

Judgment of Nineveh

Nahum

MEMORY VERSE

NAHUM 1:7

“The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A cassette/CD player with music, index cards, felt tip pen, a paper bag and one gardening glove.

Two large bowls, three Chinese take-out food containers (if you cannot find containers, use three small bowls), felt tip pen, paper, and for each child a Ping-Pong ball or large marshmallow (marshmallows are easier to use for younger children) and a set of chopsticks or straws.

A paper plate for each child, scissors, a pencil, green and brown construction paper, glue stick, and markers or crayons.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Passing the Glove

Use this game to introduce today’s memory verse (“The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.”--NAHUM 1:7). You will need a cassette/CD player with music, index cards, felt tip pen, a paper bag and one gardening glove. To prepare before class, write each word of today’s Bible verse on a separate index card.

Place the index cards in order on the floor and read the verse aloud with the children. Repeat several times. Next, place the cards in a paper bag. Children form a circle. While you play music on a cassette/CD player, children pass a gardening glove from player to player. To pass the glove, each player must put it on his or her neighbor’s hand, and then that player takes it off and puts it on the

next player. When you stop the music, player wearing the glove chooses a card from the bag. The player then reads the word aloud and tries to finish the verse, beginning with that word.

LESSON TIME!

Nahum was a prophet to Nineveh. Do you remember a story about Nineveh and another prophet? Jonah was a prophet to Nineveh, too. Do you remember how the people of Nineveh responded to Jonah when he told them they were to be judged? They repented. They were genuinely sorry for their wickedness and turned to God for forgiveness.

Nahum came about 100 years after Jonah. A long time had gone by for the “great city” of Nineveh. A new generation of people had been born. These people had forgotten the warnings of the prophet Jonah. They had forgotten God and His ways. So, God sent Nahum to speak of judgment to Nineveh once again. **God is slow to anger; but one day, judgment will come.**

NAHUM 1:1-6

The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies;

The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.

He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, and the flower of Lebanon wilts.

The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, and the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him.

Does it seem like God is angry? God is full of mercy and compassion, but He is also just, holy, and righteous. Remember, when He made man in the beginning? Adam and Eve were without sin. If they had not disobeyed in the garden, man would not have ended up making war against one another, hating and killing, and seeking other gods. Sadly, as God looks at the history of man, He sees hatred, violence, idolatry, and pride. Sin has separated man from God.

God is perfect and holy. Sin cannot dwell in His presence. In Habakkuk 1:13 we read, “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.” If our sin is not dealt with, there remains only judgment. The good news is that God has provided a way for our sin to be forgiven and for us to be able to stand before Him in righteousness. At the time of Nahum, those who trusted God would look forward to the future when the Messiah (Jesus) would come to remove the sins of the world. Today, we look back to the time when Jesus came, died, and rose again for our sins. God has made a way for us to escape judgment through faith in Jesus Christ.

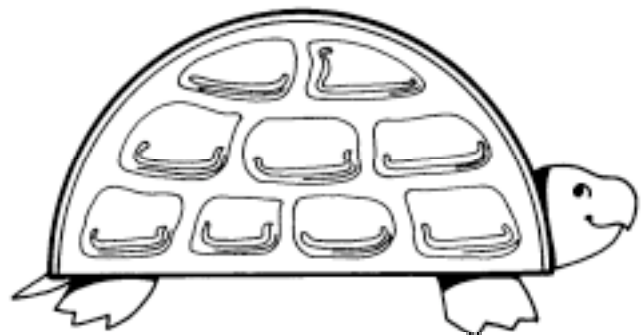
Remember, Nineveh had repented once; but, again, they became selfish and prideful, unconcerned with following God. Nahum 1:3 tells us God is slow to anger. He is patient. It might take a long time before God takes action, but He will not leave the guilty unpunished. He will eventually take action. Because He is holy and righteous, He cannot ignore sin forever. **God is slow to anger; but one day, judgment will come.**

What Do Turtles and Snails Have in Common?

They are both slow! Use this craft for children to remember that God is *slow to anger*. You will need a paper plate for each child, scissors, a pencil, green and brown construction paper, glue stick, and markers or crayons.

Have the children cut the paper plate in half. The children will be able to make both a turtle and a snail. One half of the paper plate can be used for the turtle shell and the other half can be used as the snail shell. Have the children draw a spiral on one of the plate halves for the snail and draw rounded squares on the other half plate to make a turtle shell. To make the turtle, draw a head, a tail, and two legs on green construction paper. Cut them out and glue onto the turtle shell. To make a snail, draw a head with two antennae and a large snail foot on brown construction paper. Cut them out and glue onto the snail shell.

