



A Teacher's Guide to Lead a Child to
Become a Member of the
Church of the Nazarene



Compiled and Edited

by

Rose Ng'ang'a, Janet Achieng Okinyo, & Sarah Reed

WORD OF THANKS

We would like to thank each of you

who contributed to the writing of this guidebook.

A lot of help was needed so that this book may be used in any classroom

DEDICATIONS

*Rev. Don Gardner - Field Strategy Coordinator
for his continual inspiration to the East African Nazarene church leaders to teach their
children about Jesus!

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on the Africa Region.

MY CHURCH!

a child's guide to membership in the

Church of the Nazarene

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With help from some talented Nazarene children

across the continent of Africa

and

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Hi Pastor or Children's Sunday School Teacher,

We are happy that you want to teach your children what it means to be a member of the Church of the Nazarene! This is the tool that you have been wanting! Our pastors have been teaching adult membership classes and our children have been neglected.

NO MORE!

MY CHURCH! is designed to be taught by Nazarenes to a child/group of children in fun and lively sessions. Being a Nazarene is joyous and exciting living. Teach these lessons with that excitement in mind!

Nazarene! Nazarene!

I hope to be a good Nazarene!!!

Nazarene! Nazarene!

Jesus was the first Nazarene!!!

When the Nazarenes are praying

The one true God is really listening.

When the Nazarenes are holy,

They love God and others truly!

Nazarene! Nazarene!

I'm so glad to be . . . A NAZARENE!

By Hannah Reed

11 years young

Nairobi Central Church of the Nazarene

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Introduction

The Church of the Nazarene has been missing one of the greatest secrets of church growth of all time 😞 our children!! Our 2013-2017 edition of the Manual for the Church of the Nazarene Section 107 states . . .

107. Full Membership. The full membership of the local church shall be composed of all persons who have been organized into a local church by those authorized so to do, and all who have been publicly received by the pastor, the district superintendent, or the general superintendent, after having declared their experience of salvation, and their belief in the doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene, and their willingness to submit to its government. The local church leadership shall seek to place every member into a ministry of service and a circle of care and support. (23, 30.4, 107.2, 111, 113.1, 515.1, 519, 530.8, 536.8-536.9)

107.1. When persons desire to unite with the church, the pastor shall explain to them the privileges and responsibilities of membership in the church, the Articles of Faith, the requirements of the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct, and the purpose and mission of the Church of the Nazarene. After consulting with the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee, the pastor shall receive qualified candidates into the membership of the church in a public service, using the approved form for the reception of members (801). (21, 28-34, 110-110.4, 225)

Children can become members of the Church of the Nazarene! My Church! is designed to be used as a tool for a membership teacher to teach children what it means to become a member of the Church of the Nazarene.

Membership Teacher:

- Pray for your student(s).
- Teach these concepts in a fun, easy to understand manner.
- Pray that these concepts will have an impact on both a child's head knowledge and on a child's heart to live and grow into a better person.
- Look for relevant materials where the suggested learning resources are not within reach. Improvise with locally available resources.
- Encourage your children to shade in the pictures in this book.

Together we are molding the membership of the Church of the Nazarene!

Church of the Nazarene Articles of Faith

1 Triune God

2 Jesus Christ

3 Holy Spirit

4 Holy Scriptures

5 Sin, Original and Personal

6 Atonement

7 Preventive Grace

8 Repentance

9 Justification, Regeneration, Adoption

10 Entire Sanctification

The Church **11** †

12 Baptism

13 Lord's Supper

14 Divine Healing

15 Second Coming of Christ

16 Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny

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LESSON 1 - My Church of the Nazarene

OBJECTIVES

Children should be able to answer:

What is the Church of the Nazarene?

What do Nazarenes believe?

What do Nazarenes do?

MATERIALS NEEDED

Strips of paper

A Bible

A Manual for the Church of the Nazarene

LESSON EXPLORATION

Drama - Membership Teacher: Write out the above listed objectives on strips of paper. Distribute the papers to different children to read, one at a time, as they act out the parts of Ana's friends & classmates. The teacher should pretend that she is Ana - who is excitedly answering the children's questions. Teacher, feel free to use your own words as you portray the part of Ana.

LESSON 1

MY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Once there was an 11-year old girl called Ana. Like many girls her age, Ana loved to sing, to pray to Jesus, and to read her Bible. She was very active in her Nazarene Church. At school, Ana was always talking about how much she loved her church; the place where she had many friends and loving Sunday School teachers.

In Sunday School Ana learned many stories from the Bible. She would act out the stories with her teachers and her friends from church. Ana loved to share the Bible lessons she learned with her family, her school friends, and even with strangers she would meet. She was so excited! Ana loved attending her Nazarene Church worship services, her Sunday School classes, or any other activities at the church. Ana would tell the people she met about Jesus and invite them to come to her Church of the Nazarene.

One day during her Social Studies lesson at school, the teacher invited Ana to share why she was always talking about her church, her Sunday School teachers, her pastor, and her friends there. Ana was very happy to have this chance to tell her friends and classmates who the Nazarenes are and what they believe.

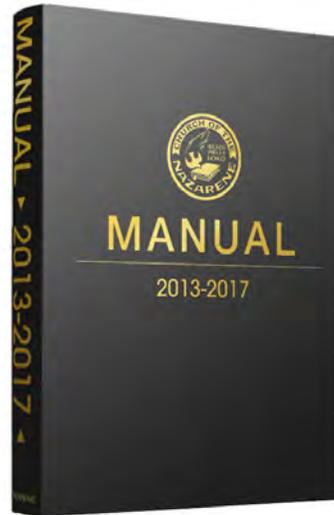
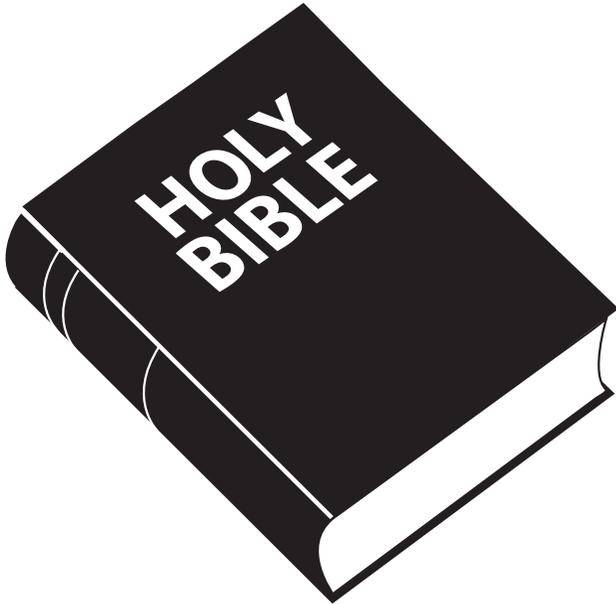
CHILD #1: What IS the Church of the Nazarene?

ANA: The Church of the Nazarene is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who come together to worship and serve God. The Nazarene family wants to become more like Jesus and live in His ways. The "church" is not just a building, but also a FAMILY!



CHILD #2: What do Nazarenes believe in?

