



INITIATIVE | WEEK 2 | SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

2nd-3rd Lesson

Help!

Life App: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

Bible Story: Help! (Nehemiah Helps the Poor) • Nehemiah 5

Bottom Line: Look for ways to make things right.

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose, so I have value.

Memory Verse: Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.
Colossians 3:23a (NIRV)

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

God took the initiative by sending Jesus to show us how much He loves us and fix the relationship between us. When we see a need and choose to do something about it, we reflect God's image in us. Through our initiative, others can see the reality of God's love for them. As kids discover more about how we can reflect God's character through taking initiative, they'll spend the month studying the life of Nehemiah. Nehemiah's life is a perfect example of someone who heard about a need, decided to check it out, trusted God, and dropped everything to finish the project. We can't wait to see how God helps your kids discover how they can show initiative in their lives.

In week two, we see a different part of Nehemiah's story. In **Nehemiah 5:1-12**, we discover that while everyone was building the wall, an issue arose. Some of the Israelites were severely mistreating each other. Even though Nehemiah was in charge of rebuilding the wall, he stopped building to confront the issue. Helping others who were mistreated was more important than finishing the wall. He cared enough about the people to say to help them figure out a solution.

Bottom Line: Look for ways to make things right. As they grow up, kids will notice others in need. They may see when others are being mistreated. We pray that kids will start to understand how they can be part of the solution to helping these situations and fixing what's broken. Maybe they can do this on their own; perhaps they need help from a trusted adult. Either way, we pray that they take the initiative to help instead of thinking it's someone else's problem. God can use them along with the trusted adults in their life to make an impact in the lives of others.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

OPENING ACTIVITY:

(No supplies)

During this time, concentrate on getting to know your group and building a relationship between you all. Create a place where they feel like someone knows them and that they belong. A great way to do that is to pull them into an activity (coloring, LEGOs, etc.) and ask them questions. Here are some suggestions:

- What school do you go to?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- If you could ride on any animal, what would be the most fun/most difficult?
- Do you have any siblings/pets? What are their names?
- If you could build anything, what would you build?
- What is the worst smell in the world?

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

LGL: Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God's Word, the Bible.

But first, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind – We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using
2. Be Safe – Make wise choices with your actions and words
3. Have Fun – Participate in what we are doing! It's no fun just sitting there...

Now that we know our expectations, let's kick off our day with a game!

LARGE GROUP GAME

PUT A RING ON IT

(Beach Ball, Hula Hoop)

This month, we're talking about initiative.

(SLIDE: LIFE APP)

"Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it."

(SLIDE: THEME)

"When you take initiative, that means you're ready for launch! You're always on the lookout to see what needs to be done around you. You notice when there's a mess you could clean up...when one of your friends needs some cheering up...or when you see something wrong that you could help make right. God made us to take initiative—and we can do it with His help!

"For our game today, I thought we'd get all of our Small Group Leaders to show a little initiative. Come on up, leaders!

Have all the leaders join you on the stage.

(To audience) "Now, I've got a question for all of you. Raise your hand if you've ever heard of the planet Saturn." (Pause for response.)

(SLIDE: PICTURE OF SATURN)

"Saturn has these rings around it that make it easy to recognize. Today, our leaders will try to make this beach ball (*point to the large beach ball*) look like Saturn. They'll each have a turn tossing this hula hoop toward the beach ball. Whoever gets the hula hoop to land around the beach ball moves on to the next round! Are we ready to play? Let's cheer for our leaders!"

(SLIDE: THEME)

(AUDIO: FUN SPACE MUSIC)

Leaders take turns tossing the hula hoop at the beach ball. After each round, those who succeed will move on to the next round. For each new round, move the beach ball or make the toss more of a challenge. For example, move the ball farther away or have the leaders toss the hula hoop with their eyes closed or with their back turned.

Once you have a champion (or champions), dismiss the leaders to their seats.

"That was so much fun! Let's give all our leaders a hand for a great game! Everyone, you can stand up now, because it's time to sing and praise God together."

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: ALIVE, WAVEWALKER)

BIBLE STORY

(SLIDES: LIFE APP, BOTTOM LINE, MEMORY VERSE, BASIC TRUTH; VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

(Bible)

LGL: All this month we are talking about our LifeApp, Initiative. Just a reminder...

(SLIDE: LIFE APP) “Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.”

We are talking about a guy in the Bible named Nehemiah who showed incredible initiative! Last week, we heard the beginning of Nehemiah’s story. Nehemiah lived in Persia but was from the city of Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the Israelites, God’s chosen people who lived in Jerusalem and around the city, had not done a good job of following God. As a result, God allowed the nations around Israel to attack and take them over. The walls around the mighty city of Jerusalem were broken. When Nehemiah heard about this, he didn’t sit back and do nothing...NOPE, he went back to Jerusalem and started rebuilding the wall with God’s help.

Our story today picks off where we left off. Let’s check it out!

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

“Nehemiah had a big job to do. He was trying to lead the people to rebuild the city wall of Jerusalem. But he still wasn’t too busy to notice that something was wrong. He looked around and saw that some of his people were being treated unfairly because they were poor. So, he did something about it! He stood up for the people and worked to make things fairer.

“That’s something we can do, too. We can stand up for people who are being treated unfairly because of the way they look, where they’re from, how much money they have, or what they believe. We can think about what the people around us are going through...and if we notice something that needs to change, we can be PART of that change. We can step up and work to make things right for others.

We can...

(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE) “look for ways to make things right.”

“That takes some initiative, doesn’t it? That’s seeing what needs to be done and doing it. It’s not always easy for us to pay attention to other people and think about what THEY need, but God is always there to help us. He is always good. He always does what’s right. When we work to make things right for others, we can be part of the important work God is doing all around us, every day!

“Think about how Jesus treated people when He lived on Earth. Jesus really SAW people. He showed them how valuable they were by loving them, no matter what. And Jesus helped people see how they could love others, too. He helped people understand that each day they could choose to treat others the way they’d want to be treated. It’s helpful to remember our Basic Truth.

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) “I am made for a purpose, so I have value.”

“When we remember that God made each and every one of us for a purpose, it means that we don’t have to worry if we really matter or if we really are loved by God...we are valued by God! Because we know the truth of those things, we can remember that the people around us have value too.

Here’s our memory verse for this month, Colossians 3:23.

MEMORY VERSE

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)

Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23a, NIRV)

“We can take initiative to do what needs to be done—and we can work at it with all of our hearts! Sounds like a plan, don’t you think?”

PRAYER

“God, thank you for the story of Nehemiah. Thank you for helping us see how we can **[Bottom Line] look for ways to make things right**. When we see a problem that needs to be fixed or someone who’s not being treated well, give us the courage to step up and do something to help. Please show us how we can make things better for the people around us. We love you, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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SCRIPTURE SPACE SUIT

(“Scripture Space Suit” Activity Page [cut out], Construction Paper, Glue Sticks, Memory Verse Poster, Bibles)

What You Do:

- Divide your kids into two teams.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Together, look up Colossians 3:23a and read the verse out loud.
- Place the Memory Verse Poster in the middle of the group so everyone can see it.
- Give each team the “Scripture Space Suit” puzzle, a blank piece of construction paper or cardstock, and a glue stick.
- Instruct the kids to work together as a team to assemble the pieces from the “Scripture Space Suit” by putting the memory verse words in order from the top of the space suit to the bottom and gluing the pieces on the paper.
- The first team to put the Bible verse in order and glue the space suit together, wins!

What You Say:

“Wow! You guys are OUT OF THIS WORLD hard workers! There were some parts of the space suit that were tricky to assemble, but you worked together as a team and completed the mission!

“There will be missions in life that seem trickier than normal to navigate. Maybe it’s easy for you to show initiative to clean your room, but you find it challenging to stand up for someone who is treated unfairly. Perhaps you think it’s fun to show initiative by helping a friend understand a math question, but it’s difficult for you to know how to help a friend whose family has a hard time buying enough food.

“Our memory verse reminds us that God wants us to work with our whole hearts. That means He wants us to take initiative not just when things are easy for us but also when things are challenging or require the help of a grown-up. The cool thing is that God is with us! Because He wants us to show His love to others and reach out to those who need help, we can be confident that He will help us know how we can use what we have to accomplish these big missions! All we have to do is ask. Even if something seems too big to accomplish, we can always **[Bottom Line]** look for ways to make things right! Now THAT is pretty out of this world!”

REMIND ME RIGHT

(Blank Slap Bracelets, Markers)

What You Do:

- Pass out the slap bracelets and markers.
- Instruct kids to write “Make it Right” (Our Bottom Line) on their bracelet to remind them to show initiative.
- Have kids finish decorating their bracelet.
- Encourage the kids to put on their bracelets and look at them throughout their week to remind them to look for ways to make things right.

What You Say:

“I think you will be surprised at just how many opportunities we have to make things right throughout our week. You could see someone getting made fun of and choose to stick up for them. You could see your teacher overwhelmed with piles of papers on her desk and choose to be on your best behavior and encourage others to do the same. Maybe you hear of someone who needs help getting clean drinking water in another country or someone who needs help buying groceries, then you choose to give your week’s allowance to help them. This week, I want you to wear your bracelets and make it your mission to **[Bottom Line] look for ways to make things right.**”

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you saw someone who needed help and showed initiative to make things right.)

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- We should treat others the way we want to be treated but that’s not always easy. When do you find it particularly difficult to stand up for someone? Why do you think it’s hard?
- When is it easy for you to step in and help make an unfair situation right?
- How would things be different at school if kids practiced treating others the way they want to be treated? What about at home? How would our world be different? What’s a small way you can contribute to that change?

PRAY AND DISMISS

(2nd/3rd GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to love and care for others. When we see someone who needs help, please give us the courage to do something to make things right. Remind us that you are with us, always. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.