

**July 13, 2014 Sermon Application handout**  
"What God Does to Bullies"  
Nahum

**I. Introduction**

1. Before you begin, spend some time in prayer. Ask God to give you understanding that you may comprehend and embrace His attributes mentioned in this lesson.
2. Read Nahum 1 and make some general observations. Who wrote this book? Where is the writer from? How does the writer describe this book? Who was this message intended for?

**II. The Wrath of God R\_\_\_\_\_ (Nahum 1:2-6)**

3. Read Nahum 1:2-6. How does God feel about the wicked acts of the Nation mentioned in verse one? How is God described?
4. Read Exodus 20:1-6. When the Bible describes God as jealous; what idea is He trying to convey?
5. To better understand why God was zealous for his righteousness; read Jonah 3. What had God done with the city of Ninevah? How did Ninevah respond to God's compassion at that time?

6. What does the passage in Nahum 1:1-6 seem to indicate about Ninevah some years later? What had they become to God? What is assumed that they had gone back to, despite the revival they had experienced in Jonah's day? (Think through the Exodus passage).
  
7. What about you? What are some idols in your own life that are undermining your complete devotion to the Lord your God? How does remembering that God created you, redeemed you, sustained you, and cared for you motivate you to utterly destroy these idols? What steps will you take to continue to nurture your relationship with the Lord and allow nothing to get in the way of it?
  
8. Besides jealous, how else is God described in verse 2? Does this make you uncomfortable, why or why not?
  
9. Read through verses 3-6 once more and list out ways God is Powerful. How is He portrayed? Where does His power extend to?
  
10. In light of God's power, who according to verse 6 is able to stand before His indignation? Who is able to endure His enduring anger? What will His wrath be poured out like?

11. Reading about God's attribute of indignation, burning anger, and wrath can be a difficult and uncomfortable. But what does Psalm 7:11 say? What is your response to this?
  
12. Lest you feel this is attribute of God is just reserved for those in the Old Testament, how does the New Testament address this? Why is God's wrath revealed from heaven (Rom. 1:18)? Why does the wrath of God come upon the sons of disobedience (Eph. 5:6)? (also see. Eph 2:3 and John 3:36).
  
13. What about Jesus? Does God's Word describe Him as righteously angry and wrathful? Why or why not (cf. Ps. 2:11; Lk 12:49; Rev 19:15)? What is your response to this? Does it surprise you?
  
14. In your own opinion, why do you think the wrath of God is hardly ever preached on or written about? How popular do you think this attribute is? How uncomfortable are you with this attribute? What feelings does it conjure up inside you?
  
15. How does the following quote by J.I. Packer help you to see this attribute with new eyes? Why is it important to talk about and study?

“God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. God is only angry where anger is called for. Even among men, there is such a thing as righteous indignation, though it is, perhaps, rarely found. But all God's indignation is righteous.”

**III. One Reason Why God's Wrath is a Good Thing \_\_\_\_\_(Nahum 1:7-12)**

16. If God's Wrath makes you feel uncomfortable, think about this, "What if God did not hate sin? What if God was indifferent to it?" Would He be a loving God if He were an Apathetical God? Would He be a Good God if He simply shrugged His shoulders and did not allow these things to bother Him? Why or why not?
  
17. Now pause for a moment. Taking all of this into consideration, how can you personally find comfort in the wrath of God? Full-well knowing that He does hate sin with great intensity, that sin does incite His anger, and that He will respond in justice.
  
18. According to Nahum 1:7-8, why was it important for the people of God to know that God is Good and will be a refuge to those who trust in Him? But at the same time His enemies including Ninevah and the King of Assyria would experience His wrath?
  
19. What about you? Are you experiencing affliction or persecution? Read Romans 12:14-21. What are some important truths you can glean and obey according to this passage? What are some truths in this passage that especially stood out to you? What are some practical steps you can take to implement these truths into your life? Can you think of one person who you can share this with and be held accountable to?

20. According to Nahum 1:12-15, what is God essentially promising Judah? How is verse 15 especially comforting to those who were experiencing weariness and brutality at the hands of the Assyrians? How is the wrath of God bringing comfort to them?
  
21. End your time by reading Psalm 58:10 and 96:11. Ask God to help you rejoice in the fact that He will vindicate His righteousness. Praise Him that He will deal with all sin and evil in our world. Praise Him for His Wrath; knowing that it will move Him to carry out his judgment.
  
22. If after completing this lesson, you are convinced that you are not a believer—don't despair, there is always hope! God is always willing to forgive the sin that He hates so much. God makes forgiveness possible because He poured out His wrath upon His precious Son Jesus Christ who made a propitiation (satisfied God's Wrath) for those who would believe. So for any sinner, who turns from their sin, places their faith in the finished work of Christ, and cries out to be forgiven, God's wrath will no longer abide in them? Why? Because Jesus paid it all; God's wrath was satisfied in the perfect death of His Son Jesus Christ. God is a God of wrath but He is also a God of mercy. Place your complete trust in Jesus...."He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but He who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him"(Jn 3:36).

**Resources:**

**Specific Resources for Nahum:**

*Nahum* by Walter Maier

**General Resources for the Minor Prophets:**

*The Minor Prophets* by James Montgomery Boice

*The Minor Prophets* by Charles Feinberg

*The Prophets of Israel* by Leon Wood

*Major Points from the Minor Prophets* by John Blanchard

*A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* by Gleason Archer

*Interpreting the Minor Prophets* by Robert Chisholm Jr

*The Ultimate Priority on Worship* by John MacArthur

*Knowing God* by J.I. Packer