ANA: We Nazarenes follow the BIBLE as our guide in order to live holy lives every day, not only on Sundays. We also follow a MANUAL for the Church of the Nazarene



The *Manual* is the constitution for the Church of the Nazarene. In it, we find what we believe, how we organize our churches, and ways to help us to do good and to live holy lives. Our *Manual* also tells us a brief history of our great church. We'll get to learn more about our beliefs later.

CHILD #3: What are some of the things that Nazarenes DO?

ANA: Well, let me tell you - We Nazarenes, we do so many good things. Let me try to tell you a few of them.

- We are friends of God!
- We stay away from anything that is evil.
- We love to praise & worship God!

- We study our Bibles.
- We Nazarenes like to be with each other.
- We attend worship services and other activities of our church.
- We support the needs of the church with our talents, our gifts, and our money, too.
- We love and pray for our pastor.

We Nazarenes are a united family of believers. We all work hard to do good for each other and to show others the love of Jesus Christ.

Our worship services are exciting! Anyone is welcome! Come see for yourselves! We sing songs, we pray for each other, and we help each other to draw closer to God. Sometimes we like to go up front to kneel down to pray to God. We call that 'praying at the altar'.

We are happy to bring one tenth of all that God gives to us back to Him; it might be money or corn, or anything else. We call that 'paying our tithe.' God is so good to us; it is the least we can do for Him!

Everything we have belongs to God, our creator. We acknowledge all in thanksgiving by giving back to our church ten percent of everything God blesses us with. Below are some of the key areas we Nazarenes practice.

1st - Nazarenes believe in HOLINESS! We believe, that with the power of God, people can live holy lives, free from all evil.

2nd - Nazarenes believe in MISSION! We Nazarenes want to share the love of Jesus Christ with our friends and the whole world. We invite our friends to church to tell them about Jesus and they share Him with others leading to the growth of the Church of the Nazarene.

3rd - Nazarenes know that Christian EDUCATION is very important! We like to have Nazarene schools, Bible colleges, and universities. Even me, I plan to go to a Nazarene university!

NAZARENES BELIEVE IN . . . Holiness, Mission, and Education

See why I love my wonderful Church of the Nazarene! You know, we are named after Jesus the Nazarene. Matthew 2:23 refers to Jesus like this...

and he went and lived, in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

We want to be like Jesus Christ, the Nazarene.

That is why we call ourselves NAZARENES. Can you sing with me?

NAZARENE! (clap clap) NAZARENE! (clap clap)

I HOPE TO BE A GOOD NAZARENE!!!

NAZARENE! (clap clap) NAZARENE! (clap clap)

JESUS WAS THE FIRST NAZARENE!!!

WHEN THE NAZARENES ARE PRAYING

THE ONE TRUE GOD IS REALLY LISTENING.

WHEN THE NAZARENES ARE HOLY,

THEY LOVE GOD AND OTHERS TRULY!

NAZARENE! (clap clap) NAZARENE! (clap clap)

I'M SO GLAD TO BE . . . A NAZARENE!!!!

LESSON 2 - GOD

OBJECTIVES

Children should understand the Trinity of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

1. We believe in One Triune God
2. We believe in Jesus Christ
3. We believe in the Holy Spirit

MATERIALS NEEDED

-a Bible

-a traditional cloth or a hat for the membership teacher to wear in order to pretend to act the part of the boy Diego

-some sort of shaking or beating instrument for Diego to play during the songs of the lesson

-a banana, boiled egg, mango, or other fruit that has 3 parts

-fruit to surprise the children with at the end of the lesson when teaching on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

LESSON EXPLORATION

Drama -

Membership Teacher: If space is available, take your children to another location for this drama such as under a tree, near a bush, etc. The teacher should wear a cloth & pretend that she/he is Diego. Again, excitedly explain about the Church of the Nazarene. Feel free to use your own words as you act the part of Diego.

LESSON 2

GOD

Ana takes her classmates under a tree to introduce to them her friend, Diego. Diego is a strong, 12-year old boy who lives in a remote village. He attends the Living Waters Church of the Nazarene with his family and friends. Diego and Ana spend a lot of time talking together about the Church of the Nazarene and the different things that happen at their churches; like talent days, fun days and Bible quizzing events.

Diego loves playing musical instruments during their worship services. He also loves to listen to his pastor talk about God, to learn about Bible stories, and to hear the great things that God is doing in people's lives. All these things happen at Nazarene churches.

Sofia: Diego, Ana told us so much about the great Church of the Nazarene.

Diego: Yes! What did she tell you?

CHILD 1: She told us the Church of the Nazarene is a big family that loves each other and comes together to worship God.

CHILD 2: Nazarenes have a *Manual* that helps them organize their church.

CHILD 3: She told us Nazarenes are friends with God. They study their Bibles and allow God to set them apart from the world in order to live HOLY lives.

CHILD 4: Nazarenes know Christian EDUCATION is very important.

CHILD 5:- Nazarenes believe in MISSION - spreading the LOVE of God everywhere they can.

CHILDREN: YES! YES! YES!!! She told us all these things!

Diego: Everything Ana told you is very true! There is even more.

Let us go back to the basics:

#1 - We Nazarenes believe in One Triune God!

1. There is only One God

Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Deuteronomy 6:4

2. God is three in one!!! THE TRINITY!

- FATHER
- SON (Jesus Christ)
- HOLY SPIRIT

All three are one God and not prophets or helpers of God. This is a mystery, but it is very true! As an egg has an eggshell, egg white, and an egg yolk; all three are all different, but all three parts are one egg! It is the same way with God.

Can you think of another example? Mango, avocado, lychee, etc.

Membership Teacher - Bring one of these foods with skin, meat and a seed to class for the children to open to see the three parts inside.

3. God has NO limits. There is nothing He cannot know! There is nothing He cannot do!!!

(Using actions & shaking or beating instruments, Diego should teach the following song to the children)

*MY GOD IS SO BIG; SO STRONG AND SO MIGHTY!
THERE'S NOTHING MY GOD CANNOT DO! (FOR YOU!) 2X
THE MOUNTAINS ARE HIS
THE RIVERS ARE HIS
THE STARS ARE HIS HANDIWORK TOO!
MY GOD IS SO BIG; SO STRONG AND SO MIGHTY!
THERE'S NOTHING MY GOD CANNOT DO! (FOR YOU!)*

Song by Ruth Harms Calkin

Diego: God created the world and everything in it. Let's sing another song:

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

HE'S GOT THE SUN AND THE STARS IN HIS HANDS (3X)

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

HE'S GOT EVERYBODY HERE IN HIS HANDS (3X)

HE'S GOT THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE IN HIS HANDS (3X)

Songwriter unknown

Diego: #2 - We believe in Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ, (who was God) became a man so He could become friends with us. The little baby Jesus was born in a stable.

Membership Teacher: Say John 3:16 together:

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

This verse explains the life of Jesus Christ - God.

Jesus lived life on earth without sin. When He was crucified, Jesus rose up to heaven and left the Holy Spirit with us back here on earth. He is now in heaven preparing a place for you and for me.

Sing to your own melody

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE, THERE ARE MANY MANSIONS.

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE, THERE ARE MANY ROOMS.

IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU!

I'M GOING THERE TO PREPARE FOR YOU!

