

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

NEHEMIAH SERIES

These questions are for the **October 9, 2016** sermon, "External Challenges." Please read the sermon passage (Nehemiah 4:1-23) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

AS OPPOSITION TO GOD'S WORK INTENSIFIES, SPIRITUAL LEADERS SHOULD . . .

1. **Analyze the opposition discerningly** (1-3)
 - A. Where is the opposition coming from? Why do they oppose God's work?
 - B. Note how long-standing enemies unite against God and God's people.
2. **Seek the Lord prayerfully** (4-6)
 - A. When you get news of strong opposition, restrain your lips.
 - B. When you get news of strong opposition, let your words fly to the Lord in prayer.
 - C. It does little good to be a person of action if you are not first a person of prayer.
 - D. When you pray, expect God to do something. And wait for Him.
3. **Equip the workers effectively** (7-14)
 - A. Note the danger of the "half-way" point. Sometimes things get harder here.
 - B. Pray. And post a guard. Note the responsibility to wisdom.
 - C. Note the conditions of your tired workers. Adjust strategies and deadlines as needed.
4. **Adjust their methods wisely** (15-20)
5. **Advance the work courageously** (21-23)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Where is your opposition coming from right now? Are you fully aligned with God? Take note of those who oppose God's work and God's people.
2. Based on #2, above: When you sense resistance, or just get bad news, how do you typically respond? Nehemiah restrained his lips in the presence of his enemies, but opened his lips to the Lord. In what way can you benefit from these priorities?
3. Based on #3, above: Sometimes a good leader takes account of the mindset of the workers, and decides to slow down the pace of the project. How can your parenting benefit from this advice? What about your profession? What about your marriage?
4. Based on #4, above: In your marriage, what method needs adjusting? In your parenting, what method needs adjusting?
5. Based on #5, above: Even if we need to change our methods, we still need to be committed to the work God has called us to. After "the wall is half-built" we must remain focused on finishing the job. How can we pray for you to remain focused on finishing tasks? What is a "half finished task" that God may be calling you to finish?