

# WHO DO YOU SEE BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY?

## DAY 4

It's really easy to see when life isn't fair . . . for us. But real initiative means looking out to see when life isn't fair for others.

Let's try a little experiment.

Bring a notepad to school and as you go through your day, keep your eye out for anything that seems unfair to you. It could be that one friend has cool new shoes and someone else is still wearing the same ones they had last year. Or maybe one of your friends has to run extra laps at recess, even though he wasn't actually the one causing the problem.

**AS YOU SEE THOSE THINGS, WRITE THEM DOWN REALLY QUICKLY ON YOUR NOTEPAD.**

Do the same thing when you get home—keep an eye out for anything that seems unfair, and write it down.

At the end of the day, take a look at what you wrote down. Do any of those things surprise you? Had you noticed them before?

It's like we talked about before, with Nehemiah. Before you can solve the problem, the first step is to SEE the problem. Be sure to talk to your parents or your Leader about what you saw and see if they have any ideas about how you can make things right.

LIVE  
FOR GOD

# INITIATIVE

SEEING WHAT  
NEEDS TO BE DONE  
AND DOING IT

## DAY 1:

READ NEHEMIAH 5:1-12

Have you ever been SO involved in something that you didn't want to stop? Maybe you were reading the best book, and it was right at the moment when you were about to find out the secret identity of the villain.

That's why this chapter in Nehemiah's story is so fascinating. Nehemiah had put his heart and soul into the task of rebuilding the city. But then—right in the middle of that big story—comes this unexpected twist. Some people approach Nehemiah with a problem. It would be so easy for him to say, "Listen, I'm sorry, but I don't have time for this right now. Maybe when the wall's done we can talk."

Read these verses again. This time, circle words that stand out to you about how Nehemiah actually responded.

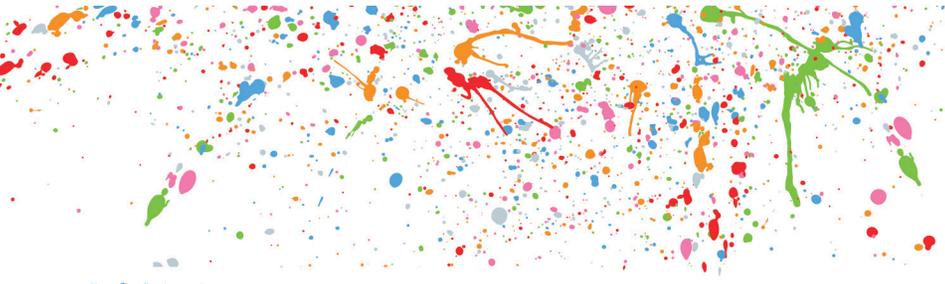
Part of initiative is being willing to press "pause" when you notice something else that needs to be done—even if it takes you by surprise. Nehemiah knew that it was worth stopping their progress on the wall to help the people who needed him.

If someone needs your help, do you think you can press "pause" like he did?

WEEK 3

HEAR  
FROM GOD

PRETEEN



## DAY 2

Are you praying right now for anyone who's going through a tough time? How about for people in your city, or other places in the world, who don't have enough to eat, or a safe place to sleep or people who have been through a disaster like a hurricane or a flood? Write their names below.

It can be overwhelming to think of all the needs around you. There are so many people in the world who are hurting and need a helping hand. You might think: "What can I do about all of that?"

You can always PRAY. Prayer is a powerful way that we can talk to God about the things that are heavy on our hearts. We can pray that God will help people, both in our community, and in our world. There are so many great churches and organizations that God uses to help people in need.

Also, praying might be the way God reveals something to you about how you can help the people around you. After all, you can make a difference in one person's world!

**SPEND SOME TIME TALKING TO GOD ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT CAME TO YOUR MIND EARLIER.**



PRAY  
TO GOD



## DAY 3

If you've ever been on a mission trip or helped with a service project, you know how good it feels to do something for other people.

**THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS STUDENTS YOUR AGE HAVE DONE TO LEND A HAND. FOR EXAMPLE:**

- Collecting food
- Collecting coats and jackets
- Mowing the lawn for your older neighbors
- Raising money to provide clean water sources for people across the world

None of those things are very difficult to do. It's just hard to get started. You have to know about an opportunity, and then you have to be willing to say "Yes!"

Start with your church. Maybe your church will have a big service project this fall, or maybe there are serving opportunities you can try right now—just ask!

You can also talk with your parents about ways you can serve as a family. It only seems intimidating until you actually do it. Then you think: "Why have we never done this before?"

Talk about how you can work with others—your friends, your family, or your church—to help the people around you.



TALK  
ABOUT GOD