

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.