

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHARACTER TRAIT:

INITIATIVE

DEFINITION:

Taking wise action without being told

MEMORY VERSE:

"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

MATTHEW 5:16

FINISH LINE:

Follow God's lead and step up

READ: NEHEMIAH 1:1-6, 11; 2:1-6

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

(OBSERVATION)

1. Who came to Nehemiah and what did they tell him? (*His brother came and told him that Jerusalem's walls were broken.*)
2. What was Nehemiah's response? (*He wept and prayed.*)
3. In Nehemiah 1:5 & 11, how did Nehemiah show that he believed God was trustworthy? (*He praised God for being great, for always keeping His promises, and for His unfailing love.*)
4. What job had God given Nehemiah that ultimately helped him get what he needed to rebuild the walls? (*He was the king's cupbearer.*)
5. How did Nehemiah show initiative? (*He asked God for guidance, told the king about Jerusalem, and volunteered to lead the Israelites so the wall could be rebuilt.*)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

(INTERPRETATION)

1. Why do you think the news made Nehemiah so sad? (*It was his home and his people that were in trouble. He saw a great need and knew something needed to be done about it.*)
2. Why do you think Nehemiah was afraid to answer the king in Nehemiah 2:2? (*The king could have gotten angry, fired him, or even killed him and gotten a new cupbearer.*)
3. How could Nehemiah have responded that would NOT have shown initiative? (*He could have said nothing was wrong and kept quiet.*)

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

(APPLICATION)

1. Who in your life is good at showing initiative? What do they do?
2. When you need to make a choice about what to do, who do you talk to? How can we seek out help from God? (*God can show us His truth through prayer, reading His Word, or talking to wise believers*)