

## Lessons from Nehemiah

### Part 3 “Dealing with Criticism”

**Opening Questions:** Sticks and Stones may break my bones..... Did name calling or teasing ever get to you? If so how? When your life did you have to deal with criticism or opposition, what were the effects?

Study/Reflection: *Read Nehemiah 4*

1. Sanballat and Tobiah criticized and mocked the Israelites. Why are they unhappy about the rebuilding of the wall? What do they hope to accomplish with their criticism?
2. How effective were their taunts in slowing down their building process?
3. When have you been discouraged by opposition or constant criticism?
4. Describe the prayer that Nehemiah prays (verse 4)? Does this kind of prayer surprise you? What effect does his prayer have on the people building the walls? How can this prayer encourage you to be more authentic with praying to God?
5. What is another way Nehemiah deals with criticism? Verses 14-18 Explain what can this look like today for those of us as Christ followers?
6. How does Nehemiah show his perseverance in all of this opposition? How does he show his dependency of God? How does he show his ability to revise the plan in order to carry out the vision and mission to build the walls?

Application

- Which gives you more difficulty external criticism or internal criticism?
- When it comes to criticism and opposition in your life how do you tend to deal with it?
- What can you do differently in light of Nehemiah’s example in chapter 4?