

Review:

Lesson 1: God's Callings

Lesson 2: Pray First

Lesson 3: First Steps

Lesson 4: A Strategic Plan

Facing Opposition

Nehemiah 4:1-9

When God invites us to join Him in a work that does not bow to the existing power dynamic in a family, organization or community, we can expect _____ from those most invested in that dynamic.

Discussion 1. Have you ever had to initiate significant change in your family or organization or community? If so, where did the opposition come from? Did it surprise you?

Ridicule and mockery are tools of worldly political and social power, often used to oppose God's people and God's ways. They are not tools of Spiritual power and have _____ in the doing of Kingdom work.

Discussion 2. Think back on your childhood days in the schoolyard. What is at the very root of mockery and making fun of others? What do we gain from it when we participate in it? Do you still have it in you to behave that way? If so, how is the Spirit growing you in that area?

When doing kingdom work and then facing opposition, the first and best response is always prayer. Then, unless God gives clear direction otherwise, we should _____ on the last thing we know He called us to do. In the kingdom of God, prayer and focus go hand in hand.

Discussion 3. If we are relying on social or political power to move our project forward, we know the kinds of things we must do to access that power. What kinds of things must we do if we are relying on God's power to move a project forward? Why don't we do those things?

Genuine reliance on God's power rather than on the powers of this world means the _____ of our _____ should match (or surpass) the intensity of our opposition.

Discussion 4. What do you think it means to "increase the intensity of our prayer"? Does it mean to pray longer? More often? Louder? If not those things, then what?