

September 22, 1996 Nahum
4's, 5's & K 3NAH03PK
God Is Slow to Anger but Does Punish Sin!

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Nahum*

The Principle - *God is slow to anger but He punishes people who worship idols.*

The People - *Assyrian people of Nineveh*

God's Attribute - *God is slow to anger.*

Nahum 1:3: The Lord is slow to anger and great in power.

Aim Questions:

1. What did we learn about God from the prophet Obadiah? (God is loyal.)
2. What did we learn about God from the prophet Jonah? (God is full of mercy.)
3. What did the Ninevites do that was wrong in today's lesson? (They loved idols.)
4. How did God try to get the Ninevites to worship Him instead of idols? (He sent earthquakes, fires, floods and the prophets Jonah and Nahum.)
5. How would God punish the Ninevites? (Soldiers would destroy their city, smash their idols burn their chariots and water would flood the king's palace.)
6. How was God slow to anger and patient with the Ninevites? (Warned them over and over)

 Hook:

Baseball Center: Wear a baseball hat and carry a bat. Ask the children if they know what game you are ready to play. Ask them if they know any rules for playing baseball. Be sure to mention "3 strikes and you're out" or "4 balls and you walk!" Pretend you are hitting the ball, strikes are called and you are out. After a player gets a strike, the umpire could say "mercy," indicating that the player gets another chance to hit the ball. "If you want to play baseball, you have to know the rules and follow them. When you play following the rules, it is a fun game and you get a lot of chances to score. Some people in our Bible Adventure today were not going to follow the rules. I wonder what rules they aren't following?"

Opening Picture Activity: (3NAH03PKG2) Ask the Children's Department to copy the page on large Avery Laser Labels. Place these stickers on the childrens' backs when they come in the room. Let them get into the correct groupings for center time. At each table, place a GF1 page to see if the children can figure out what the stickers have to do with what we have been learning in Bible School. "Who do you think the new prophet might be? Let's guess at what his name might be. What do you think he would have to do with a snail?" Talk about snails and their characteristics. Emphasize the fact that they are slow and what slow means.

Idol Center: Pretend to be the Ninevites who built idols to be their gods. Build them with 1/2 gallon milk cartons, toilet paper tubes, foil, wooden blocks, glitter, etc. Have a teacher dressed as Nahum come in and give a warning that the idols must be destroyed. Be sure the children review the locations on the map and the people involved. Nahum could set a timer, showing mercy, that would

give the idea that the people of Nineveh would not be destroyed immediately. The timer could go off during LOOK time.

- Slow as a Caterpillar Game:** The children can become a human caterpillar slowly walking across the floor. Line the children up, each child holding the ankle of the person in front of them. Try to move very slowly across the room without breaking the caterpillar apart. God does not move slowly, but He is slow to get mad when we do wrong things.
- Slow Growing Plant Seeds:** Let the children plant seeds in Dixie cups. Talk about how we must wait patiently for them to grow. Throughout the morning, you could go back to see if anything is growing. We have to wait patiently while the plants slowly grow. You might reinforce the idea of giving mercy, mercy, mercy in leaving the plants to grow slowly. God waited patiently to give the Ninevites many chances to quit worshiping idols and turn to Him. A fun idea is to grow seeds in a clear plastic cup with a moist paper towel. The children can see the beginning of the roots.
- Terrarium Center:** Bring in a terrarium with snails and a turtle, if available. Talk about how slowly they move. They are not in a hurry to get places. "God does not move slowly because He is everywhere at the same time but our snail and turtle can remind us that God is slow when it comes to getting mad. He gives mercy over and over, waiting for people to turn to Him and quit doing wrong things."
- Nineveh Center:** Nineveh was a fortified city (surrounded by walls). The children can build their own walls using Styrofoam blocks and golf tees. There is also a bin of blocks available at the Children's Table. The children might want to build a temple and an idol to put in the temple. The Ninevites thought they were so strong with their tall walls and strong soldiers that they didn't need the true God. God was slow to anger during the time they were ignoring Him and doing wrong things. He gave mercy and more mercy to the Ninevites, but He would later punish them for hurting people and worshiping idols.
- Get the Wiggles Out and Transition Time:** Ask a child to make up a rule to follow on the way to the chairs, such as rub your stomach, pat your head, touch your toes, slap your back, etc. That child and the 2 children on each side of him go to their chairs "following the rule."



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

- Peep Box: (3NAH03PKG6)** Using a shoe box, cut a 1" square in one end. Attach a picture to the opposite end of the box on the inside. Cut a 2" x 3" hole near one end of the top of the shoe box and place this hole close to the picture so it lets light in. Use the GF6 picture or any picture of a big, prosperous city and people bowing to an idol.
- A teacher might be whittling away at a piece of wood to show how idols were made.
- Use the map and prophet faces from past weeks for review. Show a picture of a whale. "Who remembers last week's prophet?" (Jonah) Show the map from last week. "What did Jonah do after God asked him to go to the Ninevites? What happened to Jonah before he finally obeyed God and went to Nineveh? What did Jonah tell the Ninevites?" (Stop hurting people.) "Did they listen? Did God destroy their city? God was merciful when they promised to stop hurting people. God didn't have to punish them this time because they said they were sorry and did quit hurting people."
- (3NAH03PKG1)** Show the picture of Nahum as you talk about this week's prophet. Keep all the pictures in a "prophet" notebook to review throughout the year.

Bible Adventure -

Opening Prayer: Dear Lord, You are our teacher. Help us now to sit quietly, listen carefully and learn about the lesson from Nahum. We want to learn how patient You are with us. Amen.

Our story today takes place 100 years after Jonah went to Nineveh. Let's look and see what the Ninevites were doing. Uh, oh, what do you see? (Pass the peep box with a picture of a big, prosperous city.)

It looks like a big city. They had a lot of soldiers. I think they thought they were pretty hot stuff. In fact, they were a very powerful nation. They were mighty, at least they thought they were. Are the Ninevites listening to God and following Him? Look and see! (Pass around another peep box with a picture of people bowing to an idol.) No way! What are they doing? They forgot what God had said about their wickedness. They were worshiping the idols they had made. They were doing just what they wanted to do, not listening to God's Word or obeying Him.

