



Session 1: God Is  
Suggested Week of Use: March 1, 2015  
Core Passages: Nahum 1:1-8

## News Story Summary

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) beheaded 21 Egyptian Christians, posting a video on February 15, 2015. While downplayed by some, the terrorist action was an obvious act of religious persecution. The video carried the title "A Message Signed With Blood To The Nation Of The Cross." The video closed with a vow to conquer Rome.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the sentence "ISIS beheads 21 Christians.")

## Focus Attention

As the group arrives, invite them to share their thoughts about religious persecution taking place in our world. After most have arrived, remind them of the recent beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians as an example of the persecution facing Christians today.

Say: Assyria had conquered the Northern Kingdom and Nahum was called on to assure the people facing persecution at the hands of the Assyrians that God was still in control and could be trusted. Nahum pointed to God's character as a source of comfort and assurance.

Ask: What characteristics of God do you find the most comforting and assuring?

Challenge the group to look for the characteristics of God emphasized by Nahum and compare his list with the characteristics the group identified.

## Challenge

Remind the group of the February 15 beheading. Invite volunteers to suggest ways other believers in that area and family members of those beheaded can find confidence and assurance in the first eight verses of Nahum.

Lead the group to consider how they can find confidence and assurance for the things they face as well. Affirm the fact that God's eternal qualities will not fail us.

Ask: What can we do as the church to communicate God's characteristics to the world? When faced with persecution, how do we hold out God's goodness and justice?

Pray: Thank God for His love, jealousy, goodness, sovereignty, and justice. Ask God to intervene in the persecution of the church and that He will be honored as the only true God.