

“Resist Opposition” – Nehemiah 4
Rebuild: A Study of Nehemiah
Discussion Questions

- **Introduction**
 - Are you surprised to hear that opposition is an expected part of faith in Jesus?
 - How does it make you feel knowing that you should expect opposition when following Jesus?
- **Open up to Nehemiah 4.** (You may choose to read the whole passage aloud or simply look at it as you discuss the following questions)
 - In Nehemiah’s day, Sanballat and Tobiah were mocking those rebuilding the wall. Now God’s people are striving to advance his kingdom. What form does mocking from our enemies take today?
 - Nehemiah led the people to set a guard against the enemies day and night (4:9). What should God’s people be on guard against day and night today?
 - In 4:12 other Jews were discouraging those at work on the walls. How do Christians discourage other Christians today? Are there any ways that you yourself might discourage other Christians?
 - How might you encourage other Christians when they are going through challenging times?
 - Why did Nehemiah redouble his defenses and rebuilding efforts in the face of discouragement (4:13)? What were his other options? Why was taking action his best option?
 - In 4:16–17 the people work with a weapon in one hand and a tool in the other. If God’s people were to follow this example today, what would be analogous to the weapon, and what would be analogous to the tool?
- **Read John 15:18-19; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 5:8b; Ephesians 6:12**
 - What do these passages teach us about the kind of opposition that Christians face?
 - How do we guard against opposition?
- **Application & Reflection**
 - Have you personally faced opposition for your faith?
 - How have you responded?
 - How can this small group encourage each other when we’re face with opposition?