

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

The Wall Is Rebuilt
Nehemiah 3–4,
6:15–16, 8:1–17

Key Question

What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?

Activity

Praise Chain

What You Need:

Strips of paper, something to write with, tape

What You Do:

Say, “Let’s think about some things God has done for us. Think about what He’s done for you, for our family, and for our friends.”

Write down as many things as you have time for. As you write each idea down on a strip of paper, create a paper chain by taping each link around the next.

When you have a decent-sized chain, find somewhere in the house to hang it. All week, add to the chain as you think about something new or different that God has done.

Say, “There’s nothing too big or too small to celebrate when we remember what God has done for us. Let’s keep the celebration going all week long by adding to our chain whenever we can.”



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 has Jesus done for you that no one else could ever do?

What are some other things you know about God that you can praise or celebrate right now?

If we want to make a point of noticing what God has done and remembering to thank Him, what might help us do that?

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, You deserve our praises every day! You care for us . . . You help us make wise choices . . . You answer our prayers . . . and You remind us of Your amazing power as we look at all that You’ve created. Best of all, You love us so much that You gave us Jesus! Thank You for making a way for us to be forgiven and to know You forever. Remind us often of the things we’ve learned this month from the life of Nehemiah. Help us take initiative by seeing what needs to be done and doing it. In Jesus’ name, amen.”