The Ninevites got out their knives and chipped, chipped away at a piece of wood, carving it into a shape they liked. They said, "I want to listen to this idol rather than to the Israelites' God." Does a wooden idol talk? No. Does a wooden idol listen when you pray? No. Does a wooden idol care about you and know all about you? No! The Ninevites loved their idols because they made them with their own hands. They even put them on a shelf, built a beautiful temple to put them in and pretended like they were gods. Sometimes they took a piece of metal, got it real hot so they could bend it and then shaped it into an idol. They did the same thing with metal idols as they did wooden ones. They worshiped them and prayed to them and forgot about God. Do you ever get too busy with your things, your toys and friends, and forget about God?

They forgot the all powerful, true God. They forgot that God created the mountains and can shake them if He chooses. They forgot that God created the rain and can make it rain and rain until it becomes a flood. He can stop the rain until the ground gets dry and no wheat, vegetables or flowers grow. God has power over all of nature. The idols the Ninevites loved and worshiped had no power, but the people pretended that they did. When the Ninevites stopped listening to God, they started hurting people again instead of following God's rules. They worked hard making sharp instruments like swords, spears and whips. They made their chariots out of strong wood and metal. They got their fastest horses to pull the chariots so they could hurt more and more people, especially the Israelites. They were not loyal to God's people, the children of Jacob, the Israelites.

God could see what the people of Nineveh were doing. It made Him angry after He had been so merciful to them. The Ninevites didn't keep their promise to listen to God. They lied to God and loved their idols more than they loved God. It made God sad to see the Ninevites worshiping a piece of wood rather than Him. Did God try to tell the Ninevites to stop? Yes. He tried to get their attention so they would listen to Him. He stopped the rain so the crops didn't grow. The people were hungry but they didn't pray to the God who has power over rain. God tried to get the peoples' attention by shaking the mountains. The Ninevites were afraid but they didn't pray to the God who has power over the earthquakes. God was very patient to warn the Ninevites.

Let's say it is bedtime for the kids in your family and Dad or Mom says, "Time to brush your teeth and get ready for bed." The kids just keep playing and ignore the warning. Pretty soon Dad or Mom says, "Time to brush your teeth and get ready for bed." Again the kids are busy playing and don't obey. Dad and Mom are patient and give 3 warnings, but pretty soon they get angry if you don't obey and follow the rules for bedtime at 8 o'clock. That is what God did with the Ninevites. He was patient and merciful, giving them many warnings, but they wouldn't listen.

Since they forgot God and were doing wrong, bad things again, God had to send another messenger. This time it was the prophet, Nahum. God had to tell the Ninevites the rules for living with other people. God had been patient with the Ninevites for many years. He was slow to anger. God had already sent Jonah to tell of His mercy. Now God sent Nahum to tell the Ninevites that God was slow to anger but would punish them for their evil ways. Nahum said, "God will smash your idols. He will burn up your strong chariots with fire. He will wash away your king's palace in a flood of water." Did the Ninevites listen to God this time? No, they were stubborn and prayed to their idols for help rather than listening to the powerful God.

If your Mom says, "I don't want you to eat candy between meals," that is your family rule. It means if you are alone at home and get hungry, it is wrong for you to sneak candy for a snack. It means if you are at a friend's house and are offered candy, you should say, "No thank you." Sometimes rules are hard to follow but it is the right thing to do.

God did punish the Ninevites because they were living according to their own rules and not God's rules. God said, "Strong warriors will come and the people will smell and see smoke. The chariots will be burned to ashes. The warriors will find the Ninevite idols and smash them to pieces, destroying all they can find. The people will hear bangs, clangs and loud clashes as the Assyrians destroy the fancy temple.

A flood of water will wash away the king's palace. The strong Ninevite soldiers will hang their sad faces down because they will be defeated. God is slow to anger but He will punish the evil people of Nineveh.

God is slow to anger and patiently waits for us to change too. Eventually God always punishes sin. Who remembers who took the punishment for our sin? Yes, Jesus did when He died for your sins. When you admit your sin, say you are sorry, believe in Jesus and what He did for you, He forgives you. He comes to live in you and helps you to live like God wants you to live.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sins. Thank You for loving me and giving me the Bible that tells me You are slow to anger. Thank You for being patient with me when I do wrong. Help me live by Your rules and not mine. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:



Provide different lengths of wood 2" x 4"s. Let children use marking pens to decorate them. These can be the Ninevite idols! When the timer goes off, the teacher can say, "No more mercy!" The children can smash their "idols" with hammers.



Snail Craft: (3NAH03PKG3) Color the picture of the snail while talking with the children about how slow to anger God is. When the picture is completed, punch two holes in the bottom of the snail. Thread a piece of yarn through and attach both ends of yarn to a piece of construction paper. Let the children help their snail creep across the page. Say the following poem:

The snail is so slow; the snail is so slow.
He creeps and creeps along.
And as he does, he sings his song;
The snail is so-o-o slow.

God is so quick; God is so quick
To give mercy when we ask for help.
God is so slow; God is so slow
To get mad at those who rebel.



Snail Dot to Dot: (3NAH03PKG4) The words to Nahum 1:3 will be written on the map. As you connect the dots and color the picture, talk about God being slow to anger toward the idol worshipping Ninevites.



Destroy the Idol Game: Using 5 bean bags per child, throw them at the idols the children decorated. Their goal is to knock down as many idols as they can. Set them back up and give another child a turn.



Chariot Game: Line the children up into two teams. Divide the teams into pairs. Each pair will have a chariot (a child lying down in pushup position) and a soldier (a child standing behind, holding the "chariot's" legs). The teams will race to the end of the room. Nineveh had the fastest, strongest chariots and the Assyrians thought their city was safe. God is more powerful than the strongest chariots; only He can keep a city safe.



Read the "**Tortoise and the Hare**" as a class. Talk about the tortoise being slow in getting from place to place. God is not slow in getting from place to place because He is everywhere at the same time. God is slow in getting angry with people. He is patient and forgiving.



Play **Follow the Leader**. The leader can turn from idols, creep slowly like a snail, reach up to God, smash the idols, etc. When you move slowly, sing the following song to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie."

God is full of mercy,
Mercy, mercy, mercy
The Ninevites, the Ninevites, they all fall down!