Draw in eyes and a smile on each head. Write: "The Lord is slow to anger--Nahum 1:3" on each of the shells. After completing the craft, talk about how God is patient with us. Optional - Cut out green squares for the turtle shell



NAHUM 1:7-15

The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;
and He knows those who trust in Him.

But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter
end of its place, and darkness will pursue His
enemies.

What do you conspire against the LORD? He will make
an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a
second time.

For while tangled like thorns, and while drunken like
drunkards, they shall be devoured like stubble fully
dried.

From you comes forth one who plots evil against the
LORD, a wicked counselor.

Thus says the LORD: "Though they are safe, and
likewise many, yet in this manner they will be cut
down when he passes through. Though I have
afflicted you, I will afflict you no more;

For now I will break off his yoke from you, and burst
your bonds apart."

The LORD has given a command concerning you:
"Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of
the house of your gods I will cut off the carved
image and the molded image. I will dig your grave,
for you are vile."

Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.

Nahum's name means, "comfort." When Nahum turns from Nineveh to address God's people in Judah, he begins with a psalm of praise that reminds them of the greatness and goodness of God. Nahum tells the people of Judah that He will not let Nineveh pursue them or afflict them any more.

God is always keeping His eyes on His people. He sees everything we go through. We may not always understand His timing, but we know God keeps His promises and fulfills His Word. Nahum tells the people to celebrate their festivals and fulfill their vows. He tells them to enjoy their lives and enjoy their God because God's power will protect the righteous and judge the wicked. What a great promise to comfort us in this time in history. **God is slow to anger; but one day, judgment will come.**

NAHUM 3:1-7

Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs.

The noise of a whip and the noise of rattling wheels, of galloping horses, of clattering chariots!

Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, a great number of bodies, countless corpses—they stumble over the corpses—

Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, the mistress of sorceries, who sells nations through her harlotries, and families through her sorceries.

"Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts; "I will lift your skirts over your face, I will show the nations your nakedness, and the kingdoms your shame.

I will cast abominable filth upon you, make you vile, and make you a spectacle.

It shall come to pass that all who look upon you will flee from you, and say, 'Nineveh is laid waste! Who will bemoan her?' Where shall I seek comforters for you?"

Do you remember anything about Nineveh from the story of Jonah? It was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire. They controlled and ruled over the known world at that time. Far from being a God-fearing, righteous empire, the Ninevites were cruel. They had already invaded the Northern Kingdom of Israel and had carried off women and children to become their slaves. They had stolen Israel's wealth to increase their power.

In addition to their opposition and abuse of God's people, we read in Nahum 3:1,4 that idolatry and witchcraft were practiced. There was lying and deceit in the government. The Lord will not allow sinful practices to continue forever. In colorful language, Nahum explains the destruction of the cruel and proud city of Nineveh (3:10-19). The once powerful city will be brought to shame.

From history, we know that judgment did indeed come. Not long after these prophecies, Babylon attacked Nineveh and destroyed it. **God is slow to anger; but one day, judgment will come.**

Let us walk in the fear (deep respect) of the Lord, knowing God is gracious and merciful, but also righteous and just. Though God is patient, judgment will come to those who continue to practice wicked ways.

Chopstick Relay

Use this game to reinforce today's lesson. You will need two large bowls, three Chinese take-out food containers (if you cannot find containers, use three small bowls) felt tip pen, and paper. Also, for each child a Ping-Pong ball or large marshmallow (marshmallows are easier to use for younger children) and a set of chopsticks or straws. Prior to class, list true or false statements about the Bible story that you are teaching. Make them fairly obvious depending on the skill level of your class. You should have one statement for every two students in your class. Also include some statements that do not even relate to the story. They can be very obvious and even funny. Make three labels for the three containers. They should say, "True," "False" and "Not In Story." Place the containers on a table at one end of the room. At the other end of the room place the two large bowls filled with equal amounts of either Ping-Pong balls or marshmallows.

Divide the class into two equal teams. Have the teams form two lines, each line facing one of the bowls and have their backs to the containers at the opposite end of the room. Give each player a set of chopsticks.

The teacher should then read aloud a statement about the Bible story and say, "Go!" The player at the head of each line should then use their chopsticks to pick up a Ping-Pong ball (or marshmallow). He or she should then pass the ball to the next player using only their chopsticks. The ball is best passed if it rests on top of the chopsticks instead of being pinched. The ball should continue to be passed down the line from child to child until it reaches the last player in line. That player will then transport the

ball to the three containers and drop the ball into the container with the right answer for the statement. That player will then go to the head of the line and wait for the next statement. The first student to put the Ping-Pong ball in the correct container scores a point for his or her team. If the first team drops the ball into the wrong container do not tell the answer until the second team has a chance. If there is a tie, give both teams a point. Keep score and play until all players have gone through the line.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for His great salvation. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.