

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 NLT

FINISH LINE:

Worship God and celebrate His faithfulness

READ: NEHEMIAH 6:15-16; 8:1-3, 8-12; 9:1-6

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

(OBSERVATION)

1. How many days did it take Nehemiah and the Israelites to finish the wall? (*Only 52 days!*)
2. Who helped them? How did this make their enemies feel? (*God helped them. This made their enemies frightened.*)
3. From Nehemiah 8, Who was Ezra and what did he do? (*He was a priest and a scribe who read and explained God's Word to all the people.*)
4. Look at Nehemiah 9:3. Days after the Israelites heard God's law, what did they do? (*They read more of God's Word, confessed their sins, and continued to worship God.*)
5. Reread Nehemiah 9:6. What amazing things did they praise God for? (*God is the one and only God. He made everything and is in control of everything.*)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

(INTERPRETATION)

1. How did the people respond to Ezra's words? (*They listened and worshiped God.*)
2. Look at Nehemiah 8:10 & 12. Why did Nehemiah tell the people to go and have a big party? What reasons did they have to celebrate? (*God protected them from their enemies and helped them finish the wall. They had heard God's words and understood. God proved He is faithful and that is always worth celebrating.*)
3. The Israelites thanked God for His faithfulness throughout Israel's history. What had God done for them? (*He rescued them from Egypt, parted the Red Sea, protected them in the wilderness, defeated enemies, gave them a kingdom, kept His promises, showed them mercy, etc.*)

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

(APPLICATION)

1. What are some ways God has shown His faithfulness in your life? What are creative ways you can worship God and celebrate God's faithfulness? (*Ideas: sing/dance to worship music, draw a picture for Him, write a poem/song for Him, enjoy time in His creation, tell stories about Him to others, etc.*)
2. What is one simple way you can show initiative today? In what ways can you step up, speak out, stand firm, or celebrate God this week?