Second Verse:

God is slow to anger,
Very slow to anger.

The Ninevites, the Ninevites, they all fall down!

Or sing the following song to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

Slow to anger, slow to anger, is the Lord, is the Lord

Get rid of your idols; get rid of your idols,

Trust the Lord; trust the Lord.

"Red Light - Green Light - Yellow Light" Game: This is a variation of the game "Red Light - Green Light." When you say "red light," the children will stop and smash the Ninevite idols. Yellow light means creep slowly while saying "mercy" or "slow to anger" over and over. Green light means go (run) to the holy hill, Jerusalem. The Israelites were supposed to go worship God on His holy hill.

Snack Center: Make homemade ice cream, popcorn, or anything that requires a waiting period for it to be completed. It takes time and we wait patiently. The children might say "God is slow to anger" as they are waiting and "God is loyal and full of mercy." This activity can be done during HOOK time and eaten during LOOK time, if desired. As the children eat their snack, talk about the Aim Questions.

Songs:

Trust and Obey

God Is So Good

My God Is So Great

Forgive Me, God

Forgive me, God, for things I've done

That are not kind or good.

Forgive me, God, and help me now

To do the things I should.

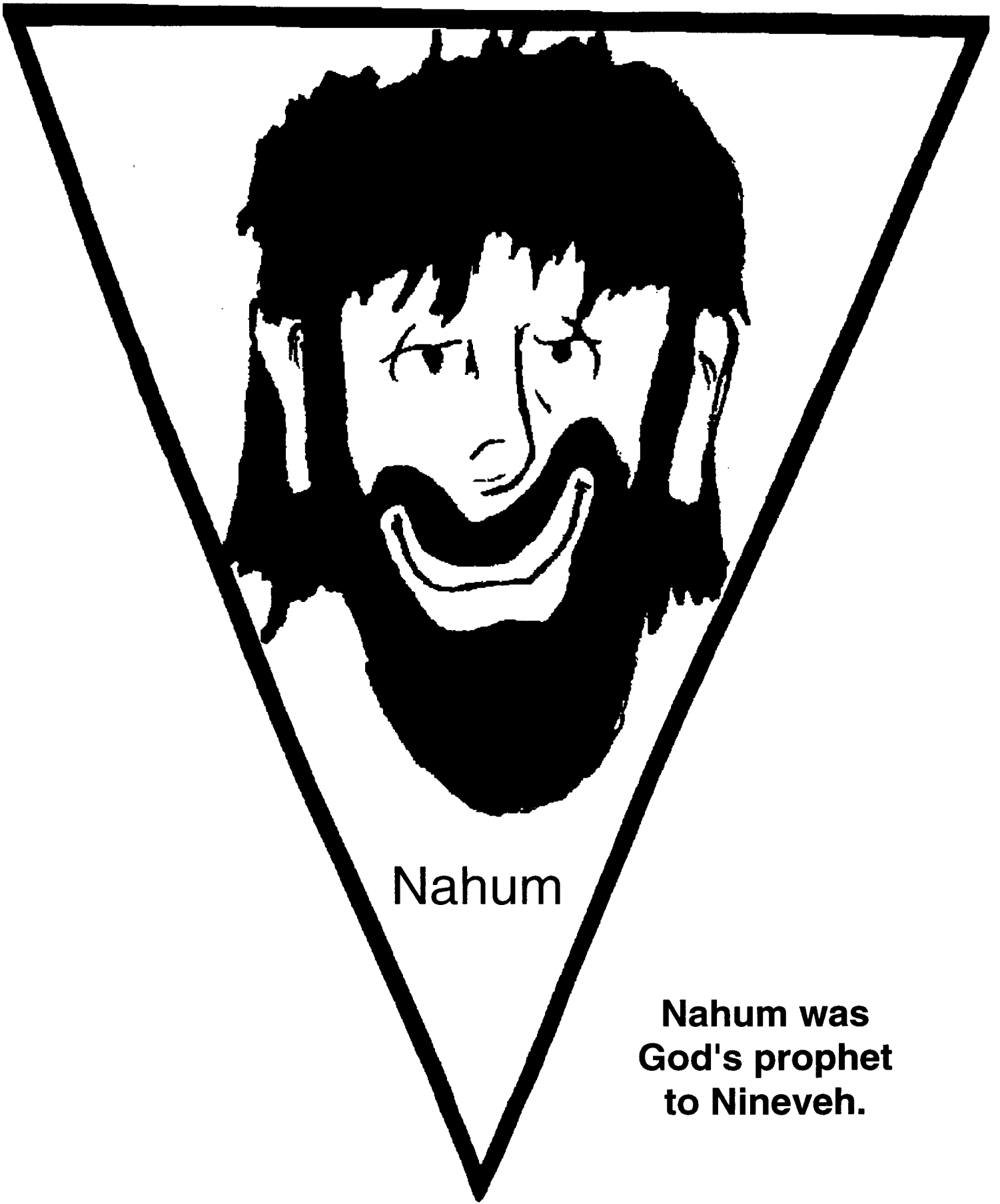


Took:

"Go Slow to Anger" Bookmark: (3NAH03PKGF5) Make traffic signal bookmarks to help remember today's lesson. In the yellow circle, the kids can decorate with gold glitter. The verse (Nahum 1:3) can be written on the back. This also might be fun to wear as a necklace. Talk about times you have had to be patient and give mercy to someone in your family. "Are you slow to get mad and quick to forgive?"

To review the Aim Questions, print them on small slips of paper, roll them up and place them inside red, yellow and green balloons. Children get the opportunity to pop a balloon and answer a question.

Memory Work Review: (Prophet, Principle, People and Place) (3NAH03ECGF7) Cut out the review symbol for Obadiah, Jonah and Nahum. Remind the children of the names of the prophets and the people to whom they prophesied. Have the children repeat the prophets' names and then match the shapes of the pictures to the large map. Let the children each tell you what each prophet said about God.

