

Marinating in God's Word: Nahum 1:1-3, 3:8-13, Matthew 26:36-46

Ask about a favorite book of the Bible, and you're not likely to someone cite the Minor Prophets. And yet we hear God's word through them too. Thus we are focusing this summer on a portion of the Bible we tend not to know very well.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Most of the Minor Prophets address God's people about their need for reform, or some great peril they face. But Nahum addressed the Assyrian Empire, a pagan empire that destroyed the 10 northern tribes in 722 BC, and ravaged Jerusalem as well. Nahum told them that God may have used them to judge Israel, but he would judge them too. How does Nahum describe the Lord? Why is Nahum rejoicing?
- If you were to make a prophetic declaration about God's judgement on the nations, which nation do you believe is richly deserving of judgement, and why? How would you apply those same standards to our nation? How might that shape your prayers for our nation?
- While Nahum doesn't tell the full good news of scripture, as scripture it contains good news. What is it?
- One image Nahum uses for God's wrath toward evil is a cup, which Assyria must drink. Jesus picked up on that image himself in describing what he faced on the cross (v. 39). How did Jesus understand the cup, and why would he see it as his, if he had no sin himself?
- When we offer the Lord's Prayer petition, "deliver us from evil", how do we expect the Lord to do so? What does the "cup" Jesus described have to do with defeating evil in the world and in our lives?

Next week Kevin Germer will lead us in our focus on Jonah.