I GO (echo)

TO PREPARE (echo)

AND I WILL COME (echo)

FOR YOU (echo). X2 (John 14:2)

Author Unknown

Diego: #3 - We believe in the Holy Spirit! When we choose to give God our lives, the Holy Spirit, God, lives inside our hearts - leading us and guiding us.

Have you ever done something that you have felt badly about? That is the Holy Spirit speaking to you.

Fun Idea -

Diego: I have a gift for you children

Membership Teacher: Distribute fruit to the children. Tell them that when the Holy Spirit lives in you, your life will have the following fruits of the spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control. (Galatians 5:22- 23)

Diego: Let's sing - *THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS . . . love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self control.*

Diego: Let us all say together:

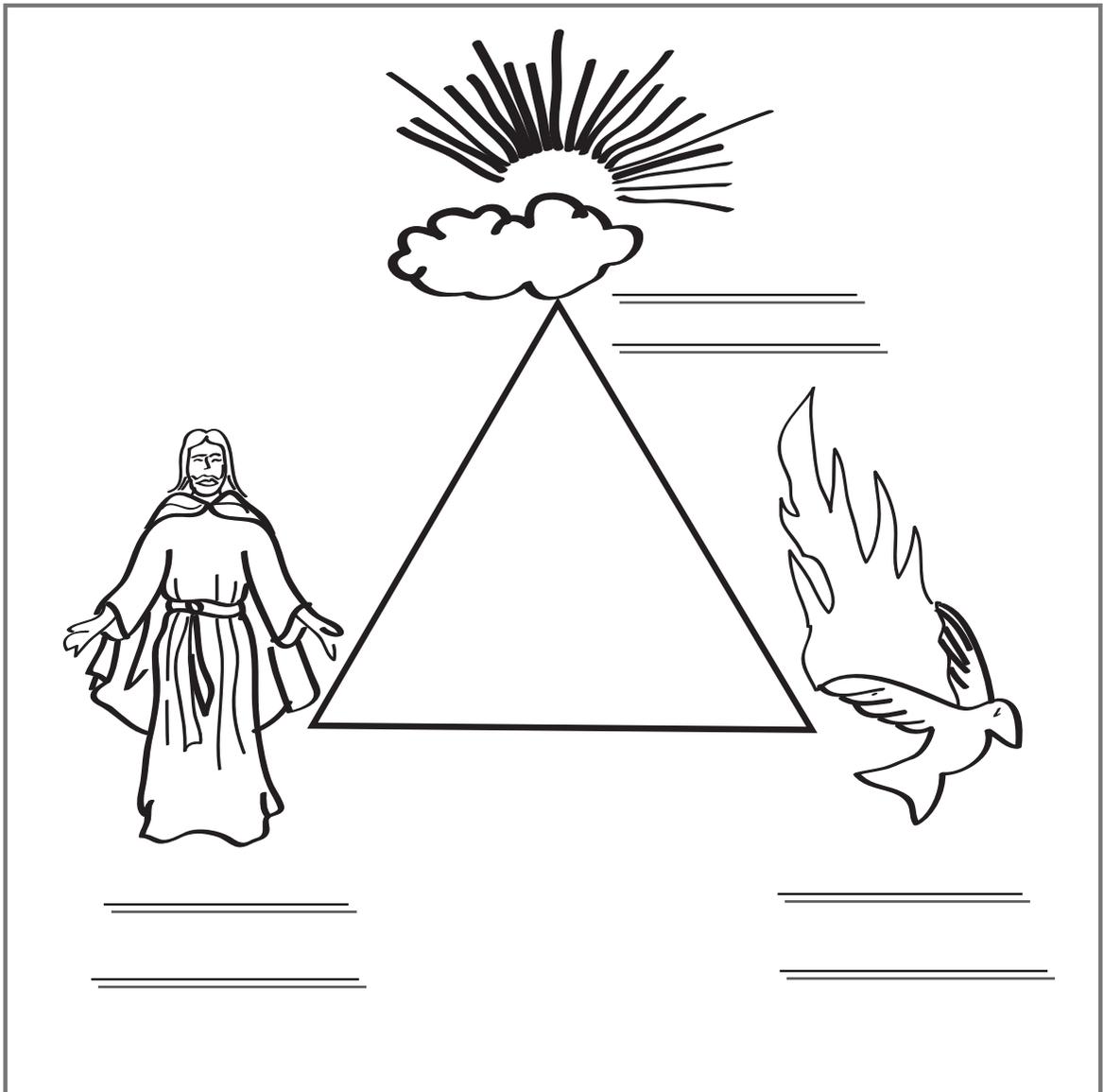
We believe in . . .

1- the triune God

2- Jesus Christ

3- Holy Spirit

Membership Teacher: Review what Diego is teaching by asking the children to fill in the triangle with the first three Articles of Faith: for the Church of the Nazarene.



By Japheth Opondo Okinyo
Central Church of the Nazarene
Nairobi, KENYA

LESSON 3 - My Bible

OBJECTIVES

Children need to know the importance of their Bibles

Children will be encouraged to have a desire to read their Bibles

#4 We believe in the Holy Scriptures

MATERIALS NEEDED

-a Bible

-pen/pencils

LESSON EXPLORATION

Teach Article #4 in a fun and meaningful way

LESSON 3

MY BIBLE

Ana invites all her friends to her Church of the Nazarene and she starts to teach them the B-I-B-L-E Song. The children join in the Song ...

THE B-I-B-L-E

THE B-I-B-L-E

THAT IS THE BOOK FOR ME

THAT IS THE BOOK FOR ME

I STAND UPON

I READ MY BIBLE EVERYDAY

THE WORD OF GOD

THE B-I-B-L-E

THE B-I-B-L-E

BIBLE!

Sofia: Look at the Bible that my Grandmother gave me! What is so special about a Bible?

Diego: A Bible is a holy book that tells us what God wants from us and how to walk with Him. It shows us how much God loves us.

Our Bible is what God has given us to help us live holy lives!!!! (Diego shows his Bible to the children and encourages them to bring their Bibles to church every Sunday.)

SING with motions:

The Bible is a holy book

The Bible is a holy book

God's words are written there

God's words are written there

I'll keep it in a special place

I like to open it and read

And handle it with care

That I am in his care

Diego: I LOVE BEING A NAZARENE!!! Let us sing our Nazarene song again.

NAZARENE! (Clap clap) NAZARENE! (Clap clap)

I HOPE TO BE A GOOD NAZARENE!!!

