

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

DAY 1

Read Romans 5:8

Today's verse sums up all of God's words from Genesis to Revelation in one sentence. God loved us enough to send Jesus! Not only that, but God sent Jesus while we were still sinners. That means God didn't wait for us to clean up our act or get ourselves together enough to be worthy of such a gift. God saw our greatest need and did something about it by sending Jesus!

Memorize It!

This is such an important verse that it's worth taking the time to hide it in our hearts. With a friend or family member, write each word of today's verse on a separate card and place the cards face up in front of you. Read through the verse, then turn two cards over. See if you both can say it from memory. Repeat for several more rounds, turning two cards over at a time until you can say the entire verse from memory.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 121:2

When someone helps you, what do you say?

.....

How do we thank God—after all, God has done everything for us! The way we say “thank you” is through our worship. Worship isn't just about singing a praise song or performing motions along with the words. Worship is like a great big “thank you” from your heart to God. We praise and worship God for meeting our greatest need through Jesus!

There are lots of ways to worship and celebrate what God has done. Below are some ideas. Pick ONE from the list below and take a few minutes to worship God in this way right now.

Ways to Worship

- ➔ Sing or dance along to a praise song
- ➔ Paint a picture
- ➔ Write a poem of thanks
- ➔ Pray in a new place in a new way and tell God “thank you,” listing specific things you are thankful for.

DAY 3

Read Philippians 4:13

Getting started can be the hardest part of a big job. One thing you can do is to invite God in to help. At the very beginning, you can say, “God, I’m not sure how this is going to go. It’s a big job. Will You help me? Will You show me what to tackle first? Will you remind me that You’re with me along the way?”

If you ask, God will help you and give you the strength to keep going. 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 help.

With God’s Help

Write Philippians 4:13 in the space below. Circle, underline, or highlight words that stand out to you. Repeat the verse aloud, emphasizing those words. Then thank God for promising to always be with you.

DAY 4

Read Psalm 16:8

Look carefully to solve each word picture puzzle and write the answer on the lines below.

SECRET ←
SECRET
SECRET

↓
TOWN

WHEEL

To solve these puzzles, you had to look at them first. Then your brain had to consider how to work it out to find the answer. When it comes to getting things done, first we have to see the need. Then we need to get busy doing something to help!

That’s what God did! God had a plan all along to fix our broken world through Jesus. And because of that rescue plan, everyone who puts their trust in Jesus can have a friendship with God forever.

Whenever you have a challenge to tackle this week, remember that God is with you and will help you come up with a plan to get the job done. God took care of our greatest need through Jesus, and God will help you show initiative to care for the needs you see around you, too.

Answers: top secret, downtown, big wheel

God took care of
our greatest need.

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DAY 1

Read Colossians 3:23a

We all have big jobs that have to get done. Sometimes the hardest part is staying focused on the task in front of us. It's easy at times to let distractions get the best of us.

Draw or write some things that distract you in the space below.

What if we decided to think differently about WHY we're working? What if think about every single job as if we're working for God? Even if no one else sees or notices what you've done, God does! God sees everything you do! God is so pleased when you finish what you start and get the job done with excellence.

Circle your number one distraction from above. Each time this particular distraction shows up, repeat today's verse and ask God to help you look for ways to help the people you love instead.

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 4:32

Have you ever helped someone and then that someone didn't say "thank you"? Maybe they didn't even notice that you helped them at all? It's kind of annoying to help and then not even get the credit, isn't it?

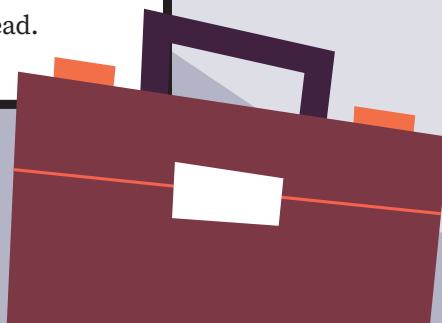
Think again.

