

Katie



The Sunday  
School Lady



## MINOR PROPHETS

### NAHUM

**Scripture:** Nahum 1:1-8

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Popsicle sticks, posicle sticks soaked 3 days in water, or PVC pipe that you can use heat on to melt and shape.

#### Ask:

Who remembers which prophet we spoke about last week? (Zephaniah)  
What can you tell me about him? (He prophesied either before or when King Josiah ruled. Josiah turned the people's hearts back to God when he heard the law.)

#### Explain:

Last week we learned all about people turning their hearts back to God when they heard the law, and the prophet Zephaniah likely wrote after that but helped in that cause. This week, unfortunately, we're going to talk about a people who didn't turn back to God. Well, they did, but then they went back to their old ways.

Does anyone remember who Jonah prophesied to? (Nineveh, another name for Assyria)

What happened when Jonah prophesied to the Ninevites? (They repented and turned back to God). Because they repented, God had mercy on them and didn't bring the destruction against them.

This prophet Nahum, however, comes 100 years after Jonah prophesied. Unfortunately, the people of Assyria went back to their old ways. Within only 100 years, they forgot all that Jonah had told them and went back to their old ways. They are the country that exiled Israel, the northern kingdom of Israel.

**Read:** Nahum 1:1-8

**Explain:**

These are the people that exiled the people of Israel. Assyria was known for brutally conquering people and destroying nations. They invaded, pillaged and destroyed many countries. Israel was one of them. God used them to punish his people, but he would not let them go unpunished either. They were given their warnings, but they continued in their wickedness.

We may not be exiling God's people and plotting against Israel, but we often learn about what God wants us to do and we maybe even listen for a while, right? But then we think, "Oh maybe it isn't a big deal," and go right back to what we used to do. Has anyone ever done that? I know I have. But God wants us to learn from the story of the Ninevites. He is slow to anger and so patient, but he does call us to turn from doing wrong. He calls us to repent and live the way he wants us to live. We aren't supposed to harden our hearts against him and his way of living. Instead, we are called to have soft hearts. In Ezekiel 36:26, another prophet, God explains that he will give his people a new heart. He will take away their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. He will put a new Spirit in them. That is true for us. Before we know Jesus, we have hard hearts. And after we know him, he gives us a new heart. But we have to be mindful. It is very easy to harden our hearts against things he's called us to do. And that is a bad road to take, because eventually, it can become hard to hear God's voice at all.

**Craft:**

Have the kids all grab a popsicle stick and bend it. As they bend them, they will break. This is what our hearts are like when we disobey God and when we return to our old ways. Now, please know that this is a lifelong struggle. We will never be perfect. We will face temptation and there will be times when we give in and make mistakes. God is gracious and forgives us when we run back to him again and again. But through his power, we are called to have soft hearts. If he wants us to give something up, we can trust that he knows what is best. If he's putting it on our heart to apologize about something, we can trust his call. The more we lean into and learn his voice, the more he can mold us and shape us to be more like him. The softer our hearts become. Now give the kids popsicle sticks soaked overnight in water. These they will be able to bend and twist without breaking. They can shape it into a heart or another shape.

**Explain:**

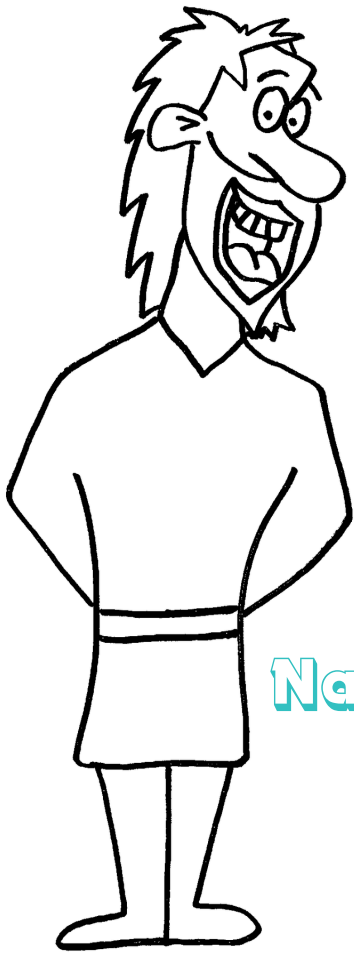
You see, when our hearts are hard, it feels like God's rules and ways of living are breaking us. But when we are soft, trusting the hands of the Potter and his perfect plans shaping us, we can allow him to mold us into something beautiful.