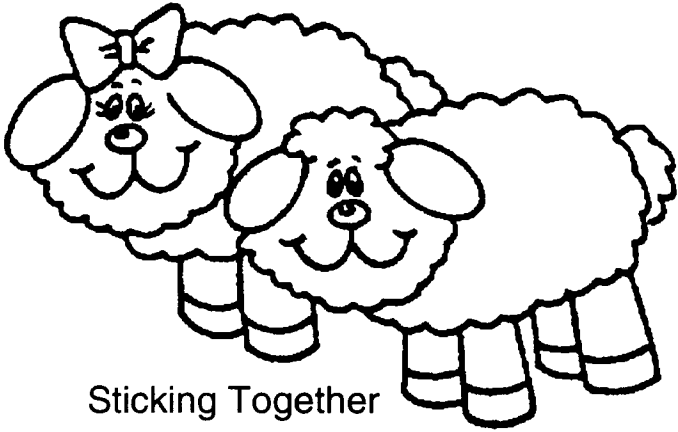


Nahum

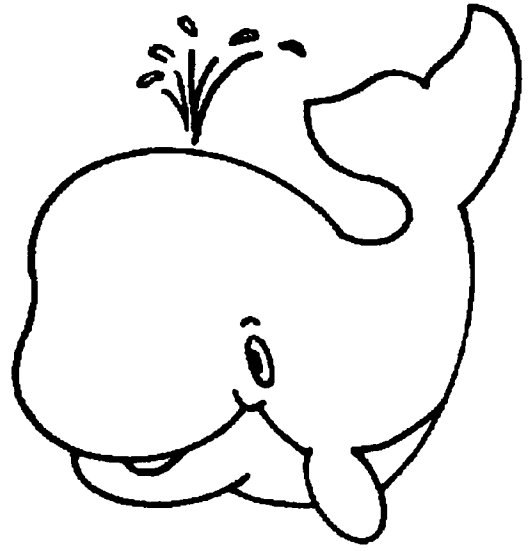
**Nahum was
God's prophet
to Nineveh.**

God is slow to anger but will punish sin.

3NAH03PKG1



Sticking Together



LOYAL



SLOW TO ANGER

