

Say “Oh No” to Ono

How to Survive Personal Attacks

Nehemiah 6:1–19

In chapter six, we find three subtle attacks on the character of Nehemiah—each designed to destroy his effectiveness as a leader.

1. “Plan A:” _____
Nehemiah 6:1–4

2. “Plan B:” _____
Nehemiah 6:5–9

3. “Plan C:” _____
Nehemiah 6:10–16

For the Family

Review our story so far:

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to repair the walls around the city. He inspected the walls, and rallied the people to rebuild them. He spread people around the wall, and they began the work. Some enemies of Jerusalem tried to stop them, but Nehemiah prayed and set up some guards. There were some people who did not have food for their families. Nehemiah encouraged some rich people to share what they had.

Read together Nehemiah 6:1–5.

Explain that Sanballat was trying to get Nehemiah to stop working. Nehemiah told him he was doing a great work, and couldn't stop. He knew Sanballat was trying to trick him.

Read together Nehemiah 6:6–9.

Explain that Sanballat began telling lies about Nehemiah. He told people that the Jewish people planned to rebel against the king, and that Nehemiah himself planned to be king. Nehemiah told him that none of that was true, that Sanballat had just made it all up, to get Nehemiah into trouble with the king.

Read together Nehemiah 6:10–13

Explain that Sanballat hired a prophet to tell Nehemiah a false prophecy that he should hide in the Temple, because there were people trying to kill him. Nehemiah said he wouldn't hide from anyone, and that it was wrong for him to go into the temple, because he wasn't a priest.

Talk together about how when we are doing an important job, that sometimes people will try to stop us. They may try to trick us to do something else instead of what we are supposed to be doing. They may tell lies about us and spread false stories. They might even try to get us to do something that we know is wrong. Don't let anything stop you from doing the right thing.

Pray together that you will always do the right thing, even if people try to stop you with tricks, lies, or threats. Thank God for the opportunity to do great things for him.

Next Week: Father's Day