



Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

Learning the Old Testament books starting with Isaiah.

The Prophet:	Nahum
The People:	People of Nineveh
The Prophecy:	Destruction of Nineveh decreed by God
The Principle:	God is slow to anger, but He punishes evil.

Aim Questions:


1. Tell the name of today's prophet, the people he spoke to, what his prophecy was and what the principle from this book is. (*Nahum, People of Nineveh, Destruction of Nineveh decreed by God, God is slow to anger, but He punishes evil.*)
2. What things had the people of Nineveh done that deserved God's punishment?
3. How had the people of Nineveh been warned before, and what was their response?
4. What is God's punishment like today? What does the Bible say about who receives God's punishment?
5. Will you receive the punishment of God?


Hook:


Assyria, Babylon & Persia. Our study of the Old Testament will make more sense if we help children understand who ruled the world during the ministries of different prophets.

- ⇒ **King David**- *God blessed the Israelites in the days of King David.* Under his leadership the Israelites ruled the world.
- ⇒ **King Solomon** - *After King Solomon died the kingdom split North & South.* David's son Solomon had taxed the people so much that the Northern tribes rebelled after his death. Israel to the North and Judah to the South.
- ⇒ **Assyrian Empire** - When Assyria ruled the world, Sargon the king took the Northern Kingdom of Israel away to be slaves. *Hosea's the prophet when Israel must go, and where they all went no body knows.*
- ⇒ **Babylonian Empire** - The Assyrian Empire died when their capitol city, Nineveh, was conquered by Babylonian armies. It happened just like the prophet Nahum said it would. *Jeremiah warned Judah about Babylon. When the armies all left, the people were gone.* Babylon took the Southern Kingdom of Judah captive as slaves.
- ⇒ **Persian Empire.** The Prophet Daniel was living in Babylon when the Persians destroyed the city. *Isaiah told about the King of Persia, Cyrus, who would allow the Israelites to return to their homes from Babylon.*

In today's lesson we learn about a prophet who God sent to speak against Nineveh, the capitol of Assyria. Jonah had called the city of Nineveh to repentance 100 years earlier, but the Assyrians had become proud and reverted to their cruel ways. Assyria had served its purpose. God had used them to punish Israel, the Northern Kingdom.


 **Mystery Guest.** Bring in a mystery guest (*Nahum*) to share the adventure with the Bible students. Build up the fact that this person has come a long way to share with them. Remind the Bible students to be courteous. Sometimes it is hard to understand people from other countries.


 **OT/NT Book Game.** Have children form a single file line. The teacher will then say a book of the Bible. If it is in the New Testament, the Bible students jump to the right. If it is in the Old Testament, then the Bible students jump to the left. (*To help the Bible students, you may want to write New Testament/Old Testament on the corresponding sides of the board.*) Select one of your newer students to read from the table of contents and call out some books of the Bible.

 **Interrupting Person.** Several times during Bible school, have a person interrupt by carrying in a sign. On one side of the sign it says, "THE END IS NEAR," and on the other it says, "HERE COMES THE FLOOD."



Book:
Presentation Ideas -

 **Mystery Guest.** Have your mystery guest arrive to share the Bible Adventure today. This person is Nahum and he dresses appropriately. Perhaps he is a little hard to understand because he "*is not knowing our English so well.*"

 **Maps.** Use a map or a globe to show students the territory that was occupied by the Assyrians. **3NAH03JRGF3** if another map is not available.

Bible Adventure -

Last week we learned about one of God's prophets, Jonah, and how God sent him to the wicked city of Nineveh. Jonah was to warn the Ninevites that God was going to destroy them. Jonah did finally go and deliver God's message, and the result was that the Ninevites turned from their evil ways. God had compassion on them and decided not to bring destruction upon them.

One hundred years passed, and in that hundred years, something happened in Nineveh. The repentance and sorrow the people showed at Jonah's preaching didn't last. Slowly they began to forget the mercy God had shown to them. Over the years, they returned to the same evil that God had previously warned them about, but now it was even worse. We'll talk about that a bit more in a few moments.

