

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**SMI Week 4**

**Day 1**

**Nehemiah 4:1-23**

Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 and answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think Sanballat was so opposed to Nehemiah's efforts? What weapons does he use against Nehemiah and his team? How effective was it in slowing down the project?
2. What is jealousy? What is behind this powerful emotion that prompts people to become agitated and upset when others succeed?
3. To whom does Nehemiah turn in the face of opposition (v.4)? What does he say that surprises you? What effect does this prayer have on his own people?
4. What was the next threat brought against Nehemiah's team (vv.7-8)? How do the Jews meet this threat?
5. The next threat is primarily internal, from within their own ranks—what is it? How does Nehemiah encourage his people to persist? What does he want them to remember (v.14)?
6. Do you think we will face opposition in SMI? Why? What do you think could be our biggest opposition? What should our response be if and when it comes?

**Nehemiah 4:1-23**

Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 and answer the following questions.

1. What can you learn from Nehemiah's response to opposition? How can you apply this as a leader or when you face opposition personally?
2. What happens when the Jews return to work? How was the plot of their enemies foiled?
3. How does Nehemiah show his "nitty-gritty" level of involvement in the building effort? How does he show his dependence on God?
4. What is it in your life that you tend to do "with all your heart" (see v.6)? Why? Does this need to change?
5. Is there an area of your life that is overcrowded with "rubble"? If so, what is it? In what ways are you trusting God and cooperating with others to build something positive out of that rubble?

**Nehemiah 4:1-23**

Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 and answer the following questions.

1. When in your life have you felt the strongest opposition to accomplishing something you felt God was leading you to do? How did you respond?
2. How does this chapter illustrate a good balance between trusting in God and being prepared to take action yourself? What can you learn from this and apply to your life?
3. "When God's people attempt to do God's work in God's way, there will always be opposition." Evaluate this statement. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? Does this statement discourage you from wanting to do God's work? Explain.
4. Do you think the people were stronger because of the opposition they faced? What can you learn from this to help you in the face of opposition?
5. What do you most appreciate about Nehemiah and the Israelites in this chapter? Why? What lessons or principles do you see for your own life?

Read 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

1. How was the situation Hezekiah faced similar to the events described in Nehemiah 4? What similarities do you see in the way these two leaders responded to hostility and threats?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How was the battle won? What do you learn from this?

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-47

3. How did Goliath ridicule and threaten David? What was the outcome of the contest? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do you learn about opposition to God's work from these passages? How does God typically respond?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

5. What does this passage say about God using feeble tools or persons to accomplish His work?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Why do you think God chooses to use the "weak to shame the strong"?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

7. What does Paul say about his own ministry? What explanation does he give for this in verse 5?