NAZARENE! (Clap clap) NAZARENE! (clap clap)

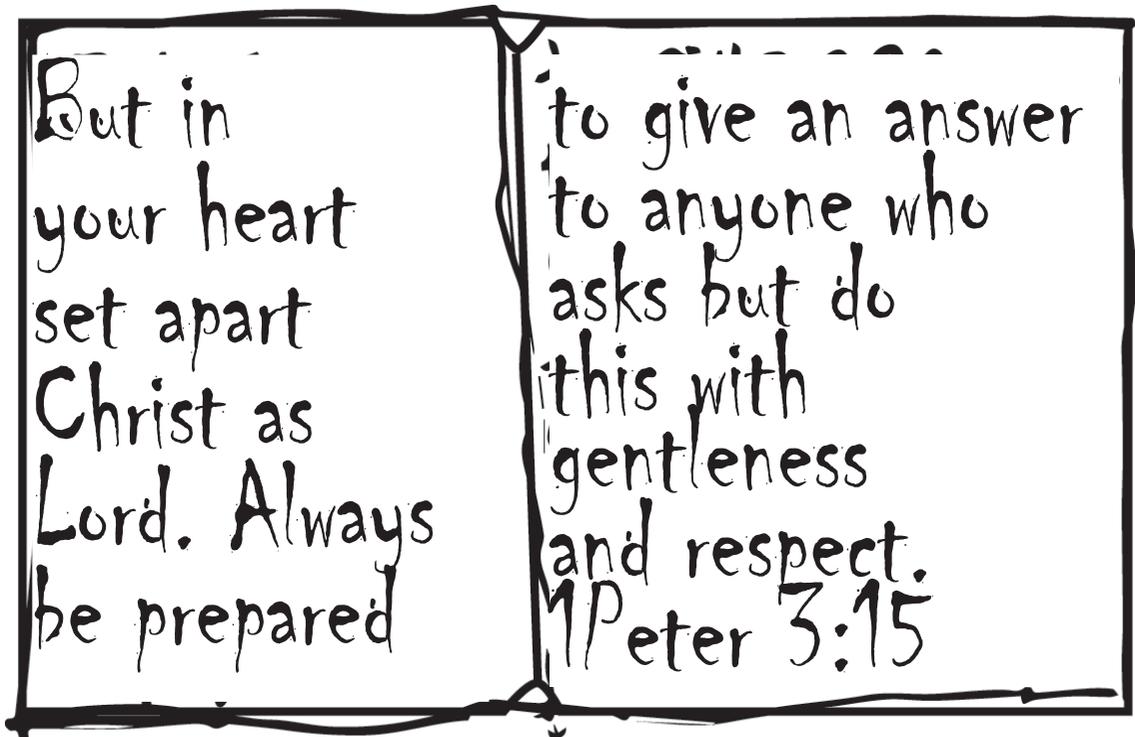
JESUS WAS THE FIRST NAZARENE!!!

WHEN THE NAZARENES ARE PRAYING

THE ONE TRUE GOD IS REALLY LISTENING.

WHEN THE NAZARENES ARE HOLY,

THEY LOVE GOD AND OTHERS TRULY!



By Abby George, Age 9
Monett Church of the Nazarene,
Missouri, USA

Membership teacher: Discuss with the child/children about the Bible by placing Words /phrases in the correct columns in the chart on the following page.

-God's Word

-Holy

-magic

-witch doctor

-true

-magic to keep evil away

-Old Testament and New Testament

-history book

-tells the future

-a collection of spiritual vitamin tablets

-a book I should study

-a book the Holy Spirit helps me to understand

-a book to be disobeyed

THE BIBLE IS.....	THE BIBLE IS NOT.....

Review the Articles of Faith Numbers 1 to 4 alone

Membership Teacher: Hey, does every child have a Bible of their very own? Find out. Work with your pastor to see how you can help every child to have their own Bible.

Sing with your child/children the B-I-B-L-E song again in order to help them be excited about their Bibles (Holy Scriptures).

LESSON 4 - My Salvation

OBJECTIVES

Children need to understand how to become saved by accepting Christ Jesus in their lives.

#5 We believe in Sin

#6 We believe in Atonement

#7 We believe in Prevenient Grace

#8 We believe in Repentance

#9 We believe in Justification, Regeneration and Adoption

MATERIALS NEEDED

-Bible

LESSON EXPLORATION

Membership Teacher: Appoint four students to act out the parts of Juan, Diego, Ana and Sofia in this lesson. They have to be among those that have attended the first three lessons and are active in class.

LESSON 4

MY SALVATION

Sofia walks in to the group looking sad and not as happy as usual. Her friend Ana notices and asks her if she is OK... Sofia shakes her head, a sign that all is not well, and talks to Ana about what is making her sad.....

Sofia: Ana! My mom told me how to live well with my brother and if I disobeyed, I would be punished.

I was so angry with my young brother because he always tore my schoolbooks. I hit him. Because I disobeyed her, my mom was going to beat me so much. But, my sister came and volunteered to take my beating.

Ana: Sofia! What you did is what we call sin and God's Word says that we should love one another and be kind.

Sofia: What Is SIN?

Ana: Sin is disobeying God's Word - the Bible. Nazarenes believe in two kinds of sin:

- original sin - when Adam and Eve sinned, they introduced sin into the world and damaged the world.
- personal sin - when you know it is wrong, but you go ahead and do it any way.

If you sin, you need to ask for forgiveness (Repentance) from God for the wrong that you have done and ask God to change your heart.

Sofia: Is that what Jesus does for us so that we may go to heaven?

Ana: Yes! God loves us so much that even when we were sinners Christ took our punishment on the cross. (Atonement)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Juan (one of Ana's classmates): I am so happy to learn from Ana and Diego about the Church of the Nazarene! I really want to learn more from them. I can share something that I have learned from my Social Studies classes at school. Our teacher is so lovely and I like how she treats us. Let me tell you of one of the fun lessons I learned and love so much about salvation.

Salvation means:

- *to be delivered from the punishment of my bad actions and evil thoughts (sins)

- *to have my sins forgiven

- *to accept Jesus into my heart and live in His ways

God reaches down and pulls us up from our lives of sin to His perfect waysAna:

Ana: It is true -

The Bible tells me how to live and if I disobey, I will be punished. But Jesus volunteered to take my punishment even though I deserved to be punished. Jesus took my punishment (Grace). He saved me from having to take my punishment.

God does not allow any bad actions in his perfect heaven. My punishment would be not to allow me into heaven.

He forgave me and made me just as if I had not sinned (Justification)

Juan: How I would love to see the whole world make a choice to believe and obey Jesus Christ!

Ana: Who would like to accept Jesus Christ into his or her heart?

Who would like to be forgiven from all the bad things you have been doing?

If there is anyone today, using your own words, pray this prayer:

DEAR JESUS,

I AM VERY SORRY FOR THE BAD THINGS I HAVE DONE, I AM VERY SORRY FOR MY SINS; I KNOW I HAVE HURT YOU, OTHERS, AND MYSELF THROUGH THESE SINS. PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I NEVER WANT TO SIN AGAIN! FATHER, I WANT YOU TO BE IN CONTROL OF MY LIFE! CLEAN MY HEART. USE ME FOR YOUR SERVICE - THE WAY YOU KNOW BEST! JESUS, I AM YOURS!!!



If you have prayed this prayer from your heart, you are now born again (Regeneration).

MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: IF ANY OF YOUR STUDENTS SINCERELY PRAYED THIS PRAYER TODAY:

CELEBRATE!!!

THEY HAVE NOW BECOME A CHILD OF GOD! (Adoption)

TELL THEIR PARENTS!

TELL YOUR PASTOR!

HAVE THEM GIVE A TESTIMONY IN CHURCH!

HELP THEM TO FIND A BIBLE TO STUDY!

SHOW THEM HOW TO WALK AS A CHRISTIAN!

THIS IS A GREAT DAY!!!

LESSON 5 - My Sanctification

OBJECTIVES

Children should be able to learn about sanctification and what it means to be set apart.