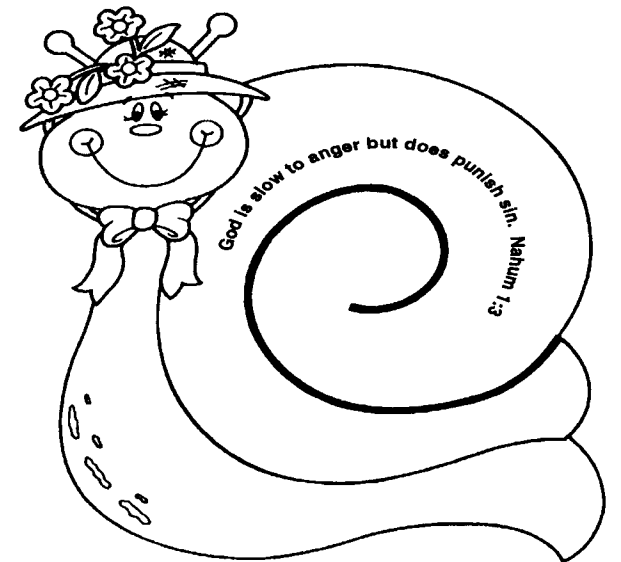
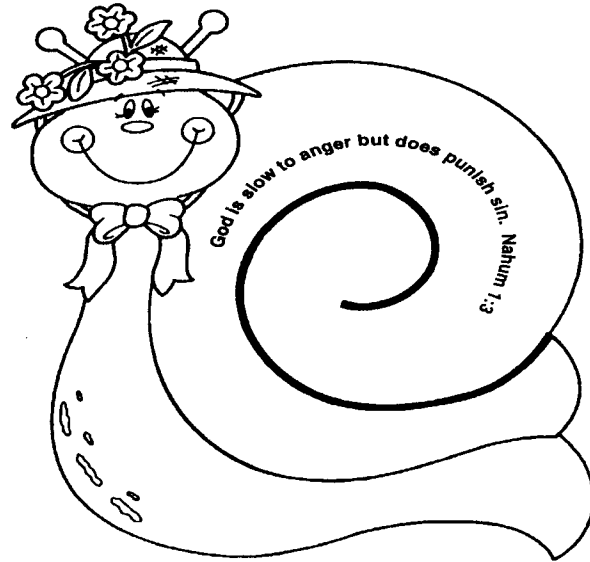
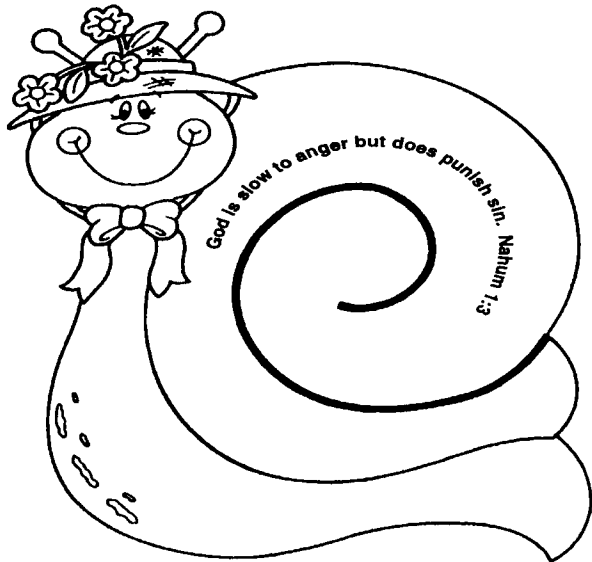
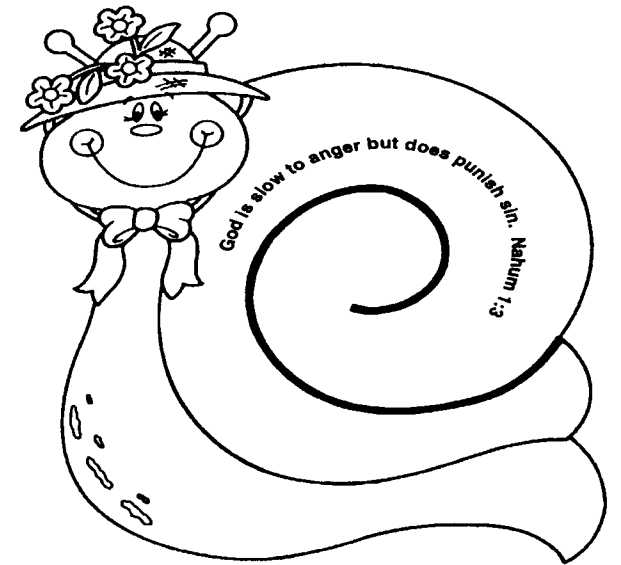
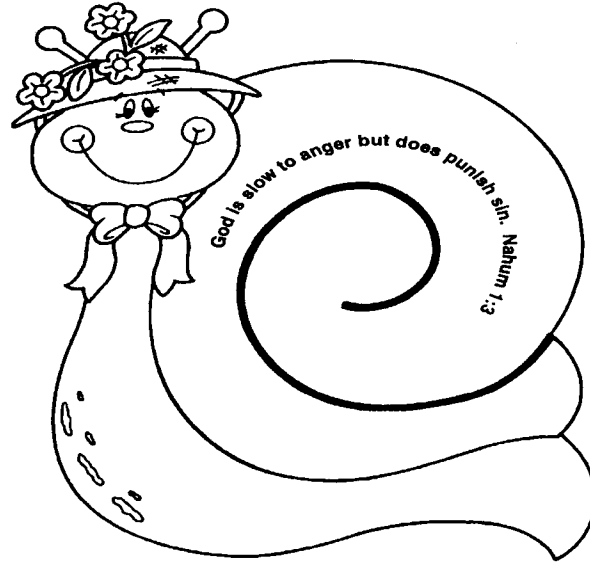
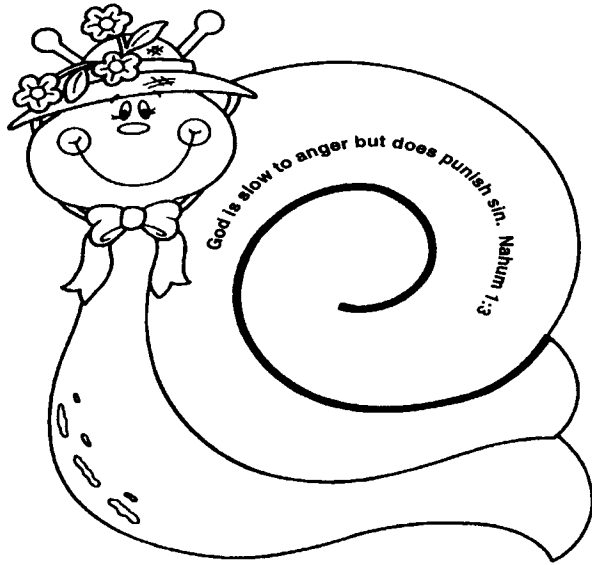