God had watched Nineveh through those one hundred years, and His anger built against them. He called another of his prophets, Nahum, to deliver a message about Nineveh. The first thing God says through Nahum is that although His anger builds slowly, He will deal with evil. This time He deals with it in an awesomely powerful way. In the first chapter of Nahum, God reminds His people that He loves and cares for those who trust in Him. But He also says it is dangerous, and in this case fatal, to ignore God and to play around with sin. God tells Nineveh that He is preparing a grave for them, so great was their evil. In chapter two of Nahum, God describes what this destruction will be like. The Ninevites are scurrying about, trying to prepare themselves for the attack of an enemy army, but it does them no good. God causes a nearby river to flood, washing away a large portion of the city wall and enabling the defenders to come right into the city. The attack is furious. The flood not only takes the city wall but also dissolves the palace. The defenders flee in panic, the inhabitants are taken captive, and the city is looted and destroyed. The promise God made about preparing Nineveh's grave was fulfilled so completely that even the site of the city disappeared from history.

Chapter three of Nahum explains why God was totally just in His judgment of Nineveh. The Ninevites proved they did not honor God when they returned to their wicked ways of living. This probably did not happen all at once. They began with small sins which seemed harmless to them, but which led to greater offenses against God. Nahum 1:14 mentions the temples they had built to their many gods and the idols found within. They had turned their backs on the One True God. Nahum 3:1 calls Nineveh "the city of blood, full of lies." The Ninevites had returned to their cruel, violent ways. They did not care about the truth, choosing to believe lies. They even became involved in sorcery or witchcraft, seeking more knowledge and power from their false gods. From the beginning, God had condemned this practice, warning that participating in it was punishable by death. For their involvement in sorcery alone,

God was justified in what He did. In spite of Nineveh's great power and position, the destruction she undergoes is final and cannot be repaired.

God has not changed since His dealings with Nineveh. He is holy, and must punish sin. At times it may seem that God lets evil go unpunished. He is described and even describes Himself all through the Bible as being slow to anger. But this doesn't mean He has forgotten, only that He withholds His anger in order to be merciful. The Bible also teaches that He has a set time for dealing with the sins of the wicked and those who refuse to repent. We can be tempted at times to think that God will not do anything about our sin, because we don't see the consequences of it as yet. That's because God, in His mercy, is withholding His anger from us. But if we continue in sin, we can be assured that God has a set time for dealing with us, too. We are not different from the Ninevites. If we allow something to be more important to us than God, we are worshipping an idol. Have you ever lied or maybe just bent the truth a bit? If you have, you are just as guilty as the Ninevites. God has the right to punish you as He did them. It may not be the same type of punishment. Romans 3:23 says that the punishment for our sin is death. The only way we can escape that punishment is if some else will take it for us. That's what Jesus did for us. Jesus was punished for you by dying in your place. If you want to receive the forgiveness that He offers you, then you have to admit your sin, turn from it, believe that what Jesus did was real, and follow His example for the rest of your life.

How about you? Have you been fooling yourself into believing that your sin isn't that big or that God isn't going to do anything about it? Just as in the days of Nahum, God is still slow to anger. God's punishment will come some day, and without Jesus, we have no more hope than the people of Nineveh.



Look:



Nahum Word Search. Find the 16 words in the list provided. When the search is complete, look for an attribute of God (*Hint: It is a three word phrase--slow to anger*). **3NAH03JR.GF1**



Jumble. Unscramble the 4 words. Use the circled letters to make a phrase that the picture illustrates (*Shower, Gallon, Toyota, Orange, SLOW TO ANGER*). **3NAH03JR.GF1**



Here Comes the Flood Game. Needs: One obnoxious game host, 2 buzzers and a game board. (*This is a spin-off of Family Feud.*) Divide the group into two teams. Inform them that the team that doesn't win will be in a flood. At that point, pick up a bucket of water, show it and set it off to the side. (*You will need two buckets: one with water, the other full of confetti. The second bucket is hidden near the first.*)

Bring the first players from each team up to the front of the class. Buzzers should be ready for them to **BUZZ!**

Explain to the students that you are going to ask them a question. The first person to buzz in with an answer gets the opportunity to respond. Only the top 6 responses made the survey. Ready?

What would you wear to a flood?

RAIN COAT 55
OLD CLOTHES 15
HIPWADERS 10
GALOSHES 10
RAIN HAT 9
HIGH WATER PANTS 1



For the second question, send a different person from your team to the front.

What happened to Nineveh?

