



MAY 2025

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INITIATIVE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Getting started can sometimes seem like the hardest part of meeting a need. But it actually starts before then. First we have to see the needs around us. Initiative isn't just some practical principle; it's really a spiritual principle that starts with God. God took initiative on our behalf by seeing that our relationship was broken and needed to be fixed. So God sent Jesus to make it right. And because we are made in God's image, we are wired to be able to take initiative and get things done too.

CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for INITIATIVE

Restoration through participating in God's Story

I am designed to participate in God's story to restore a broken and hurting world.

God took the initiative to send Jesus because of our sin. Jesus came so that we could be brought back into a relationship with God, making things right again. When we see a need and choose to do something about it, people can see the reality of God's love for them.

None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.

Philippians 2:4, NIV

INITIATIVE is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT INITIATIVE WITH KIDS

As you talk about initiative with kids this month, please be aware of the various needs and demographics in your ministry. Especially in week 1, as you talk about God meeting their greatest need, this may bring up for kids some of the physical needs that they may have. Let kids know that God cares about both their spiritual and physical needs, as do you! Work with trusted adults in their lives to figure out how to handle these conversations best, as well as figure out ways you may be able to support their physical needs.



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FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 1

Key Question: **How has God met your needs?** Sometimes it's easy to get so distracted by the things we want most in life, or that we don't have, that we forget about the things we already DO have. Whether we have a little or a lot, God has given us each the best gift we could ever receive. We hope this question invites preteens to reflect on how God has shown up for them throughout their lives.

We start the month in **John 3:16-17** where John writes about the greatest love of all. God loved us so much, that God sent Jesus to take our place because of our sin. God took the initiative by making a move to restore our broken relationship, allowing us to one day live with God forever.

Bottom Line: **God took care of our greatest need.** Love is a pretty powerful thing. God knew we could never fix sin on our own and needed a Savior, so God sent Jesus to rescue us out of love for us. God didn't just see a need but chose to do something about it, and when we put our trust in Jesus we can live with God forever.

WEEK 2

Key Question: **Who do you see that needs your help?** Have you ever come across someone who looked super busy, was hurting, had questions, or seemed like they could use a little extra love and aid? What do you do in those moments? We hope this question gets preteens started thinking about the people in their lives—in any area—who they can help and how they can help them.

In week 2, we head to **Exodus 2:1-10** where we find the Israelites facing tragedy. They had begun to grow so large as a nation that the pharaoh of that time grew scared and ordered all the newborn baby boys to die. Miriam and her mother took matters into their own hand, saving Moses, which eventually led to the saving of the rest of God's people too.

Bottom Line: **Look for ways to help the people you love.** Have you ever done something good for someone close to you without being asked? How did they react? Sometimes, we shouldn't wait for an invitation or an ask to meet a need. When we allow God's Spirit to move in us, we can look around us and make the first move to help those we care about.



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FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 3

Key Question: **How can you use what you've been given?**

Can you think of a time someone has complimented you about something that seemed to come naturally to you? God has given each of us unique gifts and wired us all differently, not just for the betterment of ourselves, but to impact those around us too. We hope this question allows preteens to start thinking about how the ways God made them are impactful.

In week 3, we head to **Matthew 25:14-30** Jesus told His disciples a story about a rich man who left for a long journey and entrusted his servants with some of his money. Each one received a different amount, but at the end of the journey, the man was proud of his servants for using what they were given to double the investment. All except for one...

Bottom Line: **Look for ways to use what you've been given.** We've all been given something. Whether that's knowledge and a big brain, money, skills, or something else! God has entrusted each of us with a gift and talent to use in various ways to make an impact. Some ways may not be as noticeable, but we can ask God for help as we figure out what God has in store for us and use what we've been given.

WEEK 4

Key Question: **How did you first hear about Jesus?**

Everyone has a starting point in their faith journey. Thankfully God has placed people in our lives to help us grow. We don't have to figure out the hard parts on our own. We hope this question helps preteens think about their faith and who they can talk to when they want to learn more.

For week 4 we head to **John 1:35-42** where we meet Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. One day as John was with his disciples, they saw Jesus walking by. Jesus was the very same man John had been preparing his disciples for! So when the time came, John's disciples left to go follow Jesus, and that decision led to more disciples following Jesus as they began to tell one another about Him.

Bottom Line: **Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.** When you hear good news do you typically keep it to yourself? Probably not! You want to share it with everyone around you no matter how that happens: notes, video, facetime, email, etc. Good news is worth sharing, and Jesus is the best news of all. So what can you do to share Jesus with others?