**Minor Prophet Timeline:**

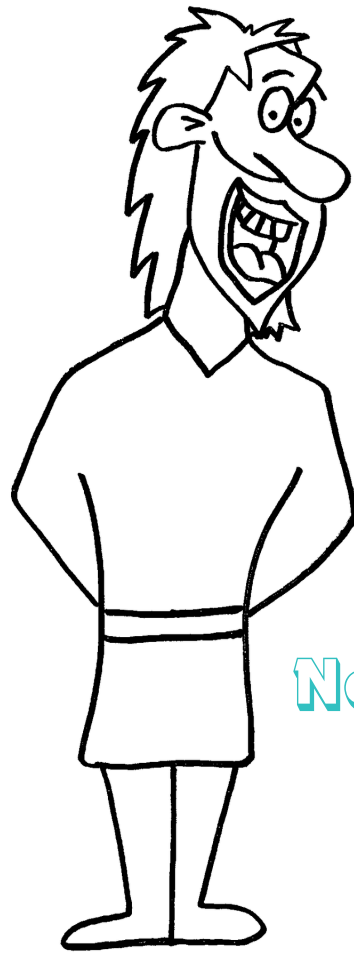
Have the kids color the picture of Nahum. He prophesied between 663–612 BC. He prophesied to Nineveh.

**Memorize:** Nahum 1:3

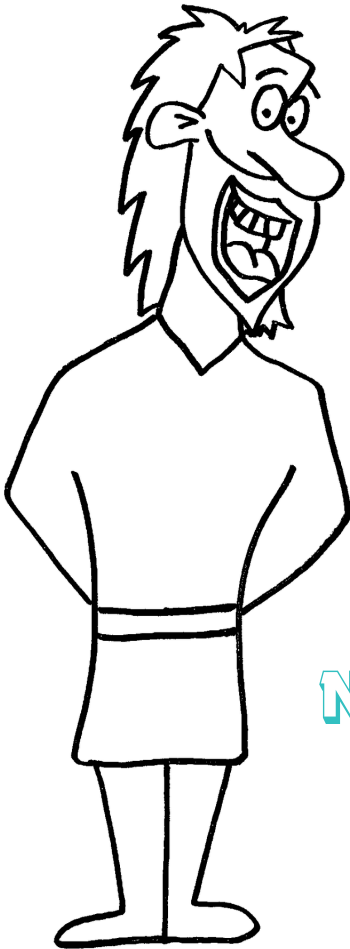
**Close in Prayer**



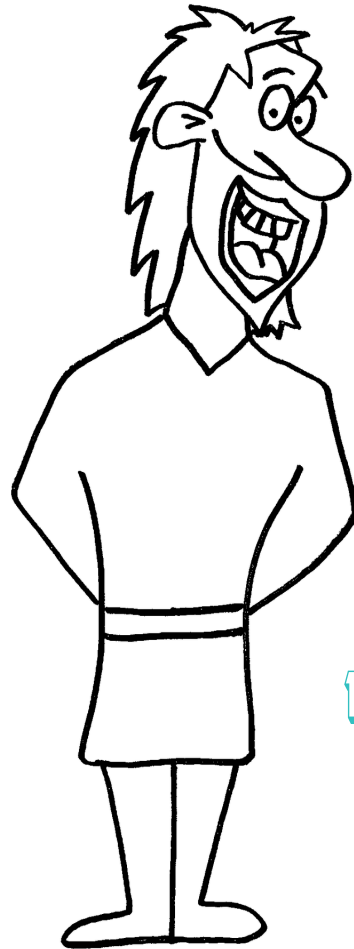
Nahum



Nahum



Nahum



Nahum