

Opener: *Many contemporary religious and secular commentators struggle with the Christian portrayal of God as both loving and angry. To what extent do we agree/disagree? Why?*

READ 1:1-6

List what Nahum tells us about God's character and what he is like (v.2-3). Which aspects would our friends/colleagues dislike?

Why would God's people back then need to know that God is jealous, angry, and powerful? What does Nahum say God will do? How do these vivid images alter our image of God (see Exodus 34:6-7)?

What is the conclusion Nahum wants us to draw in verse 6? How does the New Testament sharpen this question for us?

READ 1:7-15

How do these verses fit with what we have seen so far? Who will the Lord protect (v.7)?

How do these verses help us understand how this book is a message of 'comfort' and good news for God's people, and so uncomfortable for God's enemies?

How is it reassuring that God won't leave the guilty unpunished?

What is the right response of God's people (v.15)?

How should the truth of heaven and hell affect our lives?