RIVER FLOODS (*takes out a wall*) 50
INVADERS COME INTO CITY 20
INHABITANTS TAKEN CAPTIVE 10
CITY LOOTED 10
CITE OF CITY DISAPPEARED 9
A WHALE SWALLOWED IT 1

If the team giving responses gives three that don't make the survey then the other team gets an opportunity to respond. If they get one of the responses, then they get the points!! Unfortunately, the team that didn't win is in a flood, let 'em have it!



Took:

Memory Work. Isaiah through Malachi. Use the Wee Sing Bible Songs, or utilize the contents in the front of your Bibles. Try to say the books of the Old Testament without looking!

Review. Review the Aim Questions.

1. Tell the name of today's prophet, the people he spoke to, what his prophecy was and what the principle from this book is.
2. What things had the people of Nineveh done that deserved God's punishment?
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4. What is God's punishment like today? What does the Bible say about who receives God's punishment?
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Introducing "Nahum". Using the Prophet Flash Cards, introduce the book of Nahum. It will be important this year to review the four P's of each book so that students will be able to remember more than a list of strange names from the Old Testament.

The Prophet:	Nahum
The People:	People of Nineveh
The Prophecy:	Destruction of Nineveh decreed by God
The Principle:	God is slow to anger, but He punishes evil.

Family Fun Sheet. In this week's Family Fun Sheet there is reference to a chart titled "Track The Prophets Chart". You may wish to use an enlarged version of this chart as a teaching tool. Each prophet has a sticker that can be placed on the maps to help families know of where they spoke.

Prophet Page. This is a half sheet of paper for the Bible students to fill out. This sheet will also help with the memory work. If these pages are all saved, the Bible students will have a booklet on the minor prophets that they have put together. These pages will fit in a small binder.

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Here
Comes
De
Flood!!

D E S T R U C T I O N M W
 I P V L X Y E A D S I H I
 S R L I O J Q N G Z N A C
 P O P D L W R T A M E N K
 E P O U M E T H U U V O E
 R H I D D E N O A H A J D
 S E E E I N G I A A H D N
 E T C S A J O S G N C B E
 D E C R E E D N U T G W S
 X T N E M E G D U J N E S
 Z S E H S I N U P T L Q R

ANGER
 DECREE
 DESTRUCTION
 DISPERSED
 EVIL
 GOD
 HIDDEN
 JONAH
 JUDGEMENT
 NAHUM
 NINEVAH
 PROPHET
 PUNISHES
 SLOW
 TO
 WICKEDNESS

