

NOTES & QUESTIONS

OPPOSITION? OF COURSE!

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NEHEMIAH 4:1-23; 6:1-15

Introduction

1. What it _____
2. How to _____
3. Where it _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

Icebreaker: Describe a specific situation in which you were too outspoken about something. Describe a specific situation in which you were not outspoken enough.

1. Read Nehemiah 4:1-3. In what ways were Sanballat and Tobia's criticisms of Nehemiah's project destructive? List as many differences as possible between constructive and destructive criticism.

2. Christ Community Church's Places Need Churches campaign comes with a price tag. Why might someone object that \$18M is too much (multiple answers)? How did the sermon respond to objections regarding the cost?

3. Read Nehemiah 4:7-9. What threat did Sanballat & Co. make against Nehemiah's wall-building team? A subtle threat against Christ Community Church's Places Need Churches campaign is that people will leave the church if we talk about money. Craft a response to this treat based upon Matthew 6:19-24 and 2 Corinthians 8:7-9.

4. Read Nehemiah 4:10. What discouraged the wall-builders? If you were a leader at Christ Community Church, what aspects of the Places Need Churches campaign might be discouraging? What about the campaign might be encouraging? (List as many discouraging/encouraging possibilities as you can think of.)

5. Read Nehemiah 6:1-4. Why did Sanballat try a new strategy against Nehemiah? If Sanballat just wanted to talk, why did Nehemiah turn him down? One of the diversions to the Places Need Churches campaign would be to raise money instead for a different (sexier) kind of project - such as hurricane disaster relief. So why does Christ Community Church consider the revitalization of two struggling churches to be so important?

6. Read Nehemiah 6:5-8. Why did Sanballat leave his letter to Nehemiah unsealed? Someone might accuse Christ Community Church's adoption of two new campuses as being a "hostile takeover" or an arrogant promotion of our brand. Why would those accusations be inaccurate? Why wouldn't Christ Community Church give two churches the money to revitalize themselves?

7. Read Nehemiah 4:4-6, 9. What are the two major ways in which Nehemiah and his team responded to the five kinds of opposition (ridicule, threats, discouragement, diversions, and accusations)? Why is each a great response (multiple answers)?

8. Make a list of things to pray for with regard to the Places Need Churches campaign. Take time to pray.

9. Read Nehemiah 6:15-16. How did Nehemiah ultimately defeat his opponents? What is the lesson here for our Places Need Churches campaign?

10. What are your two best takeaways from this study for personal application?