

Prophets to Judah - Part 2

Nehum

What is God like?

God is holy, good, and loving.

The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he
has made.
Psalm 145:9

Story Point:

God sent prophets to tell the people to repent of their sins.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - Spot the Difference
- ☐ Starter Activity - Time Is Up



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Memory Motions
- ☐ Group Craft - Made Special
- ☐ Group Activity - Who Is God Like?

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Our hyper-vigilant culture is full of warnings: warnings of what will happen if you take certain medicines, warnings not to use forbidden words in particular places, authoritative warnings against actions deemed inappropriate or illegal, and many more.

Though at times these warnings may feel harsh, unnecessary, or far too limiting, they exist to guide people to right decisions that are often best for them and the people around them.

The same is true with the warnings we find in the Bible, both those directed toward people in a particular place at a particular time and those generally made for all readers of all times. They exist as God's reminder to us of what is ultimately for our good.

The warnings of Nahum fit this bill as well. These warnings come as stern and even harsh language through the prophet, intended to wake up a group of spiritually sleepy people who had again turned to their wicked ways. Nahum warned of a coming judgment and painful punishment. He warned of devastation and destruction as a consequence for sin.

Yet, these warnings stood as God's gracious gift to rebellious people. Through the prophet Nahum, God told these people of His holiness, their sin, His pending consequences, and the urgency with which they ought to take heed to these warnings.

I can imagine that these people could have received these in much the same way that we often receive warnings today: frustrations with the limitations, severity, and apparent inconvenience they present. However, as we see throughout the pages of Scripture, these warnings serve as an invitation to people far from God to turn to Him for hope, joy, and peace that can only be found by His grace.

The next time you read the warnings of Scripture, celebrate the hope they bring as they demonstrate His good grace to show us a better way, the way to Him. Remember, God doesn't desire devastation but true repentance that results in ultimate deliverance.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1.
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God is patient and kind.
- *TRUST in Him and His promises.
- *GO to God in their times of trouble.



As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS:

WELCOME

Spot the Difference

activity page,
pencils,
markers

What safe places can people go to when a storm comes, such as a tornado or a hurricane? Or who do you go to when you are in trouble?

Invite kids to complete the "Spot the Difference" activity page.

Great job finding all of the differences between the two pictures! God gave a special message to the people of Israel through the prophet Nahum. Let's read our Bible story to hear Nahum's message.



STARTER

Time Is Up

- Wooden Jenga Blocks
- Small beanbag

Form groups of three or four kids. Provide each group with a set of wood blocks and a small beanbag.

Instruct kids to build the tallest tower they can that will support the beanbag. Tell kids they will have one minute to build it. Do not give any warnings of how much time is left. Stop kids when one minute is up.

Lead kids to build a tall tower again that will support the beanbag. Tell kids that this time you will warn them how much time is left for them to build their towers. Give kids warnings when they have 30 seconds, 15 seconds, and 5 seconds remaining. Discuss how it was helpful to have the warnings because it allowed them to work faster to build their towers.

SAY: God loved the Israelites, so He sent prophets to warn them and plead with them to turn from idolatry and turn back to Him. Today, we will learn how God used Zephaniah to warn the people.



ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1-2 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Prophets to Judah – Part 2

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

Open your Bible to Nehum.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Call and response: Tell the Bible story and encourage the kids to participate in call and response. The teacher will say, “Who is like God?” The kids will respond, “No one is like God!” Remind kids that Nahum told the people there is no one like God.

Listen for “Message”: Direct kids to listen for the word “message” and hold their hand to their ear when they hear the word. Remind kids that we should always listen carefully to God’s Word.

God gave a message to Nahum (NAY huhm) the prophet. Nahum took God’s message to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. The Assyrians were mean, evil people. They were enemies of God’s people, and God was going to judge them.

First, Nahum told the people what God is like. God is a jealous God. That means He wants people to worship only Him. Only God deserves to be worshiped. When people worship created things, they are saying that those things are like God. But nothing is like God!

Nahum said God punishes the guilty, those who do wrong. He is angry with His enemies, and He will judge them. God does not lose His temper; He is patient.

He is powerful, too. When God comes, He will make the sea and the rivers dry up. The mountains will shake, and everyone will be afraid. No one can stand up against the power of God.

Nahum said the Lord is good. When there is trouble, He is a safe place. He takes care of people who trust in Him. But the people of Nineveh did not trust in Him. They were God’s enemies, and He was going to destroy them.

Then Nahum took a message to God’s people: “The Assyrians are strong and have big armies, but I will defeat them. You have been hurt, but you won’t hurt anymore.” The Assyrians had power over God’s people, but God was going to set His people free!

God’s message was bad news for Nineveh and good news for the people of God. Peace was coming for God’s people! Now they could worship God and obey Him freely. Their enemies would be gone.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Nahum brought a message of comfort to God's people, reminding them that God loves His people and will protect them from their enemies.

Jesus also brought a message of comfort, salvation, and peace to His people. All of the enemies of God and His children were defeated at the cross. One day, God will finally judge all evil.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

**

Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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Blank paper, Bible
Story coloring
page, colored
pencils/crayons

In small groups (or as a large group), pass out the coloring page and have children color while you talk through these questions.

Nahum told the people what God is like. The Ninevites did not worship Israel's God. Nahum told the Ninevites that God is perfect and cannot be with sin. **What else did Nahum say was true about God?** [Allow responses.] Yes, Nahum said that God was patient, powerful, and good. But, God was not happy with the evil the people were doing. Nahum warned Nineveh that God's judgment was coming because of their sin.

What did Nahum tell the people of Nineveh God was going to do? [Allow responses.] The people of Nineveh did not trust in God and so God was going to destroy them. God could have destroyed Nineveh without any warning, but He didn't. He was patient and kind and gave them a warning. Even though this was bad news for the Assyrians, it was good news for God's people. He was going to bring them freedom.

God is patient and kind with us too. He has given us His Word and His Son, Jesus, to warn us that sin always leads to death. He sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and give us life through Him. When we trust in Jesus, we are freed from the death sin brings.



Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God is merciful and just.

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That I can trust that He is good and is faithful to all who believe in Him. That God is quick to forgive when I turn back to Him.



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the “Unit 15, Session 2” questions from kids video. (Same video as last week)
Prompt kids to discuss:

- Why were there multiple prophets in the Old Testament?
- How does the Bible help us see our sin and need for Jesus?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Key Passage Activity:

Bible Verse Mix-up

- Key Passage Poster

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 145:9 together.

Have the children stand up and do some motion on each of the words.

The first one is, “Let’s clap on each word.” Then, say the verse together and clap on each word.

Depending on time, do about 5-7 repetitions of this with different actions each time. The actions are:

- Clap
- Snap
- Pat Your Leg
- Touch Your Nose and Whisper
- Stomp Your Feet

Pray together:

God, thank You for being loving and kind. You are patient and have given us a way to know You through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for Your grace! Amen.



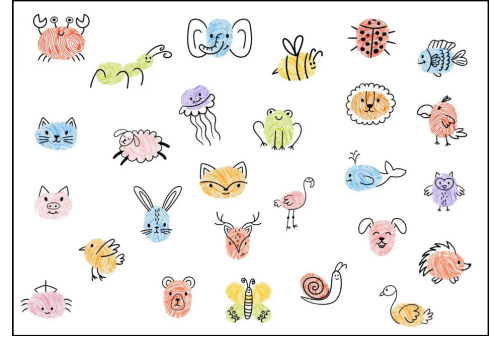
Made Special

- "God Made Me" paper
- Stamp pads
- Pens/pencils
- Baby wipes

Provide each kid with a piece of paper.

Place washable stamp pads at each table. Lead kids to stamp their thumb with the stamp pad.

Direct kids to stamp their thumb on the paper several times. Ask kids to look at their thumb prints and see all of the intricate lines and patterns. Then lead kids to compare their thumbprint with another kid.



Discuss how everyone has a unique thumbprint. Then, invite kids to make a picture out of their thumbprints, such as turning their thumbprints into a butterfly or a snowman.

(Pass out baby wipes to clean off the ink from their fingers)

SAY: Each one of you has a unique thumbprint. God knows exactly what thumbprint you have because He made you. God also knows what's in our hearts. He wants to save us from our sin. God cares for us and sent Jesus to save us.



Who is Like God?

- None

Invite kids to sit in their seats at their table. Challenge kids to think about God's character, what He is like.

Read the attributes below or choose other attributes. As you read them, write them on the board. If the attribute applies to God, kids will stand. If it does not, kids remain seated.

- Just
- Kind
- Impatient
- Jealous
- Forgiving
- Anxious
- Good
- Faithless
- Loving
- Merciful

SAY: There is no one like our God. In today's story, Nahum delivered a message that told the people what God is like. Let's thank God for his unchanging, always and forever love!