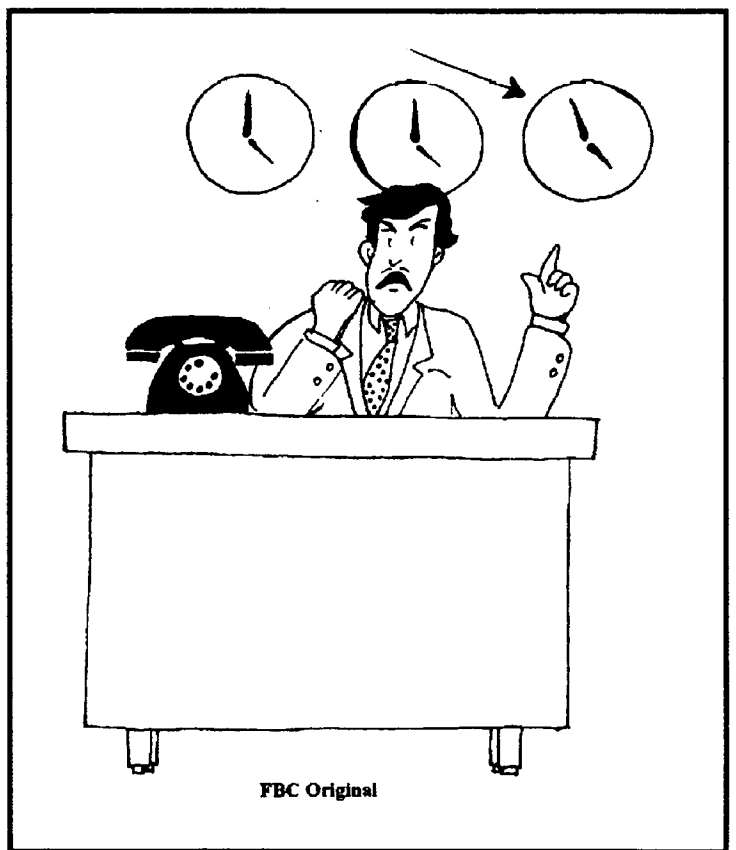
MEMORY WORK

ISAIAH
 JEREMIAH
 LAMENTATIONS
 EZEKIAL
 DANIEL
 HOSEA
 JOEL
 AMOS
 OBADIAH
 JONAH
 MICAH
 NAHUM
 HABAKKUK
 ZEPHENIAH
 HAGGAI
 ZECHARIAH
 MALACHI

After you have found all 16 words can you find an attribute of God in the above word search? The attribute is a three word phrase.

Unscramble the following words. Use the circled letters to make a phrase that the picture illustrates.

○ _ _ ○ ○ _ _ _
 O W E R H S
 ○ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
 N L L O A G
 _ ○ _ _ ○ _ _ ○
 N G E A R O
 ○ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
 Y T O O A T



ANSWER:

_ _ _ _ _
 _ _ _ _ _

D E S T R U C T I O N M W
 I P V L X Y E A D S I H I
 S R L I O J Q N G Z N A C
 P O P D L W R T A M E N K
 E P O U M E T H U U V O E
 R H I D D E N O A H A J D
 S E E E I N G I A A H D N
 E T C S A J O S G N C B E
 D E C R E E D N U T G W S
 X T N E M E G D U J N E S
 Z S E H S I N U P T L Q R

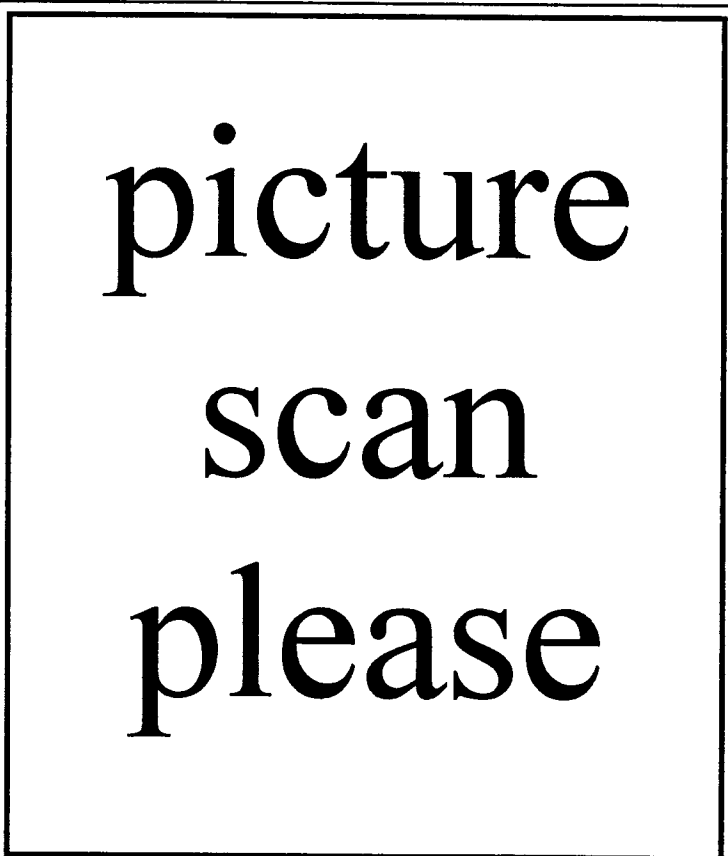
- ~~ANGER~~
- ~~DECREE~~
- ~~DESTRUCTION~~
- ~~DISPERSED~~
- ~~EVIL~~
- ~~GOD~~
- ~~HIDDEN~~
- ~~JONAH~~
- ~~JUDGEMENT~~
- ~~NAHUM~~
- ~~NINEVAH~~
- ~~PROPHET~~
- ~~PUNISHES~~
- ~~SLOW~~
- ~~TO~~
- ~~WICKEDNESS~~

