

## INITIATIVE – Week 1 Skit

**Definition:** Taking wise action without being told

**Verse:** MATTHEW 5:16 (NLT) – “In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

**Week 1:** Follow God’s lead and step up

**Other Scriptures:** Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:10 (Nehemiah prays and talks to king)

**Characters –**

Nehi

Wally, the wall

**At Home Suggestions:**

- Choose an area in your house as the stage. Since the drama is about a talking wall, you may want to create a makeshift wall from the cushions on your couch or something of the like!
- Don’t forget a costume for Nehemiah! You can have Nehemiah wear construction gear, like a hard hat with a pencil behind his ear.

**Helpful Hints**

- Stage directions (what the characters are supposed to do) are written in *ITALICS*.
- \*Nehi says “Zoinks!” a lot. He should snap his fingers or clap his hands or something fun every time he says the word – it’s his own catch phrase.

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**Lights down**

**SFX: The Wall**

*Nehemiah walks in from stage left...drinking a cup of cocoa. He inspects the wall like a contractor would, fairly pleased with the job that was done. He adjusts things a bit. He puts down his cocoa and takes out his tape measure and measures different parts of the wall. He ignores the audience through this process and then turns and is surprised by the group.*

Nehi: (*surprised*) Zoinks! Oh hey! I didn’t see you all sitting there. Sorry about that. Well, welcome to Jerusalem. I’m very happy to have you here for the next couple of weeks. Oh, I guess I should introduce myself to you shouldn’t I. Please forgive me...that was so rude. My name is Nehemiah, but you can call me, Nehi. Why don’t you all tell me your name on the count of three. Ready? One...Two...Three! (*everyone yells their name*) well, it’s nice to meet you!

So, a little bit about me: I was born in Israel a long, long time ago. It was a time when the nation of Israel was in **EXILE** (*do Timeline hand motion*)... But eventually, my people, the Israelites, had the opportunity to go home, and many of them did...

Wally: Did what?

Nehi: (*surprised*) What?? Who said that?

Wally: I did

Nehi: Where are you? What's your name?

Wally: I'm right here in front of you...my name is, Wally.

Nehi: Wally?? (*High-pitched squeal - Nehi falls down in surprise*) You're a talking wall?

Wally: You got it! Nice to meet you. I'd shake your hand, but I don't have any to shake with.

Nehi: Zoinks! A talking wall! How about that? (*Getting back up*)

Wally: So, what's this about some of your friends coming back here to Jerusalem?

Nehi: They were allowed to come back and so they did.

Wally: Wait, did you not come back with them?

Nehi: Nope...

Wally: Why not?

Nehi: Because I needed to stay and serve the king I worked for.

Wally: Huh, what did you do for the king?

Nehi: I was a cupbearer (*hold up cup to the kids*) A cupbearer was kinda like a waiter in a restaurant, and it was a really important position in the king's house. (*attention back to wall*).

Wally: So, what happened to your friends who came back here to Jerusalem?

Nehi: They told me that the wall around Jerusalem... uhhhh.... I guess that'd be you... was all broken down, and that made me really sad.

Wally: So, what did you do about it?

Nehi: Do you not remember? This is a story about you, afterall.

Wally: Well, like you said, I was broken down.... so... I don't really remember too much during that time.

Nehi: Ah... yeah, that makes sense. Alright then! I'll keep telling the story... So, when I was sad, I started to think about what I could do. I felt so helpless. I decided to pray and ask the Lord to allow the king to be kind to me and give me the chance to come back and help rebuild you.

Wally: So, you stepped up?

Nehi: Yeah, I guess you could say that! I **followed God's lead and stepped up.**

Wally: Yeah! You took initiative: **Taking wise action without being told.**

Nehi: Well, Zoinks! You're a pretty smart talking wall, Wally.

Wally: Thank you. I also speak multiple languages.

Nehi: You do?! Hola!

Wally: Aloha!

Nehi: Bonjour!

Wally: Nǐ hǎo!

Nehi: Hallo!

Wally: Selam!

Nehi: Wow! That's cool, Wally!

Wally: Danke... that means thank you in German. Anyway, what happened after you followed God's lead and stepped up? I can't wait to hear what happened next!

Nehi: Well.... I could tell you, but then what would we talk about for the rest of the month with these guys?! Thanks for coming to Jerusalem, new friends! Come back next week to hear more of the story!

**Lights off**

**SFX: The Wall**