#10 We believe in Entire Sanctification

MATERIALS NEEDED

-a Bible

-a dark cloth to represent sin

LESSON EXPLORATION

Membership Teacher: Review with your child from lesson 4 about salvation to make sure he/she understands.

Nazarenes know that salvation from our sins is not earned by the good things we do, by joining the church in membership, nor by being baptized, but only by accepting Jesus into our hearts and living in God's ways.

LESSON 5

MY SANCTIFICATION

After accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour, the children are very eager to learn more about the Church of the Nazarene from Ana & Diego.

Ana, so excited about her friends receiving salvation and becoming Christians, invites them to come to her church.

Ana: Hey, now that you have asked Jesus to save you from your sins and to become a Christian, how would you like to go to church with me Sunday? We Christians need to join together as we worship God.

CHILDREN: Sure, that would really be fun. We would love to come see your church service and be part of the other believers in Jesus Christ.

Diego: Can I come too? I would also like to visit and bring greetings from my Church of the Nazarene.

On Sunday all the children, plus Diego, met Ana and walked with her to church. Everyone was very excited!

At Ana's Church of the Nazarene, the children could not believe how everyone was so friendly. They met the pastor, other church members, many children, and choir members.

Finally, they met Ana's Sunday School teacher, Teacher Lucia.

TEACHER LUCIA: Welcome, welcome children! I am SO glad you have come today. Jesus loves you very much and he is smiling at you for the decisions you have taken in your life. I know you will quickly feel comfortable and welcomed at our Church of the Nazarene. Ana tells me that several of you asked Jesus to come into your life and save you from your sins.

SOFIA: Yes, we did. We are so excited to have become Christians. We love God very much! We know we have a great deal to learn about being Christians and about being Nazarenes.

TEACHER LUCIA: Yes, you do. We are walking with you to teach you everything we can. (Teacher Lucia calls the class together.) Children! Everyone come over here, I have some new children I would like for you to meet.

Teacher Lucia introduces the new children to her class and explains how several of them have just accepted Christ! Together they discussed their salvation. As they talked about salvation, the teacher gave an example of her son who accepted Christ at a very young age. His name is Jose and he loves to read his Bible and pray with his Mom.

Membership Teacher: From your own words, discuss the following story:

*When Jose was 7 years old, he asked Jesus Christ to forgive his sins, to come into his life, and to receive salvation. He became a new person in Christ. Since that time, Jose has read his Bible, talked to God regularly, and has been very involved in his church. Still Jose wanted more; he wanted to consecrate/give himself completely to God to be made holy, to have his heart cleaned, and to be set apart from the bad things of the world.

DIEGO: After confessing your sins and accepting Christ in your life fully, you need to be ready to give your whole self to be used by God. He will entirely SANCTIFY you. God will set you apart from sin. Our sins break our friendship with God and hurt our world and ourselves. Sin is such a load to carry.

Membership Teacher: Possibly tell an illustration from your own life experiences of when you chose evil over good. Discuss the need you felt in your life to repent and ask God to forgive you and to totally give your life to Jesus. This would be very meaningful for your students.

Fun idea - SIN JACKET MIME

Membership Teacher - choose three children to act out this simple mime:
(Child #1-bad guy, Child #2-Jesus, Child#3- saved guy)

*Child #1 should act as an unsaved person that uses everything to please himself; lying, stealing, drinking, smoking, etc.

*Child #2 should act as our Saviour, Jesus Christ, representing all good things.

Child #3 must make the choice to live with sin or decide to give all to Christ so that he can be sanctified.

Use a cloth or jacket to represent the evil things in life

Child #1 wears the cloth on his back representing the burden of sin in his life. Let the child decide how to portray this sinful life - lying, stealing, drinking, smoking, etc

Child #1 wants to spread this burden onto his friend's life. He pulls Child #3 close to himself forcing child #3 to carry the burden of this cloth (life of sin) on his back too.

Child #3 struggles with the sin cloth until Child #2 (Jesus Christ) appears & helps him to get rid of it!

*Child #3 should act as the one who must make the choice to live with sin or decide to give all to Christ so that he can be sanctified.

In the end, Child #3 gets tired of the bad things and with repentance prays to Jesus Christ to ask for his sins to be forgiven and to totally consecrate/give his life to Jesus. He has asked God to entirely sanctify him.

What is ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION?

To be set apart for God's service in church, at home, and at school as you play with your friends. This is when the Holy Spirit lives in us.

The job of the Holy Spirit is to:

1. -live in us
2. -teach us
3. -set us apart from the bad things in the world
4. -provide strength to properly control our lives through:
 - prayer
 - Bible reading
 - service to God and man
 - fellowship with other Christians

ANA: Friends! Is that what you want today?

Do you want to be made holy and set apart for God's service?

CHILDREN: Yes, we want to serve God fully.

JUAN: In class, we learned that the BIBLE tells us in 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3
It is God's will that you should be sanctified.

But God will not force us, it's our choice.

ANA: Yes!

So, with God's help decide today. . .

- to be made holy
- to have your heart cleaned
- to be set apart for God's service

Learn to live in the way God wants you to live. Allow him to entirely sanctify you.

LESSON 6 - Nazarenes Grow

OBJECTIVES

Children should learn what it means to grow spiritually.

Children should be encouraged to desire to grow closer to God through the sacraments of the church.

11 We believe in the Church

12 We believe in Baptism

13 We believe in the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible

LESSON EXPLORATION

Membership Teacher: Encourage your children to discuss baptism with their parents. If they would like to make the decision to be baptized, plan with your pastor a date whereby he/she can meet with your children about baptism.

LESSON 6

NAZARENES GROW

After school Diego invites all his friends to the field to learn more about the Church of the Nazarene.

Diego: At school, have you ever learned The Apostle's Creed?

Juan: Yes! We had to memorize it in our Social Studies class but my friends and I never gave much thought about it.

Diego: The Apostle's Creed reminds us Christians what we believe. Can we all say it together?

I believe in God the Father Almighty
Maker of Heaven and earth
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
And sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty;
From there He shall come to judge the
Living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Church* Universal,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen

*The Church of the Nazarene is a part of the Church Universal; a capital C in Church means all believers in Jesus Christ.

Sofia: I hear people speaking of growing as Christians. What do you mean GROW AS CHRISTIANS? Will we get taller?

Diego: No. Sofia, to grow as a Christian means to grow closer to God and to follow in His example. As Christians, Jesus showed us some examples of how to grow closer to Him. My pastor taught us about two special things we should do with our church congregation (the body of Christ). We call these SACRAMENTS. Let me tell you what they are:

The first sacrament is BAPTISM.

After accepting Jesus Christ into our lives, we should be baptized out of obedience to God's Word

Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. (Acts 2:38)

Ana: Baptism does not save anyone. But, Jesus was baptized in water. We should follow His example.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. (Mark 1:9)

For us children, our parents may want to dedicate us to the Lord first. Later on, when we make the decision ourselves, our pastor can baptize us by sprinkling or pouring water on our heads.

Some parents may even want to go ahead and have their pastors baptize their babies by sprinkling water on their heads. That is ok. When they are old enough to understand and want to make the decision to give their lives to Jesus themselves, then they can make this expression of faith to their pastor and their congregation. I was baptized by putting my whole body into the river! I wanted to show everyone that Jesus had given me a whole new life in Him! I was no longer the same!

