

INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

lesson 12



BIG IDEA

Initiative will take the front position to recognize and do what needs to be done before being asked to do it.

KEY VERSES

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see someone skilled in their work?
They will serve before kings;
They will not serve before officials of low rank.

MATERIALS LIST

- several long ropes
- new pencils
- white paper
- markers or crayons
- glue
- scissors (provided)





OBJECT LESSON

Tie the ends of a long rope together. Have everyone in the group hold on to the rope evenly spaced out. The group will be instructed to form a shape without using any verbal communication. As the activity progresses take mental note of any kids who are taking the initiative to silently lead the group.

Call out shapes such as: circle, square, rectangle, triangle, oval....

TWO POLAR BEARS

There were once two polar bear twins who had grown old enough to leave their mother's care. They were sitting on separate ice floes in the middle of the ocean wondering what to do next.

The sister peered into the water and knew that she had to dive in to hunt for her lunch. The brother sat on the ice and hoped that a nice juicy seal would jump onto his ice flow for him to eat.

The sister put her paw in the water and felt how cold it was. She knew that it wouldn't be easy to survive. The brother sat back watching his sister and wondered what she was doing. Surely a seal would come within reach soon.

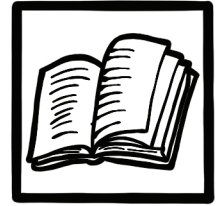
The sister dived in and looked for her prey. After a while she re-emerged. She hadn't caught anything and was now cold and wet,

as well as hungry. The brother laughed at his sister's foolishness.

The sister dived in again. Again she emerged with nothing to show for her efforts, but she had got closer this time and was encouraged by the improvement in her hunting abilities. The brother yelled out to her, "You're crazy! Why don't you just wait, eventually a seal will come to you."

She humphed and dived in again. This time, she was successful and emerged with a young seal which she consumed enthusiastically. It was the best meal she had ever eaten and she felt satisfied afterwards as she dozed off and had a snooze.

The brother's stomach grumbled with hunger. "Life's not fair," he thought to himself.



The sister went on to become a well known hunter and lived a long happy life.

Sadly, the brother never braved the cold water, never chased his food, but waited for it to come to him. It never did!

We aren't that different from these polar bears.

There are opportunities all around, but you need the courage and initiative to get uncomfortable, to push yourself and to develop your skills if you are to take advantage of them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Was it hard to make shapes out of the rope?
- Did anyone take the initiative to lead the group?
- How did the sister polar bear take initiative? How did it pay off?
- Why is it hard to take initiative?
- Today's verse says that someone who is skilled at their work will serve kings and not low ranking officials. What does this mean?
- What are some ways young people like you can take initiative in this world?

LESSON OPTIONS

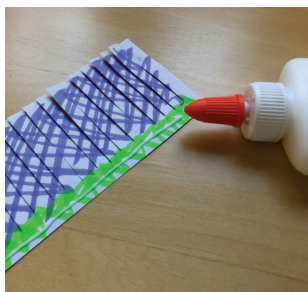
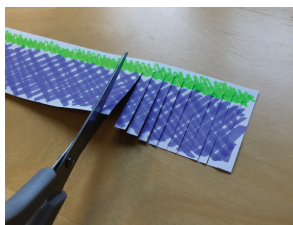
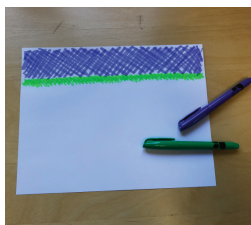
- If you have a large group run the Object Lesson several times with 12-16 volunteers.
- Run the Object Lesson a second time allowing just one person to talk.
- Draw a shape instead of calling a shape. This allows for more complex shapes like a rhombus or heart.
- Ask for 2 volunteers to act out the Two Polar Bears story as it is read.





FLOWER PENCILS

Make flower pencils and take the initiative to give one to someone in your life who you admire, needs encouragement, or shows excellent leadership.



PREPARATION

- Color two inches across the top a piece of white paper.
- Color the back side as well.
- Color a strip of green below (on both sides)
- Cut the colored strip.
- Snip the paper evenly across about 1/4 inch apart. Do not cut into the green section.
- Place a thin line of glue across the green section.
- Place a pencil on the end of the colored strip so the eraser lines up with the top fringe.
- Slowly and carefully roll the paper around the pencil. Squeeze the glued section tightly.
- Starting from the outside bend the petals outward.
- Variation - Fold the paper into a fan and cut the top two inches into a rounded petal shape (see blue flower in photo).
- Variation - Carefully curl the outermost petals using the edge of a pair of scissors.

SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Use colored printer paper
- Pre-cut colored paper into 2x11 inch pieces.



TIED UP IN KNOTS

Kids work together to untie their rope without letting go!

PREPARATION

- Tie 4-6 loose knots, well spaced along a section of rope.
- If the group is small use one section of rope. If group is large, divide the students into groups of 4-6.

DIRECTIONS

- Have the students space themselves out evenly and grasp the rope with their left hands, avoiding the knots.
- Once they have grabbed the rope, their hand is fixed in place and students can not even slide their hand along rope.
- The group must now untie all the knots that are in the rope.



