1. **Opposition begins**
   a) Ezra 4:1-5 Why do you think the Jewish exiles who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel refused the assistance of neighboring tribes to rebuild the Temple?
   b) What clues in this passage confirm their decision was the right one?
   c) Think of other times Satan tried to use deception to undermine God’s plan for the human family.
   d) What was intention of Tattenai, the governor of the region beyond the Euphrates, when he sent a letter to King Darius? Ezra 5:8-17
   e) What warning to King Darius include when he responded to Tattenai’s letter? Ezra 6:11-12
   f) What lesson can we learn from these experiences when we face opposition?

2. **Encouragement from prophets of God**
   a) Ezra 5:1-2 Why was the arrival of Haggai and Zechariah such an encouragement to Zerubbabel?
   b) What specific message from God did Haggai deliver to Zerubbabel? Haggai 1:1-11
   c) How did Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the remnant of the Jewish exiles respond? Haggai 1:12-15
   d) Share a time when the LORD sent you a message of reproof or encouragement through the writings of one of His prophets.

3. **Opposition during the time of Nehemiah 444 BC**
   a) What lessons can we learn from the way Nehemiah responded to those who opposed his work? Nehemiah 4:1-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9,
   b) What internal opposition did the returned exiles experience from their own countrymen? Nehemiah 4:12
   c) How did Nehemiah respond to opposition from without and within? Nehemiah 4:13-18, 19-23
   d) Share a time when you experienced intense opposition as you sought to faithfully fulfill the mission assignment given to you by Jesus.

4. **Accomplishing a great work**
   a) Nehemiah 6:1-16 How was it possible for Nehemiah and his team to accomplish such a “great work” in 52 days?
   b) Name some other Bible characters through whom God was able to accomplish a “great work” because of their willingness to obey His word.
   c) The great work given to us by Jesus is impossible from a human perspective. There is intense external and internal opposition. How is it possible for God to accomplish a great work in us and through us?