When you stop to help, the helping isn't really for the payoff. You help, you show kindness, and you forgive because of God. When you choose to stop what you're doing and help someone else, you're really reflecting on what God has done for you.



God Is...

Grab a piece of paper, a pencil, and some kind of timer. Set it for 5 minutes. In that time, write down all the things you love about God. Write down things that are true about God and things God has done. Then read through your list as a prayer, giving thanks for all God has done. Ask God for help as you make a commitment to look for ways to help the people you love.



Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13

6:45am. . .

Your mom wakes you up and reminds you to complete your morning routine (get dressed, brush your teeth, make your bed, etc.). You throw on your clothes and head downstairs. But there's no bowl of cereal waiting for you. Why? You didn't make your bed or brush your teeth. There's a new rule in your house: if you don't finish your tasks, the kitchen is officially closed. Sounds like some tough love, huh?

When your mom asks you to do something, do you ignore her or do it halfway? When there's a job to be done, don't wait for Mom, Dad, or someone else to do it. Ask God to help you show initiative as you look for ways to help the people you love.

One Thing

Write one task your parent does each week that you could take over, and for an entire week, challenge yourself to complete it without being asked.

.....



Read 1 John 3:17

Do you have a brother or sister, or a close friend or neighbor? When was the last time you helped them? This verse is pretty clear about what we should do when we see someone in need. If we choose to help, we're showing others the love of God. If we don't, it's like holding up a big sign that says, "There's no love in me."

When it comes to taking care of people who need help, we have to remember to show initiative. It's not enough to notice the need. We need to show others GOD's love by pitching in to help out family or friends.

Name five things you do on a regular basis to help someone in your family or a friend. If you can't think of five, leave the lines blank and ask God to show you new ways to help this week. without being asked.

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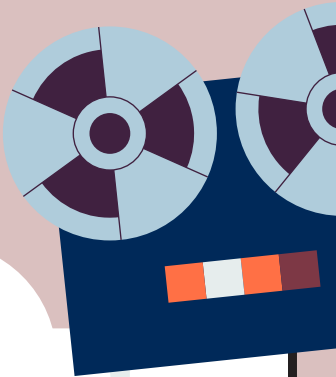
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Look for ways to help
the people you love.

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



DAY 1

Read Luke 12:6-7

Have you ever forgotten your lunch or your homework?
Have you ever walked into a room and thought, “Why did I come in here again?”

We all forget things sometimes. But you know who never forgets one single thing? God! God knows every single thing about every single thing, even the things that are constantly changing. God knows how many hairs are on your head now, as well as how many will be on your head after you brush your hair!

When you use what you have to help, God SEES you. God remembers what you have done. Look for ways to use what you’ve been given whenever you have a chance this week.

Memory Challenge

What is one thing you need to remember for tomorrow? Maybe it’s to stick your library book in your backpack or to put your dishes in the dishwasher after breakfast. Repeat that thing three times to yourself to help you remember it!

DAY 2

Read Psalm 121:2

Look around the room you’re in right now and count all the things that need a power source—like that lamp, or your remote-control car. Make a quick list as you look around the room. Without a power source, all the things you listed can’t really do their job.

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 just by speaking has promised to help us. Isn’t that amazing?

Draw a line to match the item below with its power source. Then pray, asking for help plugging into God’s power as you show initiative this week.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Flashlight | Electricity |
| Lamp | Charcoal/Match |
| Grill | Air or minty fresh breath |
| Car | Your two legs |
| Bicycle | Gasoline |
| Pinwheel | Batteries |

Answers: Flashlight-Batteries, Lamp-Electricity, Grill-Charcoal/Match, Car-Gasoline, Bicycle-Your two legs, Pinwheel-Air or minty fresh breath



DAY 3

Read Proverbs 16:3

This month is all about initiative—seeing what needs to be done and doing it. 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 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. 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 your bed
- Put away your books/ toys
- Throw away trash
- Hang up or put away clothes
- Place dirty clothes in the hamper

DAY 4

Read Acts 20:35

When you see someone that needs help, what do you normally do? Do you stop what you're doing and lend a hand? Do you wait for someone else to step up? Do you ignore the need or secretly hope they'll figure it out on their own?

