



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

DAY 1

Read Colossians 3:23a

We all have big jobs that have to get done. Sometimes the hardest part is staying focused on the task in front of us. It's easy sometimes to let distractions get the best of us.



Unscramble the distractions below.

Having a
K N A S C

Playing video
S M G A E

Staring out the
W W N I D O

What if we decided to think differently about why we're working? What if think about every single job as if we're working for God? Even if no one else sees or notices what you've done, God does!

Circle your number one distraction from the list above. Each time this particular distraction shows up, repeat today's verse and ask God to help you stay focused on what needs to be done so you can finish strong!

DAY 2

Read Proverbs 4:25

Have you seen the movie *Up*? One of the funniest parts is when Dug the dog—right in the middle of speaking—turns his heads and says, "SQUIRREL!" He's so easily distracted by a squirrel crossing his path that he freezes to watch him.

Do ever feel like Dug? It's easy to get distracted if we're always yelling, "Squirrel!" and looking to the right or left. To keep ourselves on task, we need to focus.

This week, ask God to help you stay focused on what needs to be done! Ask Him to help you keep your eyes focused on the task in front of you so you can finish strong.

DAY 3

Read Nehemiah 6:3

Just like a good movie or story, every plot has a good guy and a bad guy! In the story of Nehemiah, it's pretty obvious which one he is! He's the good guy. But there were bad guys too. They tried over and over again to distract Nehemiah, to get him to come down off the wall so the work would cease. When they tried to distract him, Nehemiah said, "I'm doing a great work and I cannot come down."

What if you did that? It might sound like this: "Sorry, video games. I'm doing a great work and I cannot come down."

If you want to finish strong and be the good guy or girl, take your cue from Nehemiah and stay focused on what needs to be done.

Ask God to help you battle through the distractions by remembering this phrase: *I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.*



Stay focused on what needs to be done.

DAY 4

Read Ecclesiastes 7:8

Think about someone you know or someone you've read about that accomplished something big.

- ➔ A runner that trained for months to complete a marathon
- ➔ A writer who finished a novel.
- ➔ A student who graduated from college.

When you have a big job to do or a big goal to accomplish, it's worth it to think about the end. That's what Nehemiah did! He probably pictured a completed wall, a safe, strong, and sturdy wall that would protect everyone within it. Nehemiah stayed focused and patiently worked day after day (and encouraged others to do the same) until the task was completed.

As you grow up, you'll start to set big goals for yourself. You'll begin to recognize the things you're good at, the things you love to do. And as you discover those things, you'll have the opportunity to work every day towards that big goal. Remember, the same God that was with Nehemiah is with you. He will help you stay focused so you can finish what you start, no matter how big the task!