Diego: Is there anyone else who would like to be baptized?

Diego: The 2nd sacrament we should practice is:

-THE LORD'S SUPPER (HOLY COMMUNION)

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Just like Jesus, everyone who loves God should eat of the bread and drink of the cup of juice that reminds us of Jesus' life and death. The bread is a symbol for Christ's body. The cup of juice is a symbol for Christ's blood. They remind us of Jesus death on the cross.

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)

'Shedding of blood' means to take a life or to kill. Before Jesus came to the earth, people had to kill/sacrifice animals in order to have their sins forgiven. Jesus came and allowed himself to be killed by the soldiers in order to offer Himself as the ultimate sacrifice to have all of our sins forgiven. That is why Jesus had to die. This was the only way our sins could be forgiven.

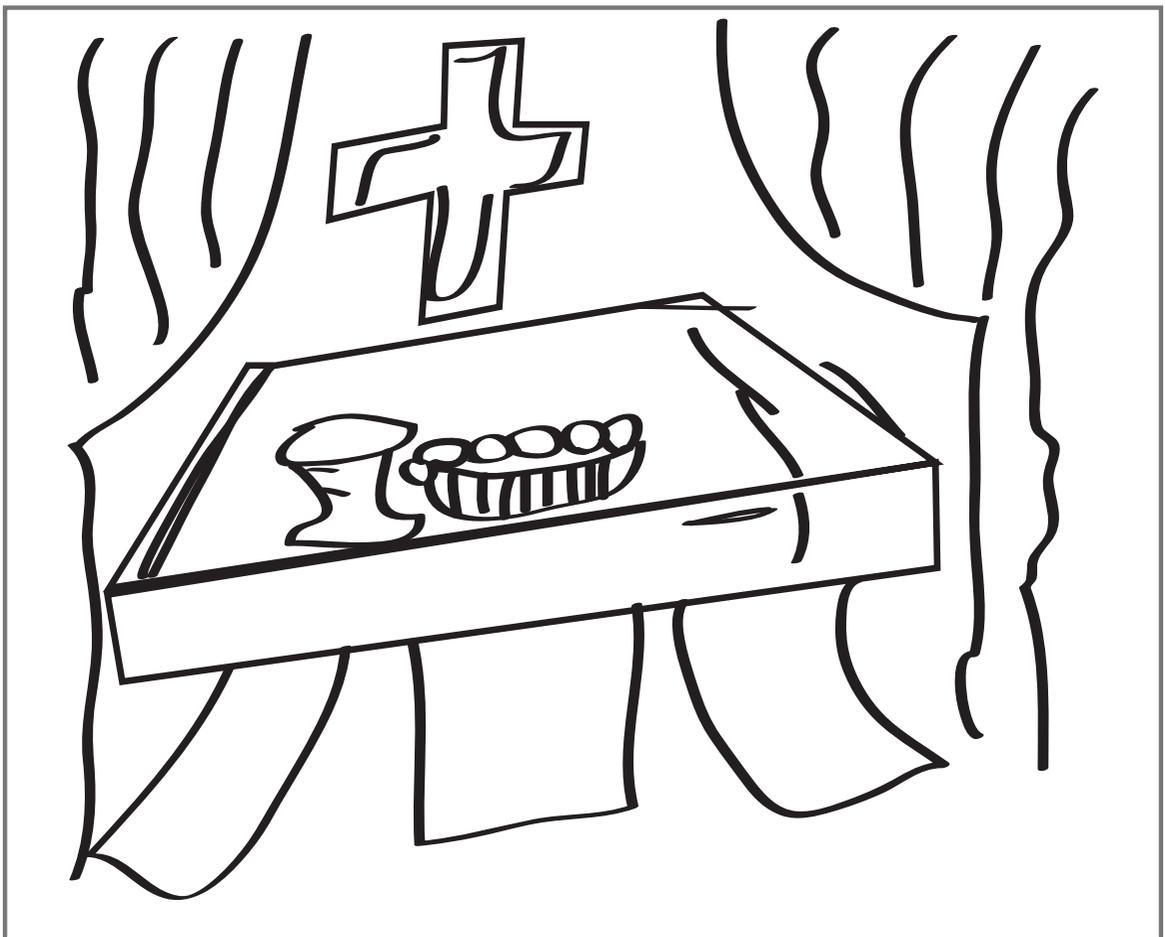
Therefore, the next time the pastor offers to serve the Lord's Supper at church:

- * Think about how Jesus suffered and why he died.
- * Think about your words, your actions, and your attitudes.
- * Ask God if you have any hidden sin in your life.
- * If God reveals anything to you, you need to:
 - * Confess that sin to God.
 - * Tell God that you are sorry.
 - * Ask God to forgive you.
 - * Ask the Holy Spirit to give you strength to obey him.

Ana: Before you take the cup of juice or eat the bread that is offered by your pastor, make sure you understand the importance of Holy Communion. This is not just a nice snack to be eaten during church. This **HOLY COMMUNION** is a sign of a promise, a commitment between God and man. Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and we are promising to give our lives back to Him.

Sofia: I want to be baptized, take the Lord's Supper, and be a part of the Church.

Ana: I'm glad. Let us ask the pastor when the next Holy Communion service will be so that you can be part of that great service.



By Catherine Mukoko
Nazarene Bible College of East Africa
Ongata Rongai, KENYA

LESSON 7 - My Destiny

OBJECTIVES

As a result of this lesson, children should be able to restate the following articles of faith in their own mother tongue and be able to apply their significance to their lives.

#14 We believe in divine healing.

#15 We believe in the second coming of Christ.

#16 We believe in our resurrection, judgment, and destiny.

MATERIALS NEEDED

-a Bible and a ball (for football)

LESSON EXPLORATION

Membership Teacher: Review with your child from lesson 6 about the Church, baptism, and the Lord's Supper. Make sure he/she understands Nazarenes believe:

- that God heals us.
- that Jesus Christ will come again.
- in the resurrection of the dead.
- all lives will be judged to determine their destiny

In this lesson we will talk about how we live these beliefs.

LESSON 7

MY DESTINY

Today Ana's home has many visitors. Sofia and her neighbors wonder why they are all at Ana's house. Everyone is working or doing something at Ana's house. It seems Ana's uncle has just died and she is very sad. All her church friends and pastor have come to comfort the family during this hard and emotional time.

Juan: Ana, why did God not heal your uncle? You told us earlier that you believe in divine healing. I always thought that if we prayed and asked God to heal us, we Christians would be healed.

Sofia: What is divine healing Ana?

Ana: Divine healing is God's power making a sick person well.

-God wants us to pray for Him to heal sick people.

-Remember: * Let God answer your prayers in the way He chooses.

* Believe that God knows ALL and He does what is best for us.

- God may physically heal us immediately or gradually.

- Or like my uncle, God may know it is the time for our lives on this earth to be over.

Sofia: If I get malaria is it because I have sinned and God is punishing me for being a bad girl?

Diego: Sofia, being sick does not necessarily mean that we have sinned. Sickness usually means that our bodies are weak and need care.

While praying we still need to go to see doctors. God helps doctors to give us the right medicines to heal our bodies.

Sofia: So, is that the end for your uncle?