MERCIFUL

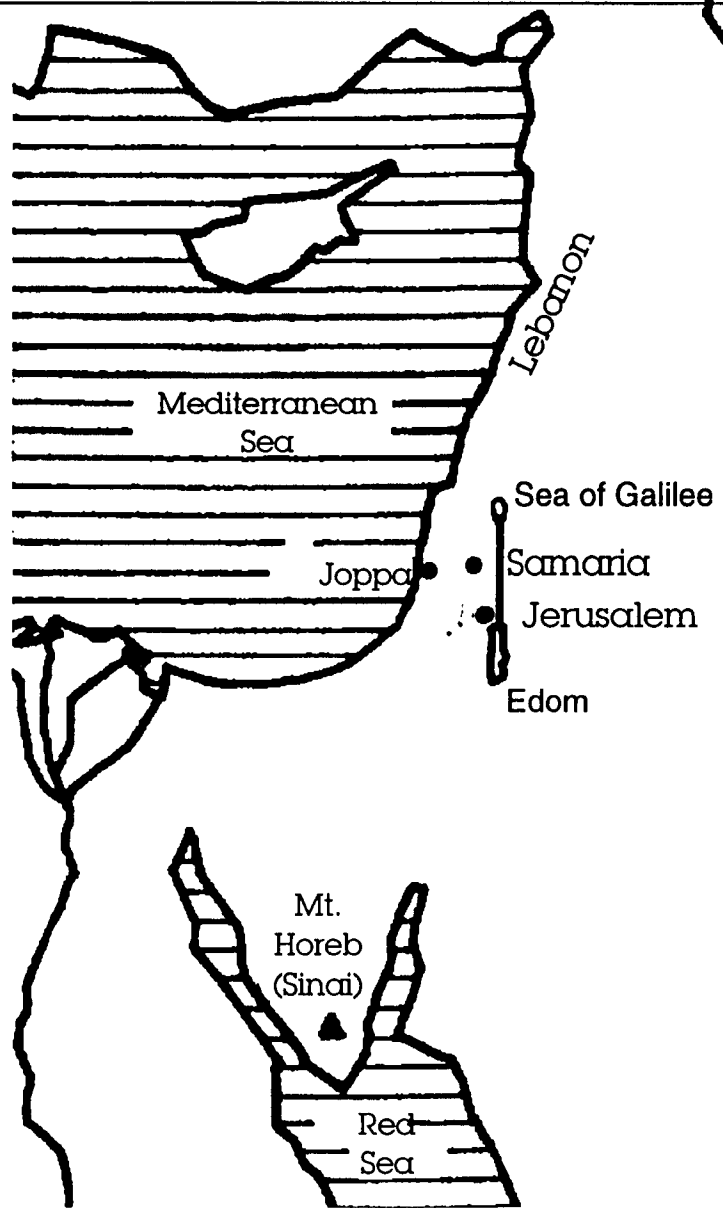


Snail Craft

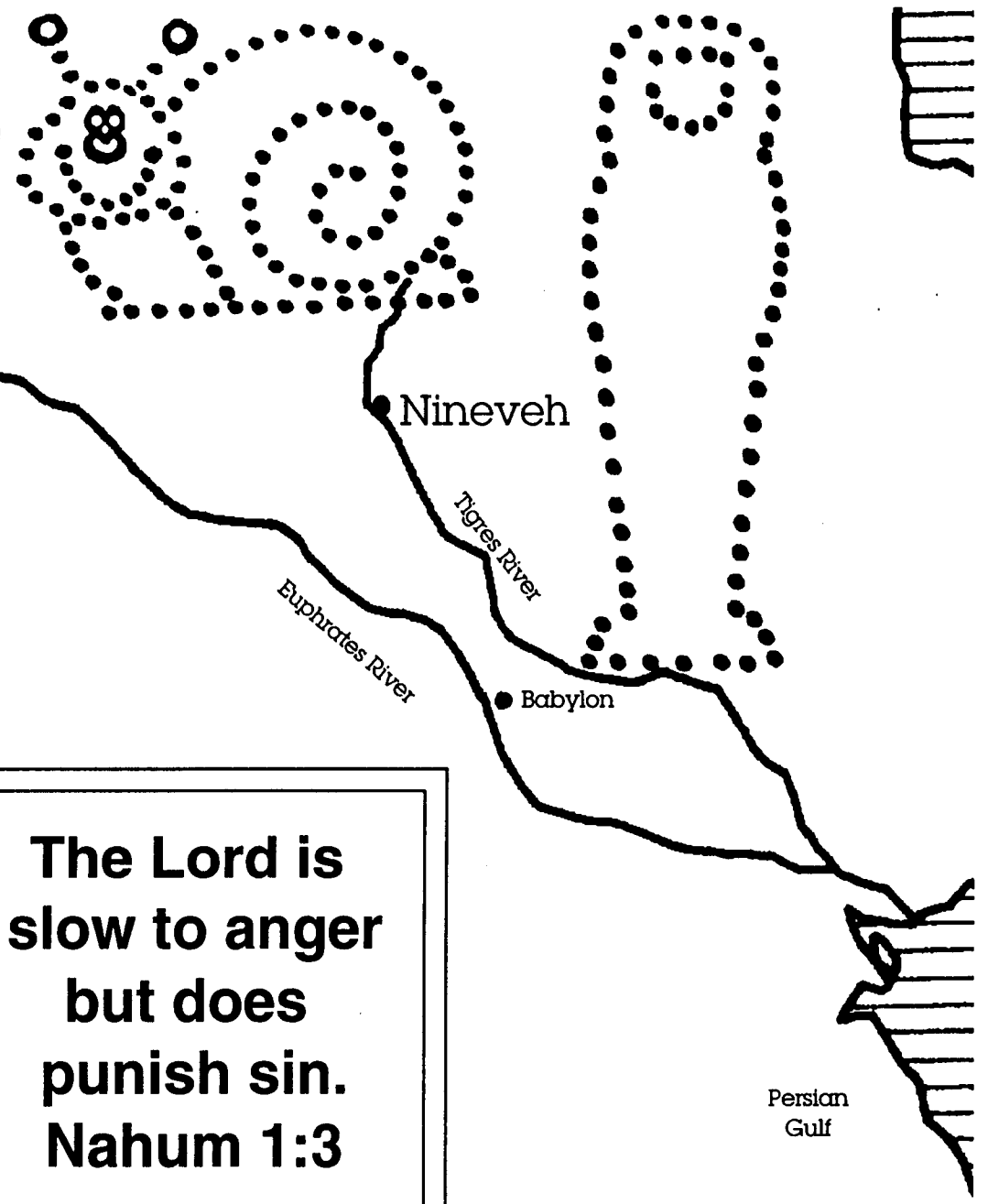
Cut and color the picture of the snail. Punch two holes in the bottom of the snail. Thread a piece of yarn through and attach both ends of the yarn to a piece of construction paper. The children can help their snail creep across the page.



Find the city of Nineveh on the map.
Trace around the idol to remind you of
what the Ninevites were doing wrong.
Trace around the snail to remember that
God was slow to anger with the Ninevites.