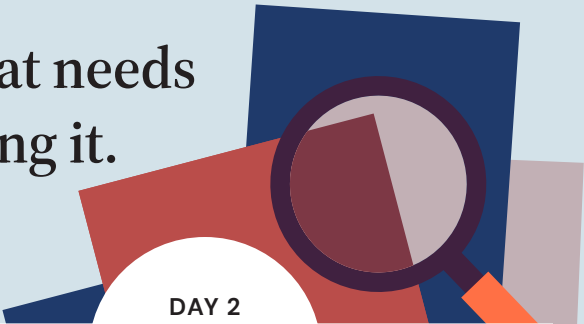
Let's think about initiative a little differently. Instead of thinking about what you're about to get in return, think about how it can change someone's day. Jesus said that it is better to give than receive. Helping gives you purpose. Helping makes you feel needed. Taking the time to focus on someone 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.

Say, "Yes!"

For one day, whenever someone asks something of you, just do it! Help. Give. Serve. At the end of the day, how did saying "yes" and helping others make you feel?

Look for ways to use
what you've been given.

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DAY 1

Read Philippians 2:4

If someone had a record of all your thoughts, would there be more thoughts about yourself or about others? If we're honest, we'd probably admit that we put our own wants and needs first. Paul, who wrote these words to the believers in Philippi, gave a bigger challenge. We shouldn't just look out for our own good but the good of others.

If you wear glasses, they help you to see things more clearly. When it comes to showing initiative, sometimes we need to look at the world around us through different lenses. We need to take off our "me" lenses that focus on ourselves and put on our "others" lenses instead.

Wearing My Sunglasses

Grab a pair of sunglasses and put them on. As you wear them, remind yourself to watch out for the needs of others BEFORE you think about yourself. Ask God to help you look for ways to help and to share the love of Jesus, too!

DAY 2

Read Matthew 28:19

Did you notice there are two verbs or action words in Jesus' command? The first is "go." Jesus is asking us, as His followers, to share His love with others everywhere we go— from the ball field, to the classroom, to the bus, and to the playground. And Jesus is asking us to "make disciples," or to tell others about what He's done for us!

Here's something crazy to think about. God doesn't need us to do this. God is powerful enough to accomplish this mission without us. But God chooses to use us because God knows that telling others about what Jesus has done makes our own faith stronger.

In the space below, write down four places you go each week and the names of people you see when you go there. This week, pray specifically for each of those places and people—that you would show initiative and look for ways to tell others about Jesus!

Places	People
.....
.....
.....
.....



DAY 3

Read Acts 1:8

Jesus told these first followers to “tell people about me in. . .”

Jerusalem

Judah

Samaria

These might be unfamiliar names to you, but for those early believers, Jerusalem was their hometown, Judea was the region they lived in, and Samaria was the larger country they were a part of.

Fill in your own “Jerusalem,” “Judea,” and “Samaria” in the blanks.

.....
Your Hometown

.....
Your State (region)

.....
Your Country

You might not travel much outside of your own hometown. That’s okay! You can ask God to help you share about what Jesus has done for you right where you live. You can tell others how Jesus has helped you to be kind and loving, to be patient, and to have self-control. Look for ways to tell others about Jesus this week!

DAY 4


Read Proverbs 16:3

What’s one thing you need to do that seems completely overwhelming or too big to handle?

Read today’s verse again. God can help you do BIG things. Small things too. Whatever you do, be sure to include God in your plans. When we make God a part of our plans we are saying we trust God. And what’s even better, God will make your plans successful! This doesn’t mean you’ll suddenly become rich and famous for cleaning out your closet or finishing a project for school. But it does mean God will give you what you need to work hard and finish well!

Proverbs 16:3

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.



Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.