

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:

Listen to God and speak out

READ: NEHEMIAH 2:9-20

WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

1. God told Nehemiah to go inspect the wall at night. What was it like? *(It was broken down.)*
2. Who gave Nehemiah the plan for what to do and the initiative to do it? *(God put the plans in Nehemiah's heart.)*
3. How did Nehemiah speak out to the Israelites? *(He told them about God's grace and challenged the people to join with him in rebuilding the walls.)*
4. Even though some people made fun of the Israelites for rebuilding the walls, how did most of the people respond in verse 18? *(They were excited and got to work right away.)*
5. How did Nehemiah respond to those who did not like what he was doing? *(He trusted God and continued to follow His lead and speak out.)*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

1. Why was it so important for Jerusalem's walls to be rebuilt? *(Walls were important to protect the city from enemies.)*
2. Why do you think Nehemiah did not tell anyone why he was there or what he was doing right away? *(Maybe he did not want his enemies to find out what he was doing because they may have tried to stop him before he even started.)*
3. Why do you think it is important to listen to God first before you speak out? *(We need to follow God's lead and not just do whatever we want to do. We will not know what He wants us to do and say unless we listen to Him.)*

WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. What truths about God can you remember when He asks you to take initiative and speak out? *(Examples: He is always with you and loves you. His Word is always true. God's plan is perfect and good. He will always give you what you need to do what He asks you to do.)*
2. What are some ways you can show INITIATIVE with your words wherever you are this week? *(Examples: If someone at school is making fun of another kid, you can speak up and ask them to stop. When you see someone is sad, you can say encouraging words to him or her. You can invite the new kid at school to hang out with you and your friends.)*