Ana: No Sofia, (Ana smiles!). It is only the beginning!!!

One of God's purposes for our life here on earth is to prepare us for the eternal life to come! We have a purpose here and now in this life to do good and to bring praise to God and to lead others to God.

Juan: Well then, what happened to Ana's uncle???

Diego: Do you remember when we talked about God being three in one?

*God the Father

*God the Son (Jesus)

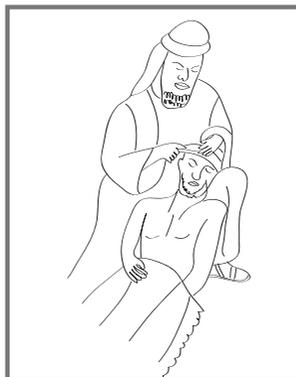
*God the Holy Spirit

- The first time God the Son (Jesus) came to earth, He came as a baby. Baby Jesus grew up and then died on a cross to take the punishment for our sins.
- Jesus never sinned. Still, He lovingly sacrificed Himself for all the sins of us human beings.
- When Jesus died, he went to His Father's house - heaven.

Jesus told us:

In my father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:2-3)

Sofia: Oh! Do you remember that song we sang earlier? Could we sing it again?



By Rose Ng'ang'a
Nazarene Children for Christ
Ministries East Africa

Children sing:

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE THERE ARE MANY MANSIONS.

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE THERE ARE MANY ROOMS.

IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU!

I AM GOING TO HEAVEN TO PREPARE FOR YOU!

I GO (echo)

TO PREPARE (echo)

AND I WILL COME (echo)

FOR YOU (echo). X2

Ana: When my uncle was a boy, he told Jesus he was sorry for his sins and he asked to be forgiven. All the rest of his life my uncle lived the way Jesus told him to in the Bible. My uncle was saved from the punishment his earlier sins deserved by Jesus' death on the cross. Since he was saved from his sins, when he died his spirit immediately went into the presence of the Lord.

2 Corinthians. 5:8 explains that my uncle went . . . home with the Lord.

Today God is in heaven with the spirits of His followers who have already died.

Sofia: I know about the spirits, Ana! My auntie told me that the spirits of our ancestors are always watching over us. Sometimes we need to give offerings to them to make them happy. If we do not make them happy, then we are in BIG trouble!!!

One time it did not rain for many days and my uncles thought our ancestors were angry. To try to make our ancestors happy with us my uncles got together and sacrificed a chicken.

Ana; Sofia, I do not think your uncles believed Jesus Christ was the one true God. Christians do not believe in ancestor spirits.

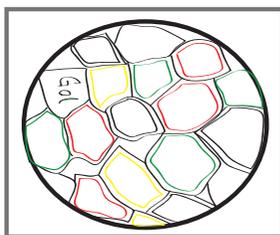
The Bible tells us:

. . . . we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, . . . (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

We Nazarenes know that all who have already died, who have faith in Jesus, their spirits are already with God in heaven (a great cloud of witnesses). These 'witnesses' are watching us run the race of life and they are cheering us on. It is just like in a football match when the crowd is cheering as a game is being played. The crowd does not get involved in the game, but instead cheers, encouraging the players.

Diego: (Comes running up dribbling a football.) We do not have to worry about pleasing the ancestors. We only have to worry about pleasing God. Anyone want to play?

(The children all gather together happily to play some football.)



By Silke Sherudo Rehema Magaya, Age 9
University Church of the Nazarene
Nairobi, KENYA
ZIMBABWE East District

**MEMBERSHIP TEACHER - PLAY SOME FOOTBALL WITH YOUR STUDENTS.
THEY WILL LOVE IT!!!**

Ana: So, God is in heaven. When he decides it is the right time, Jesus Christ will come back to earth again. In this second coming, there will be a resurrection of the dead.

The bodies of both the saved and the unsaved will be re-united with their spirits.

Then the day will come for our judgment and our eternal destiny will be decided:

- Those who have been saved from their sins (loved God and accepted Jesus), will spend eternity in heaven.
- Those who refused to ask Jesus to forgive them of their sins will spend eternity without God in hell.

Juan: We need to be ready for Jesus' second coming and our judgment, don't we!

Sofia: Do we need to pack all our clothes, toys, and food so that we may go with Jesus to heaven? Will they have schools and doctors there?

Diego: Sofia, in heaven we will not need any of those things. To 'be ready' we only need to tell Jesus we are sorry for our sins and ask Him to forgive us. We need to live our lives on earth the way He tells us to in the Bible.

Ana: We need to help other people be ready too. We need to help them to know how to become Christians (disciples of Jesus Christ) - saved from a destiny of staying forever in hell without God.

Juan: Wow! I really want to tell all my friends about Jesus. I need to talk with them about their destiny; Where they will spend eternity. I want them to be able to go to heaven - not hell.

Sofia: Me too!!!

Diego: The things we are learning are very important in order to understand:

- * how we need to live on earth
- * what awaits us after our life on earth

Let's all sing:

HEAVEN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE!

Heaven is a wonderful place

Filled with glory and grace

I want to see my Saviour's face,

Oh, heaven is a wonderful place (I want to go there!)

LESSON 8 - Nazarene Church History

OBJECTIVES

As a result of this lesson, children should be able to see how the Church of the Nazarene started and how it has grown to spread salvation around the world.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a Bible
- colored pencils, or something to color with

LESSON EXPLORATION

Membership Teacher: Invite all the children to your house for some fresh fruits.

Teacher and Ana plan to talk more about the Church of the Nazarene and how it first began.

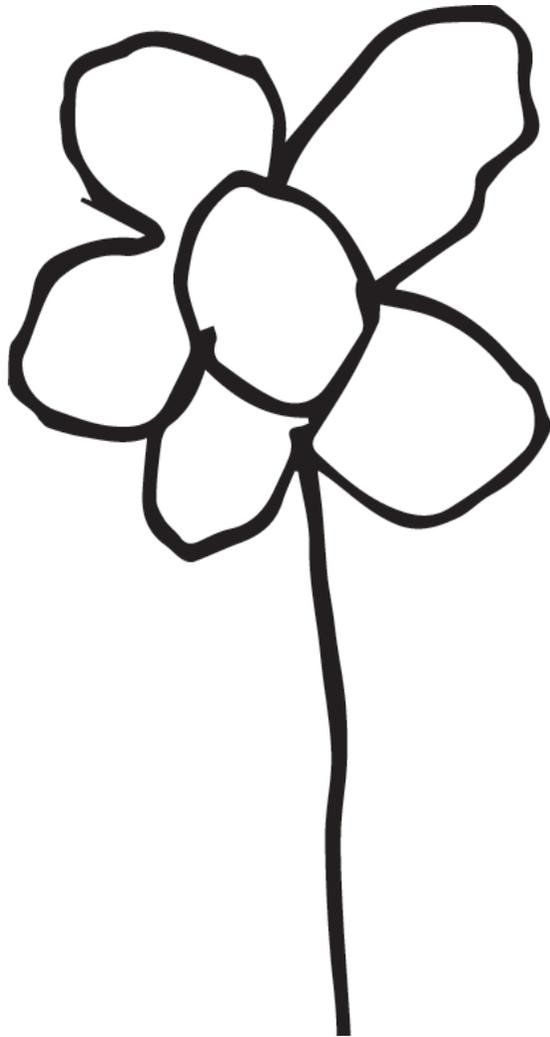
LESSON 8

MY NAZARENE CHURCH HISTORY

Sofia: I am so glad I made the decision to follow Jesus. It has been really fun learning all about what Nazarenes believe.