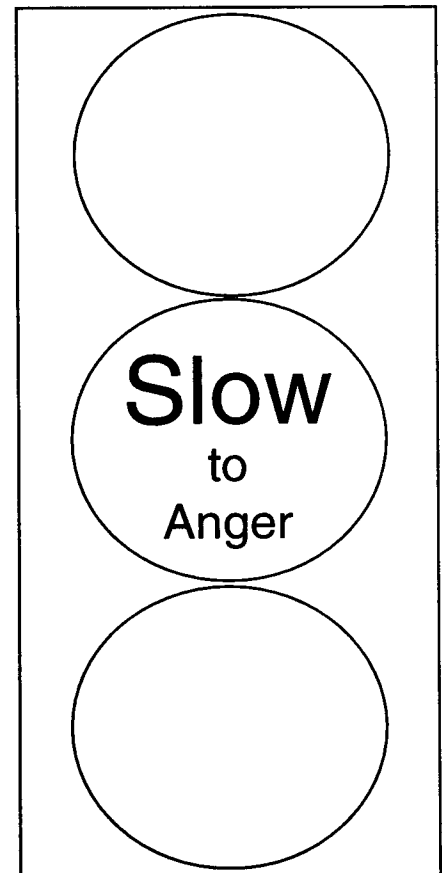
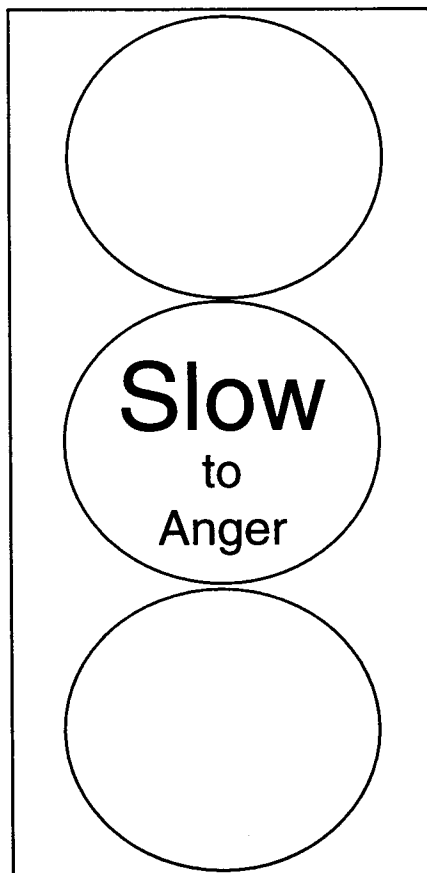
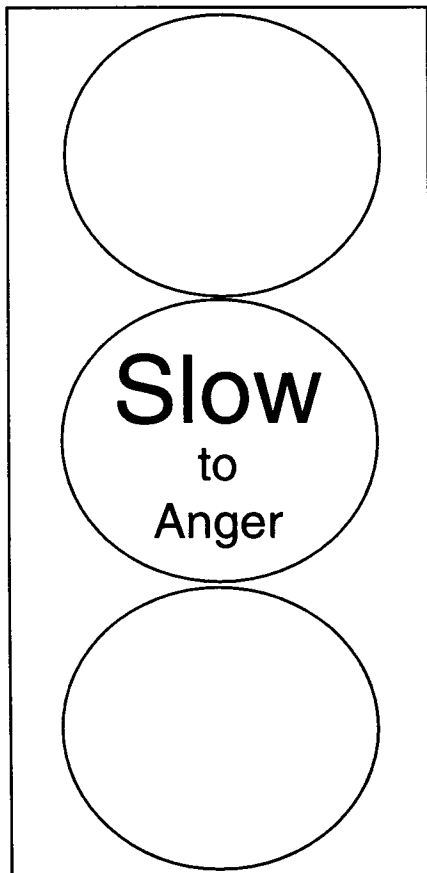
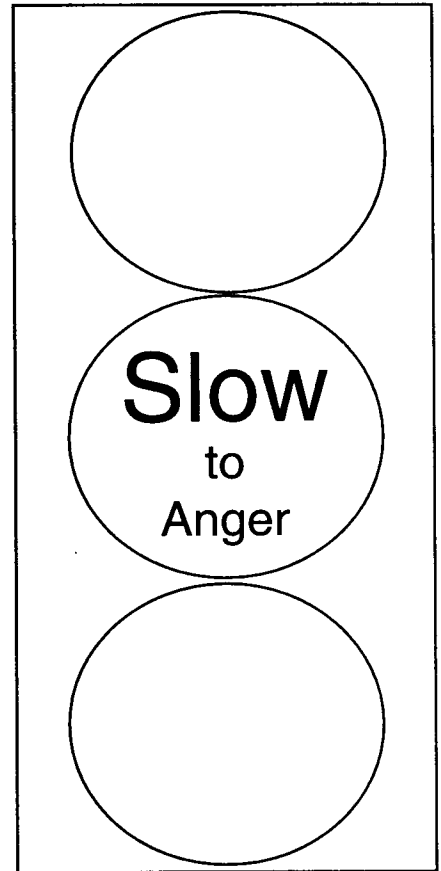
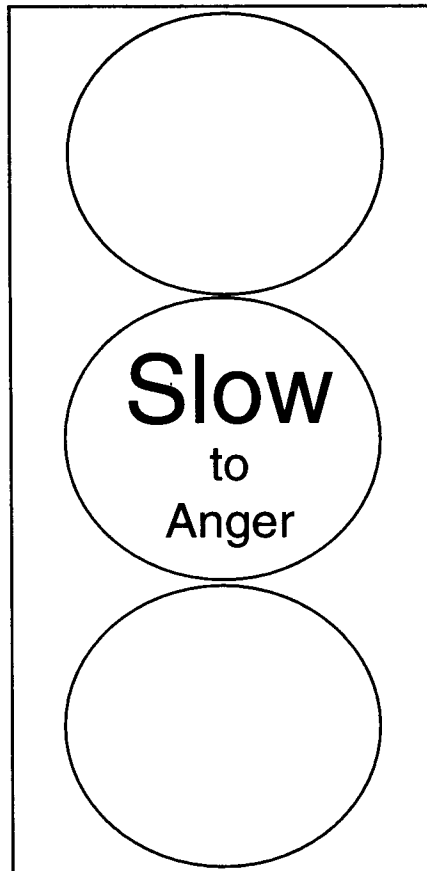
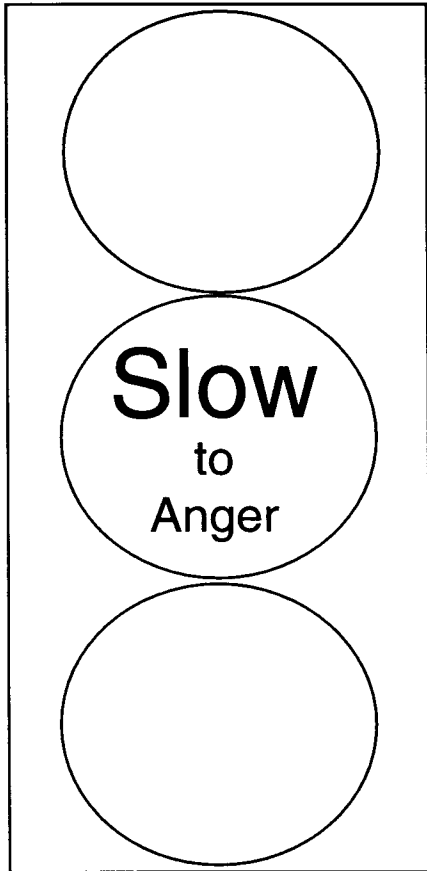


