**Dealing With Opposition**

Does opposition in Christian ministry cause problems for you?  How does the Christian leader today deal with the opposition that comes from echo-chamber thinking, slander, and misinformation?  In this workshop, we will look at Nehemiah’s example and see how his response to opposition can be applied to the problems of today.

**Ann Pritchard Blaser** has led women through Bible Study Fellowship International for thirty years, teaching Scripture classes for women and training leadership groups. Her work now consists of mentoring and advising other women who are teaching and training leaders in Bible Study Fellowship. She is responsible for visiting classes and observing the training and teaching taking place and for giving encouragement and shepherding to the teachers. She is involved in her church through discipling, teaching, and writing training materials. Ann is married to Bill, and they have two children and two grandsons.

**Introduction:**

Principle: Prayer is the first step in overcoming opposition.

Illustration: My experience

1. **The Beginnings of Opposition – Ridicule**
2. Any work of God can expect to experience opposition from the evil one
3. Nehemiah’s wisdom
4. Winsomeness and inspiration
5. The Enemy
6. Ridicule

Principle: Media bias in the form of ridicule is difficult opposition to overcome.

Illustration: Judge Amy Coney Barrett

Application: How is the believer called to respond to ridicule and lies? How have you responded to the opposition of ridicule in your life?

1. **Physical Opposition Nehemiah 4:7-23**
2. Antiquities by Josephus
3. The necessary leadership
4. Opposition to churches in the U.S. during Covid
5. 5: 1-19

Principle: The leader must set an example and respond to opposition with integrity and continued work.

Illustration: A church

Illustration: Echo chamber thinking

Application: How does the leader of a ministry respond when their ministry is falsely accused by echo chamber thinking instead of biblical thinking? How would you want to respond?

1. **Opposition of Misinformation**
2. Efforts of Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem
3. Fake news

Illustration:

1. **Opposition of Personal Harm**
2. Nehemiah 6:10-13
3. A reprehensible threat

Principle: The truth of Scripture over-rules all.

Illustration: A conversation with a friend

Application: In what circumstances have you had difficult conversations with someone? How did you respond to beliefs that are different than yours?

Conclusion: