

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 - Warning!
- ☐ 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 - Circle Up!
- ☐ Small Group Activity - Bring the Good News
- ☐ Small Group Activity - Books of the Bible Sort

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:

Have you ever received a message from someone that was good news? What was it?

Invite kids to complete the "Warning!" activity page.

There are many different warning signs to help us avoid danger. God's Word also gives us warnings to help us turn away from things that will harm us. In today's Bible story, God speaks a message of warning through the prophet Nahum.

WELCOME

Warning!

activity page,
pencils,
markers



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!

**

In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

In our story today, we learned that God was going to bring judgment to Nineveh. The Bible teaches that God is a jealous God. **What does it mean to be jealous?** [Allow responses.] People may act jealous for selfish reasons. We don't like what someone has, so we become upset about it. But God's jealousy is always rooted in love. God is jealous for our love because we were made to worship Him alone.

Even though Israel had sinned against God, He promised to remain faithful to them. Look at Nahum 1:7. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Nahum 1:7.] Nahum told the people He would protect them from their enemies. He also told the people that God is good and protects those who trust in Him. We can always go to God in our troubles.

What did Nahum say was going to happen to the Assyrians? [Allow responses.] God also promised that He would bring judgment on the Assyrians. God must judge sin and the Assyrians continued to do what was evil. God's people would be free.

We can always find God to be a place of safety and comfort. Though God must judge sin, He has also provided a way for us to escape His judgment. Through Jesus, we can know with confidence that God will always be with us and promises to be a place of safety for us.



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page. 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:

Circle Up!

- Key Passage Poster
- Pool Noodle
- Index cards with words from verse

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

Give each kid an index card with a word from Psalm 145:9. Instruct kids to get in a circle in order of the words of the key passage.

Choose a volunteer to stand in the middle of the circle with a pool noodle. The volunteer will point at the kid with the first index card and go around the circle.

Lead kids to say the word on their card when the pool noodle is pointed at them. After each round, select a new volunteer to be in the middle.

As time progresses, increase the speed which the pool noodle is pointed at the kids. If time allows switch index cards around and play again.

Pray together:

Lord, thank You for the Bible and for the time today to learn from Your Word. Remind us of Your care for us and Your love shown to us through Jesus. Thank You for Your forgiveness and grace. Amen.



Bring the Good News

- Bibles
- Envelopes with Gospel message pictures and headings

Form groups of three or four kids.

Provide each group with a Bible and envelope with the following pictures and headings about the gospel.

Lead kids to try and put the pictures in order and match them with the headings.

Direct kids to think of how they would share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Help kids to think about the different parts of the gospel story such as sin; our need of a Savior; Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; how we should respond; etc.

Invite each group to share their gospel presentation with each other. Lead kids to think about how they can share this message with others this week.



Books of the Bible Sort

- Reference Sheet
- "Gotta Know the Books" song on the TV
- 5 sheets with corresponding book cut-outs

Talk about how Nehum and the other Minor Prophet books are not very big, but they still are meaningful and show us important information about God's character.

Since the Minor prophets are normally overlooked in the Old Testament, this seems like a good time to review the order of the books of the Bible.

You can review the Old and New Testament books with this song - "Gotta Know the Books" (<https://youtu.be/v3aRB1xMs5g>.)

Then, divide the class into table groups and have each group work on one of the following sections - putting the book cut-outs on the bookcase in the correct order. (without looking at the reference sheet!)

- Law
- History
- Poetry
- Minor Prophets
- Major Prophets

Have them check their work with the reference sheet. If time, switch the sheets with another table and have them put a different section in order.