**The Lord is
slow to anger
but does
punish sin.
Nahum 1:3**

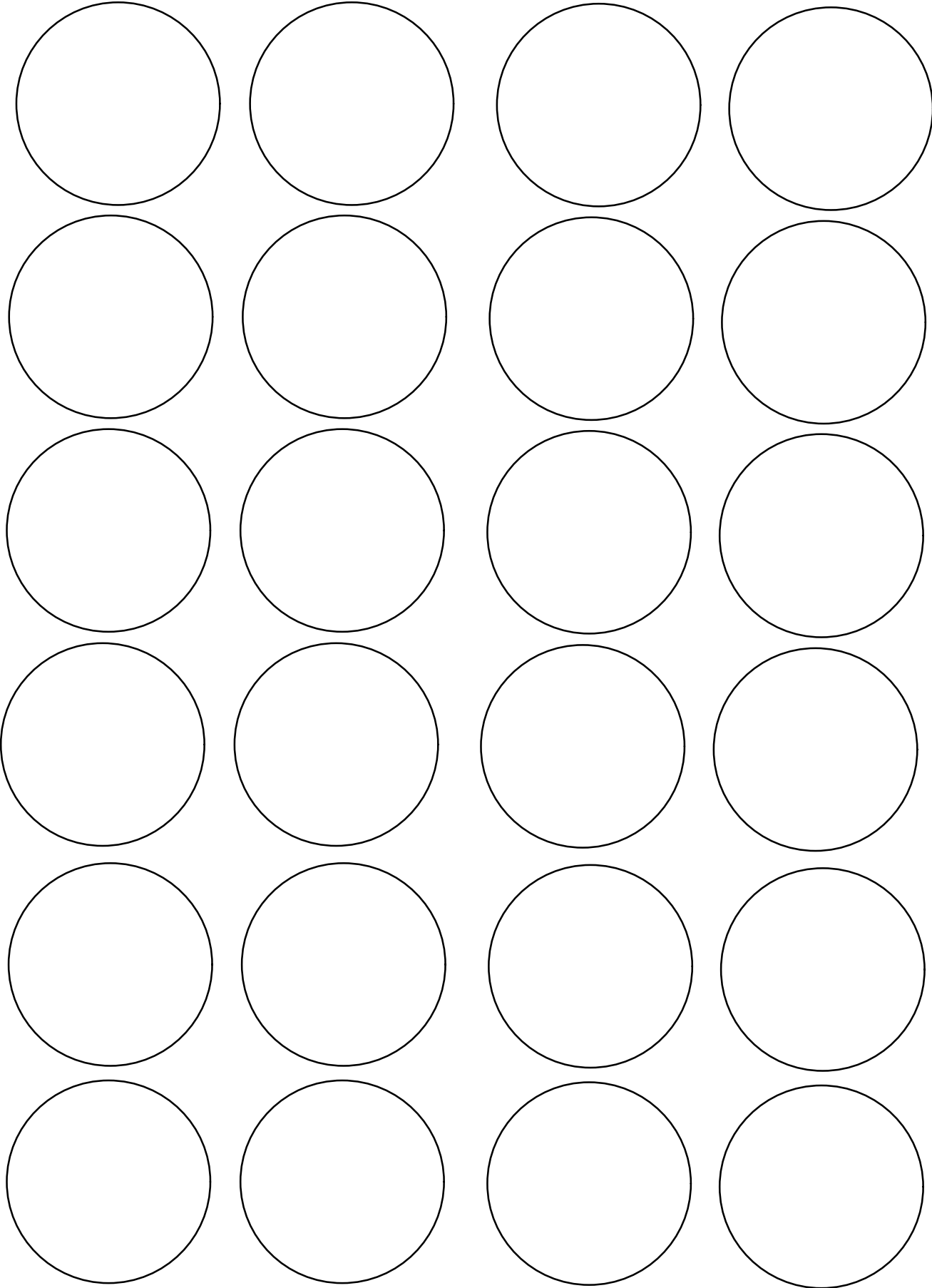


"Go Slow to Anger" Bookmark Craft

Let the children color or glue red, yellow and green circles to make a traffic light. Talk about what the yellow light means. Talk about how we can be slow to anger like God.



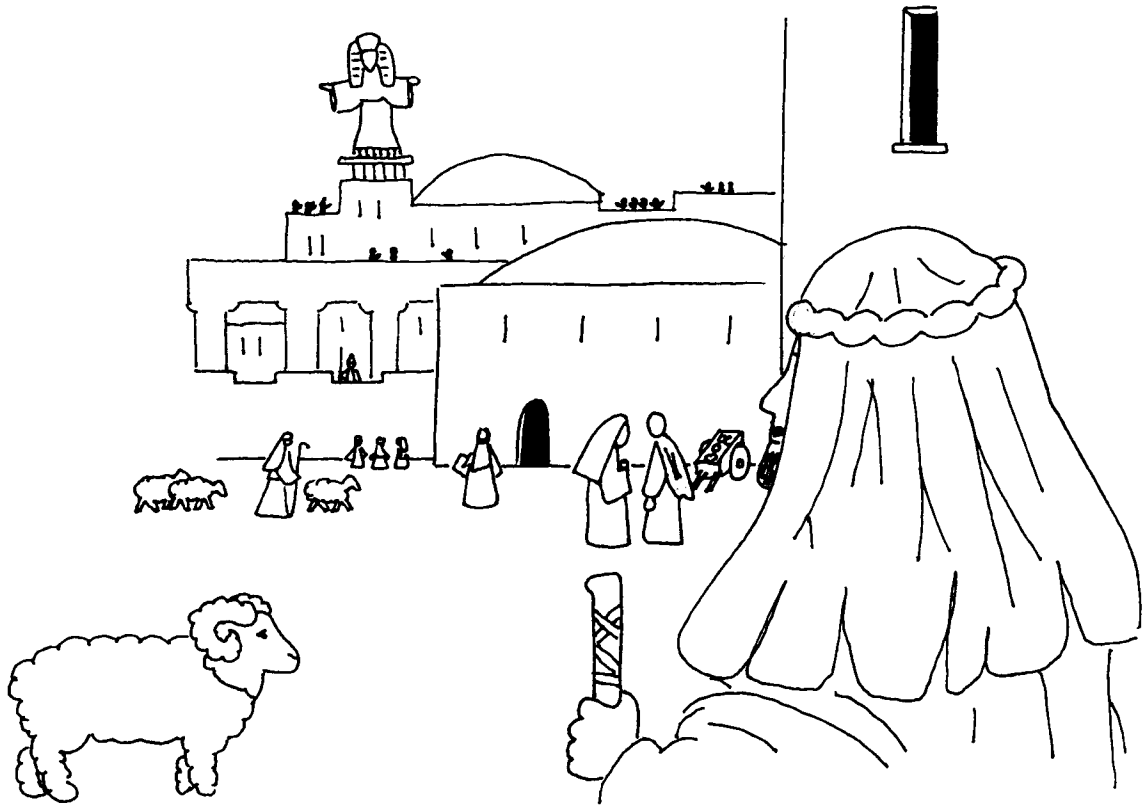
Copy one page green and another page red for the children to glue on their traffic lights



Peep Box Pictures for Presentation Ideas



Cut along line and place in Peep Box



Memory Work Review

Review the **prophet, principle, people and place** each week by matching the triangle, heart and square shapes to the large map made available by the Children's Department.

