

Surviving the Pressure of Opposition

Nehemiah 4:1–6 (4:1–23)

*Christian leaders should prepare themselves for criticism.
Nehemiah provides real insight into how to survive opposition.
We need to . . .*

I. Understand the _____ of Opposition Nehemiah 4:1–3

Sanballat's Attacks

1. He attacks their _____
2. He attacks their _____
3. He attacks their _____
4. He attacks their _____
5. He attacks their _____

II. Understand the _____ to Opposition Nehemiah 4:4–6

Nehemiah did two significant things in response to the criticism

1. He _____
2. He _____

Three practical truths found in Nehemiah 4

1. It is impossible to lead anyone without facing _____
2. It is essential to face opposition in _____
3. Prayer is not all that is necessary. We must _____

We need to understand the reality of opposition and know that the answers are found in seeking God's will in our life . . . no matter what!

For the Family

Review our story so far:

After hearing a report that Jerusalem was in ruins, Nehemiah prayed and planned what to do. The king gave him permission to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls. He traveled to Jerusalem, inspected the walls, and rallied the people to rebuild them. The people replied, "Let us rise up and build." Nehemiah spread out groups of people around the wall, and they began repairing and rebuilding the wall, and repairing the gates.

Read together Nehemiah 4:6–9.

Explain that the people of Jerusalem had enemies who didn't want the wall to be built. These people made fun of them and said they would never be able to finish. They threatened to hurt them if they kept going. The people became discouraged and some wanted to stop working. But they did two things that helped them to keep going.

Read together verse 9:

*And we prayed to our God
and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.*

They did two things: (1) They prayed. (2) They set a guard.

They asked God to do his part, and then they did their part.

Talk together about how important it is for your family to pray to God for help and protection. We need to trust him that he will always do his part.

Then talk together about how you as a family do your part. Talk about the family rules you have that help and protect your family. For example: locking doors, and using car seats or seat belts. Review the things you do as a family to keep each other safe.

Pray together that God will help and protect you from his enemies. Tell him you will obey the family rules that help keep everybody safe.

Next Week: Restoring the Community