

**"Sulfuric Acid to the Soul"**  
Nehemiah 4:1-9

**Ice Breaker:**

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me." How did teasing and name calling affect you as a child?

Describe your childhood nemesis. How did you deal with them?

**Read: Nehemiah 4:1-9**

1. What insight, principle or observation did you find to be most fresh, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. From what kind of criticism/opposition is it most difficult for you to take?
  - A. Strangers/non-believers?
  - B. Church members?
  - C. Family?
3. Analyze the various verbal attacks made against the wall builders. Which would have been the most effective against you?
4. What are the various ways Satan works to keep us from building up our faith in Jesus? Which techniques are most effective against you?
5. What would you say to your friend who declares, "I pray to God and fully believe that He will take care of things for me without me having to do anything."
6. How would you respond to your friend who says, "I deal with problems on my own. I believe God has given me everything I need to take care of myself."
7. Give an example when you prayed in a tough situation and also took action to bring about the results God wanted.
8. What are some modern day examples of opposition to God, His plan, His people?
9. When in your life have you felt the strongest opposition to accomplishing something you felt God wanted you to do? What did you learn from it?

**Pray with each other:**

February 18, 2018

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*Criticism.* Who do you think you are trying to attempt this for God? You are just a "holy joe" on a spiritual power trip trying to make us all look bad. You think that working on your marriage is going to make any difference at all in three months from now? You have dug such a huge financial hole you will never be able to fill it in. You will never be good enough . . . *criticism.*

How are we to respond when they start taking shots at us?

1. Expose the critics. (verses 1-3, 7-8)
  
2. Analyze the attacks. (verses 2, 3, 7-8)
  
3. Respond like Nehemiah. (verses 4-6, 9)
  - A. Pray
  
  - B. Persist

**Next Step:**

Think back to a very difficult time in your life when you faced criticism/opposition. What would you have missed out learning had you not gone through it? How will you respond differently next time?