



SEPTEMBER THEME

**DIRTY JOBS**  
Somebody's Gotta Do it

**BIBLE STORY**

**Nehemiah 2:11-18**

I'm Working on a Building | Nehemiah  
Plans to Rebuild the Wall

**BOTTOM LINE**

Don't wait for someone else to do  
what needs to be done

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Work at everything you do with  
all your heart. Work as if you were  
working for the Lord."

Colossians 3:23a, NIV

**LIFE APP**

**Initiative** | Seeing what needs to be  
done and doing it

**BASIC TRUTH**

I need to make the wise choice, and  
with God's help...I can!

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **INITIATIVE** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

**This WEEK: Key Question: What keeps you from doing what needs to be done?** Sometimes we are unaware a need exists. Other times, we actually see the need, but for whatever reason, never get to it. This week, we want families to think about the things that get in the way of taking initiative and figure out a plan for how we can get the job the done.

In week two, we find out what Nehemiah does with what he found out about the wall in Jerusalem. In **Nehemiah 2:11-18** we see that he took initiative and set out to fix the wall. When no one else would step up, he went straight to King Artaxerxes and took action. And it's that initiative that inspires the entire community to get involved.

**Bottom Line: Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** When we see something that needs to be done, we might think that someone else will take care of it. But what would happen if we saw it was possible to be part of getting the job done? We want families to realize that when they see what needs to be done, God might be telling them they can be the one to do it. And if they can't do it all on their own, they can ask someone for help.

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Ask God to remove the common attitude of "not my job," and to instead give kids hearts that are willing and eager to help. Pray that kids would become people who make a difference by making others' lives easier.

**•• JUST FOR FUN**

**Made to Connect** | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**What You Need:** "Bricks 4-5" activity cards, pens, WALL OF INITIATIVE activity page (Sunday groups only), tape

**What You Do:**

- Sunday leaders: Tape the "WALL OF INITIATIVE" activity page to one of the walls in your small group space.
- Explain to kids (*Wednesday leaders: review with the kids*) that throughout this month they will build a "WALL OF INITIATIVE." Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and



doing it. Each week we will add “Bricks” to the wall.

- Encourage kids to share with the group something they saw that needed to be done during the past week.
- If necessary, prompt by asking:
  - (*Wednesday groups*) Did anyone use her brick from last week to help her show initiative? If so, what did she do?
  - (*All groups*) Is anyone struggling with a situation that needs some initiative but you don’t know where to start? And if so, would you like to share it with the group?
- Give kids an opportunity to fill out a brick with how they showed initiative last week and put the brick on the WALL OF INITIATIVE.

## •• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

*Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Dice

**What You Do:**

- Instruct kids to take off their shoes and put them a pile in the center of your small group table.
- Lead the kids in a race to see who can do 20 jumping jacks, 10 toe touches, 5 disco dance moves, 2 maniacal belly laughs, and then put their shoes back on first.
- Before you start, explain that there is a catch: not everyone will start at the same time; some people will have to wait.
- Instruct each person to roll a die to determine how long they must wait before they can start the race.
  - Roll a 1 = 10 second delay
  - Roll a 2 = 20 second delay
  - Roll a 3 = 30 second delay
  - Roll a 4-6 = no delay
- During the race, call out times to let kids know when they can start.

**What You Say:** “It had to be hard to wait to play this game, especially when your friends didn’t have to wait. Sometimes waiting is a good thing but **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard about when we shouldn’t wait to do something.**”

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### ••TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** “Excuse Cards,” pens

**What You Do:**

- Pair kids up.
- Ask teams to pick an “Excuse Card.”
- Explain that excuses can keep us from doing what needs to be done.
- Instruct teams to read their “Excuse Cards” and brainstorm a list of excuses that might keep them from showing initiative.



- Kids can write their ideas on the back of the “Excuse Cards.”
- When teams are finished, discuss their lists.
- Potential discussion questions could be:
  - Are any of the excuses similar? Which ones? Why do you think it is a common excuse?
  - What about if it is someone else’s job? For example, it is your brother’s job to walk the dog. Is that an acceptable excuse for not taking the dog for a walk? Why or why not?
  - What about if you just didn’t see something needed to be done? For example, you were busy with your friends at lunch and you just didn’t see the kid who was sitting alone. Is that an acceptable excuse for not asking him to join your group? Why or why not?
  - Can you think of any excuses that are acceptable for not doing something? What are they?

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Live for God | Application Activity]

**Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group**

**What You Need:** 2 decks of playing cards

**What You Do:**

- Divide your group into two teams and hand each team a deck of playing cards.
- The object of the game is to organize the deck into its original order, with the four suits arranged in numerical order.
- Get kids started with an, “On your mark. Get set. Go!”
- When the first team finishes the task, focus their attention by reading the following paragraph and asking the following questions.

**What You Say:** “In this game, if you had waited for someone else to do the work, you would’ve lost. You had to take the initiative to keep sorting the cards until the job was complete. Just like it’s important that we **[Bottom Line] don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If we wait for someone else to do things, they might never get done and then there would be consequences for that. For instance, if your dad was in charge of the laundry, but he waited for someone else to do it, there might never be clean clothes. Or, if your soccer coach just sat on the sidelines and expected you to figure out how to play or what to work on, you would probably never get better at soccer. What are some other things that are important for us not to wait for someone else to do?” (Allow for responses like picking up our bedrooms, taking the dog outside, feeding the fish, tying a little brother or sister’s shoe.)

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

**Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask:
  - What keeps you from doing what needs to be done? What excuses do you typically use?
  - Nehemiah had no training to rebuild a wall. His job was to taste the king’s food, not to do construction. What can you do when you see something that needs to be done but it is not your job and you have no training how to do it? (Think about what Nehemiah did when he got to Jerusalem. This is an opportunity to talk about how important it is to ask God for help, observe, evaluate a situation, collect data, pray some more and then act.)
  - When have you felt like there was a really hard job to be done, but you were in over your head and didn’t know how to even get started?
  - When have you felt in over your head just because the job was too big?

●● **VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group**