MEMORY WORK

ISAIAH
 JEREMIAH
 LAMENTATIONS
 EZEKIAL
 DANIEL
 HOSEA
 JOEL
 AMOS
 OBADIAH
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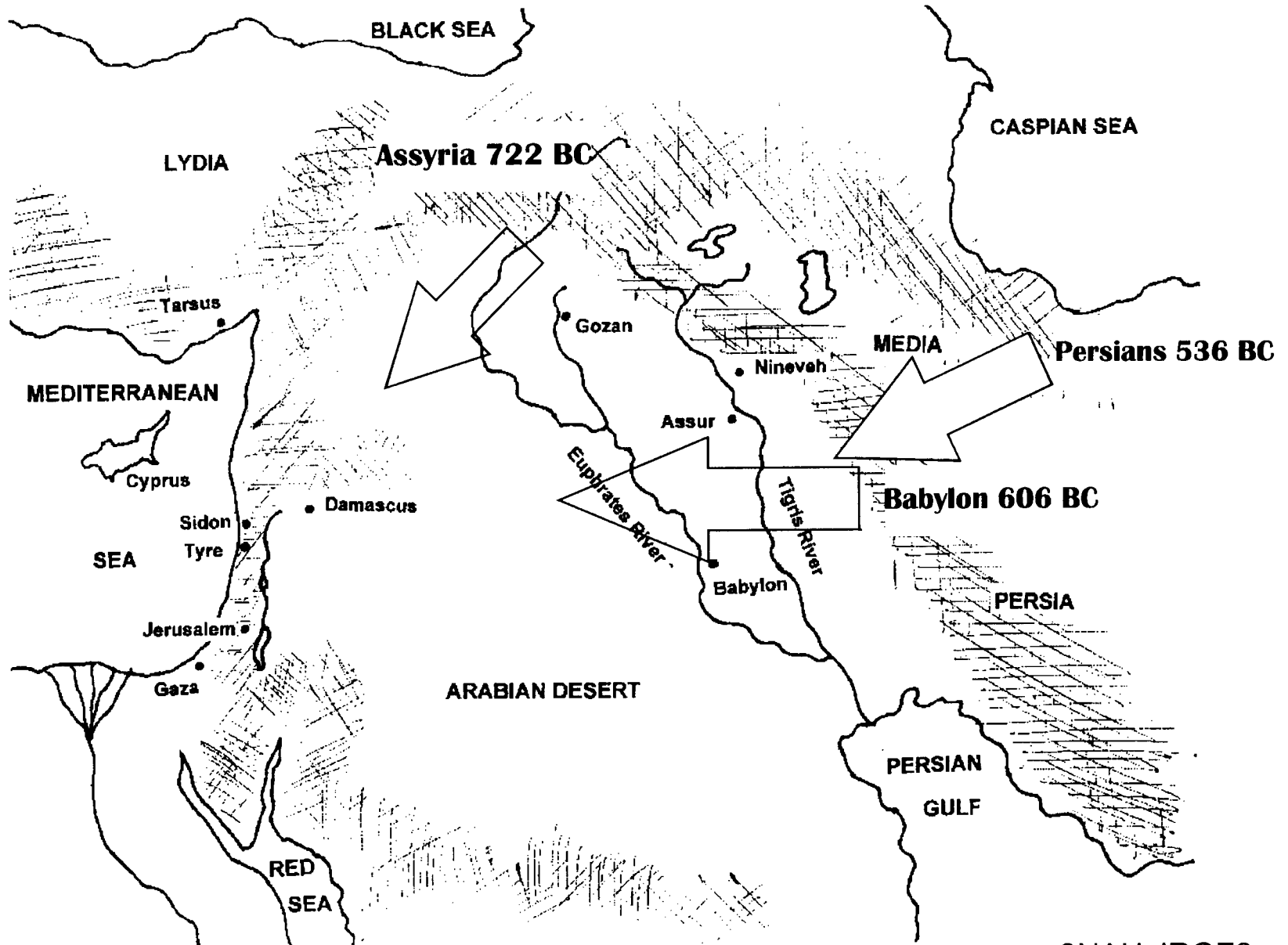


S H O W E R
 O W E R H S
 A L O N
 N L L O A G
 O A G
 N G E A R O
 O Y O T A
 Y T O O A T

ANSWER:

S L O W T O
A N G E R

S O W E R
 R N E
 T O A



3NAH JRGF3