down in the box.

We all forget things from time to time. It's just a part of life. Wouldn't it be awesome if you never ever forgot anything ever again? That would be pretty sweet. Want to know something amazing? God never forgets. Ever. He never loses his keys. He never has to search for his phone. He never forgets to close the fridge door or turn off the lights. He never forgets.

Okay, so God doesn't need keys, or a phone or even a refrigerator. But the truth is that He truly NEVER forgets the things you do. He created you and He loves you. And He sees and knows all. When you choose to help someone in need, God pays attention. And He NEVER forgets. When you see a need, and do something, God is so proud. Because every time you help someone else, it shows how much you love God, too.

**REMEMBER** that God never forgets when you help others.

When you see  
people in need,  
don't wait for  
someone else  
to help them.

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## READ 2 CHRONICLES 31:20-21

## DAY 1

This week we'll look at four people from the Bible who knew how to get things done. Hezekiah became the King of Judah at just 25 years old. He repaired the temple of the Lord and destroyed all the symbols of the false god Baal. Because of the initiative he showed, Hezekiah turned the people from their wicked ways and put their trust in the one true God. Though the task was a big one, Hezekiah chose to trust God to help him do what needed to be done.

You will probably never wear a crown but you DO have something in common with King Hezekiah. You can choose to trust God to help you do what needs to be done. When you face something that seems REALLY big, will you rely on your own strength? Or will you pray and ask God to help you conquer the task at hand?

Circle three true statements about Hezekiah below:

He was an alpaca farmer  
He followed God.  
He loved jello.

He was king of Judah.  
He was a master mine craft builder.  
He served God in the temple.

**THANK** God for giving us great examples of people who showed initiative.

## READ JOHN 6:9-13

## DAY 2

You might have heard or read this story before. Take a minute to imagine yourself as that boy who gave his lunch to Jesus. How would you have responded? Would you offer your lunch as he did? Or would you walk away thinking, "what could one small lunch REALLY do anyway"? The crowd was so large. Surely five small loaves of bread and two small fish wouldn't make a difference.

But we know the rest of the story. We know that Jesus did multiply that small meal and feed that huge, hungry crowd. They even had leftovers! Aren't you glad he was willing to trust God to do what needed to be done, even if his offering was small? That young boy had NO idea how God would use his small lunch that day. But because he stepped forward, God performed an amazing miracle.

You will never know how your own act of initiative could affect someone else until you choose to trust God too. So what small thing can you offer this week? How could God use YOUR initiative to help someone else?

**ASK** God to help you trust him as you show initiative this week.

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## READ 1 SAMUEL 17:34-37

DAY 3

The story of David and Goliath is one of the coolest stories ever. But it's not a made up story. It actually happened! David killed a giant armed with only a slingshot and five small stones. Isn't that unbelievable? To us, maybe. But to David, well, he wasn't surprised. He'd seen how God had protected him as he cared for his sheep. He knew that God would be with him this time too.

David took the initiative to stand up to Goliath even when everyone else—men who were older, stronger and more heavily armed—refused. He trusted God to help him do what needed to be done to defeat a giant. You can trust God just like David did. When it comes to showing initiative, God wants you to trust Him to help you get the job done.

Head outside and find a small rock to carry with you. When you see something that needs to be done this week, let the rock remind you to show initiative. Say a quick prayer, asking God to help you the way he helped David.

**LOOK** for ways to take initiative and trust God this week.

## READ NEHEMIAH 6:15-16

DAY 4

Nehemiah wasn't anyone special. He was just a regular guy, doing his job as cupbearer to the king. He didn't live in Jerusalem at the time. In fact, we don't know that he'd ever even visited the city. He could have easily ignored the problem. But he didn't. Nehemiah knew that he had to do something. And because of his initiative, the entire wall around Jerusalem was rebuilt in 52 days. Amazing.

Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it. Initiative isn't just noticing there's a problem or a task in front of you. It's rolling up your sleeves, jumping in with both feet and getting it done. But just like Nehemiah, you don't have to go it alone. God wants to remind you that He is with you and that you can trust him to complete the job. Always.

**KNOW** that God will help you show initiative if you choose to trust in Him.

you can trust  
God to help you  
do what needs  
to be done.