

THE BIBLE TELLS ABOUT HAVING INITIATIVE

NEHEMIAH STARTS TO HELP JERUSALEM

Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 1:3-2:18

Nehemiah was a Hebrew who had the important job of “cupbearer” to the Persian king.

(The job of a “cupbearer” was to taste the drinks before the king to make sure nothing was poisoned)

“Those (of our people) who survived...are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I prayed before the God of heaven... I had not been sad in his (the king’s) presence before; so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king..., let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king’s forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates...and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” and because the gracious hand of my god was upon me, the king granted my requests. So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me...

I went to Jerusalem...I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem..

By night I went out...examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates...As yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests of nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in

disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.

(Disgrace means they lost the honor and respect others gave them.)

The replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

INITIATIVE IS..... starting to do what needs to be done without having to be told.

All of these words about initiative are in this word search puzzle at least once. Some of the words can be found many times. Circle each word as you find it.

begin do initiative try can help start will

D	O	L	O	D	S	T	A	R	T
N	L	L	I	W	T	C	A	N	B
I	N	I	T	I	A	T	I	V	E
G	O	W	R	L	R	T	R	Y	G
E	D	O	Y	L	T	C	A	N	I
B	E	G	I	N	H	E	L	P	N

Having initiative is important to me.

When I start doing something that needs to be done without waiting, then having initiative becomes one of my values.

Some things I can do to show initiative are: (make a list):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**I CAN PICK UP MY TOYS WITHOUT BEING
ASKED.**