

# PREACHING CURRICULUM

## Eyes Off Self

### Nahum 3

*"Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey!"*

## 1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

**Read Nahum 3:1-7.** Why is Nineveh's downfall described using such vivid and graphic language in this text? What imagery is used to describe Nineveh in these verses? Why does God use this particular imagery to describe her?

**Read Nahum 3:8-19.** Why is the city of Thebes mentioned in this passage? What was Thebes like at the peak of its power, and what ultimately happened to it? How is Nineveh like Thebes?

What punishments were predicted to come upon Nineveh? Take a closer look at the images used in this passage to describe the coming judgments. How would you explain these in your own words?

What lessons were the ancient Israelites supposed to learn from this text? Would this prophecy have been a word of warning, or a word of hope for them? Or would it would have been both? Explain your answer.

## 2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Consider the following objection as you answer this next question:

*"The idea of God being wrathful and taking vengeance on sinners is completely absurd and outdated. It is nothing but a superstition from medieval times meant to frighten people into submission with images of hellfire and brimstone. Thankfully we have gotten beyond this idea as a society, with the only exceptions being a few narrow-minded fundamentalists who stubbornly refuse to change with the times. Fortunately, their tribe continues to shrink with each passing year."*

How has this skeptic misunderstood and mischaracterized the biblical teaching on God's wrath and justice? What mistakes in thinking has he made? How would you respond to this objection?

## 3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

*"Behold, I am against you, declares the Lord of hosts"* (verse 3:5). How does one avoid hearing these same words from the Lord? It will be helpful to consider Romans 5:6-11 as you answer this question.

What lessons can Christians today learn from biblical passages describing God's wrath and judgment? Since Christians are no longer under the wrath and condemnation of God because of Jesus Christ, what relevance do these passages have for us today?

## 4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How might we derive comfort from the fact that God judges evil? How might this fact serve as a warning for us? How should this truth affect the way we live our daily lives?

