

NEHEMIAH

BUILDING
MINISTRY
TOGETHER

Lesson 6: Nehemiah 4:1-23 Building Ministry Through Opposition

Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

James Montgomery Boice says, "Opposition is almost always caused by success and not failure." Once we get our teamwork up and running we must accept ridicule, expect opposition, deal with discouragement and don't stop doing what God is asking us to do! This is another exciting week in Nehemiah. Pray that God will bless your leadership.

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min

Activity 1: Keep Your Eyes on the Lord When you begin to serve the Lord, opposition will be a part of your journey. It is essential that your eyes are firmly fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Start your activity time today with praise songs to God. A great way to accept ridicule and deal with discouragement is to have a high view of God and His glory.



Sing "My God is so Big": My God is so big, so strong and so mighty there's nothing my God cannot do. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do. He made the sky, he made the seas, he made the elephants too. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do!

Sing "Awesome God": Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above. With wisdom power and love, our God is an awesome God.
(Repeat)

Activity 2: Do You Have What It Takes? Enduring faithfulness, do you have it? When hard times come will you sit down and give up, or will you press on and run like one who wants to win?! Have a mini Olympics with your group. Here are some events you can try:

- The One-leg Stand - see who can stand on one leg the longest
- Eternal Jog - see who can jog in place the longest
- Great Pillow Lift - see who can hold a pillow over their head for the longest
- Great Block Build - see who can stack the most blocks before they fall over

Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have a small snack for the kids like pretzels or cheerios to help encourage quiet mouths and listening ears. Pray and thank God for directing our steps and using our plans to work in His great plan. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

Read Nehemiah 4:1-16 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. 2 He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?" 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, "Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!" 4 Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders. 6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. 7 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. 8 All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. 9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

10 Thus in Judah it was said, "The strength of the burden bearers is failing; Yet there is much rubbish; And we ourselves are unable to rebuild the wall." 11 Our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work." 12 When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from every place where you may turn," 13 then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows. 14 When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

15 When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work. 16 From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains were behind the whole house of Judah.

Discuss with the children what the verses mean. We've heard these names, Sanballat and Tobiah, before. They are always making trouble. **What were the men Sanballat and Tobiah doing?** (*making fun of Nehemiah and the people*) **What are two things Nehemiah did when that happened?** (*he prayed and kept working*) **Were Sanballat and Tobiah happy about this?** (*no, they were VERY angry*) **What did they do in their anger?** (*they made a plan to come and fight them*) **When Nehemiah heard of the plan, what did he do?** (*he prayed again and got ready to protect themselves*) **The people were very sad and discouraged, but what did Nehemiah do?** (*he told them to not be afraid, but to remember the Lord*)

Let's memorize this week's verse:

"...Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome..." Nehemiah 4:14b

Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Pass out the memory verse coloring sheets and have children color them. As you color repeat the verse several times to help the words sink in!

Closing/Clean Up 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room. Praise God for a wonderful group of young people!



**“...DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEM.
REMEMBER THE LORD, WHO IS
GREAT AND AWESOME...”
NEHEMIAH 4:14B**