GENESIS TO REVELATION | PROPHETIC LESSON

A Refuge When Wrong Seems Strong

Nahum 1:1-15



YOUR BIBLE READING

God sees oppression and offers hope of justice and refuge.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

When Power Is Used to Oppress

Nahum 1:1-15



Nahum's book begins as a prophetic revelation concerning Nineveh. The message addresses the power and wrongdoing associated with that city and its rule. It is not a report that every person from the city was equally cruel. The words announce that oppression and plans for evil will not stand beyond God's judgment. For people living under threatening power, the question is whether such power can act forever without being held to account.

The opening describes God as slow to anger and great in power. Patience does not mean that wrongdoing has become acceptable. The prophet also insists that guilt will not simply be ignored. These statements belong together: God is not pictured as careless about either patience or justice. The message treats harm seriously. It gives no reason for a reader to admire a powerful ruler simply because he can frighten weaker people into doing what he wants.

Nahum uses mighty pictures of storm, cloud, sea, mountain, and trembling earth. The clouds are compared with dust beneath God's feet; mountains quake and hills seem to melt. This is prophetic poetry declaring God's greatness. It is not a weather report from which we can identify every disaster as punishment for a particular town. The scale of the pictures puts human power in its place: even what looks unmovable is not greater than God.

Within these severe words stands a declaration of goodness. God is a stronghold in a day of trouble and knows those who seek refuge in him. A stronghold is a place of protection. The image brings shelter into the same message that confronts evil. God's concern is not merely that a mighty city lose a contest. The oppressed matter, and the prophet speaks of a God who sees those needing refuge when threatening strength seems to fill their world.

Remember: Threatening strength does not decide what is right, and vulnerable people deserve refuge.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

A Yoke Broken and Good News Heard

Nahum 1:1-15



The message challenges plots against God and speaks of their coming end. It uses pictures of a sweeping flood and dry stubble to describe judgment on entrenched wrongdoing. These images communicate seriousness and finality. They are not instructions for readers to organize an attack. Nahum speaks as a prophet about God's judgment, confronting the idea that those who plan oppression can make their position secure simply through numbers, force, or clever advice.

God's promise to the burdened people is pictured as a yoke broken and bonds burst apart. A yoke is a wooden device placed across animals for work; here it becomes an image of oppressive control. Broken bonds picture release. The message answers threatening power with the promise that it will not have the last word over those it has burdened. The image concerns freedom from a particular oppressor, rather than a guarantee that no future difficulty can ever arise.

The passage also addresses the ruler's proud position, idols, and future. Judgment reaches the things on which that power has depended. At the end, a messenger appears in the poetic picture on the mountains, bringing good news and proclaiming peace. Judah is called to keep its feasts and fulfill its promises. The people are being directed toward worship and renewed community life after the threat, rather than told to make cruelty their own way of celebrating.

This movement from oppression to refuge, broken bonds, and peace gives the lesson its hope. It does not make every person in Nineveh a villain or identify a nation today as the prophet's target. The concrete wrong is the use of power for evil. The promised good is release from that oppression. Reading the prophecy invites us to take harm seriously while remembering that human strength, however frightening it seems, is not the measure of what is right.

Pause and think: What does seeking refuge look like when someone uses power to frighten or control others?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Refuge Is More Than Winning



When someone uses power to threaten others, the problem is not solved by admiring the strongest person. We can ask what protection the vulnerable need. For a child today, that means telling a trusted adult about bullying, threats, or harm. Seeking refuge is a sensible response. You do not have to become stronger than the person frightening you before you deserve safety, support, and a careful hearing.

Nahum's message concerns a particular ancient city and oppressive power. It does not tell us to blame children, neighbors, or modern peoples because of a place-name. A person's ancestry does not decide whether their actions are good. We learn by recognizing oppression and considering how justice and protection matter, not by choosing a group we are allowed to despise.

The promise of refuge is not a guarantee that prayer prevents every injury. People who suffer have not thereby failed to trust God. Practical care, patient support, and truthful reporting remain important. The peaceful messenger at the end points our hope toward life beyond domination. A caring community wants people safe and free to live well, rather than simply wanting an enemy to feel pain.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Nahum confronts oppressive power and announces God's justice, refuge, and hope of peace for burdened people.

What does seeking refuge look like when someone uses power to frighten or control others?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What does the stronghold picture communicate?

2. What do the broken yoke and bonds picture?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Hear the hopeful picture of peace being announced.
- ☐ Recognize that oppressive strength is accountable to God.
- ☐ Notice the promise of refuge and broken bonds.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a safe refuge with an open path and a messenger carrying news of peace.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Threatening strength does not decide what is right, and vulnerable people deserve refuge.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Nahum 1:3,7,13,15

A thoughtful conversation

Nahum uses prophetic poetry against Nineveh's oppressive power. Keep images of storm, flood, and broken bonds distinct from a literal modern disaster report. Do not label every inhabitant or present-day people evil. Emphasize protection and accountability, without promising that faithful children will always escape harm or must confront danger alone.

Activity answers

1. God's goodness and refuge for people facing trouble.
2. Release from oppressive control and hope for peace.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help those facing oppression find refuge, justice, and caring support. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Nahum 1:1-15. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
This adapted story pack is shared under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0. Credit the creators, identify changes and use the same license for adaptations. Genesis to Revelation edition 3.0.