

SOCCER LEAGUE DEVOTIONS

Parent Companion Guide

PRACTICE 7

INITIATIVE

is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

KEY VERSE

**WORK WILLINGLY AT WHATEVER YOU DO, AS THOUGH YOU WERE
WORKING FOR THE LORD RATHER THAN FOR PEOPLE.**

COLOSSIANS 3:23 (NLT)

Bottom Line: When you see something that needs to be done, don't wait for someone else to do it.

Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it. As a parent, I'm sure you have many things that are your responsibility. The same is probably true for you at work and in any other commitments you might have. While a lot of responsibility likely falls to you in these different areas, you probably share responsibilities with coworkers, your spouse, or other family members at some point. And if we're really honest, sometimes we see something that needs to be done that isn't on our list...and we secretly hope that someone else will do it.

We want players to learn that they should take the initiative to do what needs to be done even when they aren't asked to do it, even when it's not their specific responsibility. This is important for children to learn as they mature. But it's not just a lesson for children. Adults can also shirk responsibility. We can shrug our shoulders and decide to let someone else handle it. We often withhold help, even when we have the time and ability to give it, for any number of excuses. Taking initiative is an important marker of our maturity, as well. It is important to ask the question "How can I help?" often and with a willing attitude.

It's easy just to assume that someone else will do something when there's a job that needs to be done. But that's not what initiative is all about. When an athlete is playing in a game, they can't just wait for someone else to do everything, can they? If they're part of a team, they want to get in there and take initiative and play their part. We want to do the same thing in the rest of our lives, too. When you see something that needs to be done, don't wait for someone else to do it.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

(K-2nd Grade)

- Who is someone you know who goes out of their way to help people?
- How can you take initiative to help out in our family?

(3rd-6th Grade)

- How does it make you feel to think about doing something that isn't your responsibility?
- How can you take initiative to help out in our family?

(7th Grade and up)

- When is a time someone helped you when it wasn't their responsibility? What did that mean to you?
- What are some ways that you can step up and take more initiative to help others?

GOING DEEPER

This week, spend time reading Philippians 4:15-19. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi while he was in prison in Rome. Discuss this passage with your child. What had the Philippians done for Paul? Why do you think they took the initiative to do this? How does it seem to have affected Paul?