Juan: Ana, is the Church of the Nazarene a new church? Do you know anything about the history of our church?

Ana: Sure! . . . I know something. Diego and I would like to help you understand about our church. Look at this map I brought today.



By Cole Belcher, Age 9
Garnett Church of the Nazarene
Missouri, USA





MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: GUIDE THE CHILDREN TO COLOUR ON THE CORRESPONDING CITIES/COUNTRIES AS THEY ARE POINTED OUT IN THE LESSON.

*Christianity began when Baby Jesus was born - in the city of Bethlehem, Israel. This was in the year 0001 AD. 'AD' means 'In the Year of our Lord.'

. . . a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11b)

MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: TAKE TIME TO POINT OUT:

- YOUR CITY

- BETHLEHEM, ISRAEL (look for the letter B in the world map)

*After Jesus grew up, was crucified, and had risen from the dead some of His followers were together in Jerusalem celebrating a holiday called Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came to the followers in a great way. From that point onward, the followers of Jesus devoted themselves to becoming a church family. This was in the year 33 AD.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: POINT OUT JERUSALEM ON YOUR MAP AND GUIDE THE CHILDREN IN COLOURING JERUSALEM. (look for the letter J on the world map)

*Later the Church began to grow, but under great persecution!!!

. . . a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. (Acts 8:1)

MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: POINT OUT JUDEA AND SAMARIA ON YOUR MAP AND HAVE THE CHILDREN COLOUR THE TWO CITIES. (look for letters J&S on the world map)

*The Church became known as the Catholic Church and became the state religion of the Roman Empire. This was in the year 313 AD.

MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: POINT OUT EUROPE, THEN ITALY, THEN ROME ON YOUR MAP. NOTICE HOW CHRISTIANITY HAS NOW SPREAD TO EUROPE. (look for the letter R on the world map)

Juan: Diego, back at home I have friends who go to the Catholic Church. They always tell me that all these other churches came from or split from their Catholic Church. Is that true?

Diego: Yes, some of the Christian people believed different things than what the Catholic Church leaders were teaching. These Christians split themselves from the Catholic Church and called themselves the Protestant Church. This was around the year 1530 AD.

Ana: With the Bible as their guide, the Protestant Church formed some of the different denominations that we have today such as the Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Pentecostal Church, and the Church of the Nazarene!

Sofia: How did the Church of the Nazarene start?

Diego: There was a man by the name of Phineas F. Bresee. He became the father of the Church of the Nazarene in 1908; Texas, America.

MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: POINT OUT AMERICA, THEN TEXAS ON YOUR MAP. (look for the letters Tx on the world map)

Many Nazarene churches began to spring up and since then the Church of the Nazarene has scattered all around the world!!!

Juan: That is really exciting - how Christianity is spreading around the world!!!

Diego: Juan, it really is. It is also exciting how God is using the Church of the Nazarene to help spread His Gospel and teach people how to become saved Christians.

Ana: I love my Church of the Nazarene! Some day I want to be a leader in my church. I would love to work with other children and help them to learn more about Jesus and Nazarenes too!

Sofia: Let's colour in the whole map of the world to show how Christianity is spreading throughout the world!

MEMBERSHIP TEACHER: ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN TO COLOUR IN THE ENTIRE MAP OF THE WORLD SO THE CHILDREN CAN SEE HOW THE GOSPEL IS SPREADING.

LESSON 9 - My Church

OBJECTIVES

-Children should be able to see how the Church of the Nazarene has grown around the world

-Children should know the goal of the Church of the Nazarene is the Great Commission:

. . . . Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
(Matthew 28:19 - 20)

MATERIALS NEEDED

*a very small pot/container

*some pebbles to place in the container

*crayons or something for the children to use to colour

*Bible

LESSON EXPLORATION

Diego's parents have invited Pastor J and all the children of their Living Waters Church of the Nazarene to their home for some fellowship, fun, and food. 😊

LESSON 9

MY CHURCH

Back at Pastor J's church, the children look forward to the games he likes playing with them. They love his stories and the way he sits down to talk with them. Today is no different. Sofia and Juan are especially looking forward to hearing more from Pastor J about the history of the Church of the Nazarene.

PASTOR J: This has really been a fun afternoon! Mama Diego, your food was too sweet! Thank you so very much!

Children, it is great that Diego and Ana have been spending some time telling you children about the beliefs of our church.

Can you tell us some things that you have learned?

Sofia: Yes, the Church of the Nazarene is great; I am very proud of this church!

Juan: Me too! Nazarenes are working hard to accomplish the work God has planned for us.

Sofia: Nazarenes are doing their best to spread the love of God everywhere we go - even around the world!

Juan: Nazarenes want to live happy, holy lives while here on earth, and so when we die we can spend eternity with God.

Sofia: Nazarenes are telling their friends about God and showing them His ways.

PASTOR J: You children are right. Great job! May I tell you some more exciting things about our Church of the Nazarene? In fact, let us play a game as I talk with you . . .

Here I have an empty pot and some pebbles in a basket.

I am going to ask you some questions.

Every time you answer correctly, you get to take a pebble from the basket and put it in this pot. You can even ask your friends for help - hopefully someone here will know these answers.

If we get the pot filled, I promise to take you for a trip next Saturday afternoon!

Ok, are you ready? Listen very carefully!!!

The Church of the Nazarene is growing fast all around the world.

Jesus has work to do in this world. God will use us to do that work.

The Church of the Nazarene has divided the world into 6 regions:

- *Africa
- *Asia-Pacific
- *Eurasia
- *Mesoamerica (Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean)
- *South America
- *USA/Canada

- There is a general superintendent in charge of each of these regions.
- We have one regional director responsible to oversee our work on the Mesoamerica Region;
- In the year 2014:
 - Dr. Carlos Saenz is our Regional Director.
 - The Mesoamerica Region is divided into 6 different fields:
 1. Mexico North
 2. Mexico South
 3. CA-4 (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua)
 4. Central (Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico)
 5. English (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Leeward Virgin Islands, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Winward Islands)
 6. French (French Guiana, French Antilles, Haiti)

- Each field has its own Field Strategy Coordinator to oversee the leadership of the Nazarene churches in their countries.
- Each field has districts and a district superintendent to oversee the Nazarene pastors of our churches.
- Each church has a pastor!
- Each member of the Church of the Nazarene has a church!

Are you a member???

Now it is time for the questions. Let's see if we can fill up our pot!

Membership Teacher - Help the children to answer these questions and to fill up the pot. If they do not know the answer to a question, help them find out the answer. The goal of this game is to learn while having fun. It is not to be treated like an exam in school.

1. What is the name of our region?
2. Who is the present regional director of The Mesoamerica Region?
3. What is the name of our field?
4. Who is our field strategy coordinator?
5. What is the name of our district?
6. Who is our district superintendent?
7. What is the name of our local church?
8. Who is our pastor?

Pastor J: Congratulations! Our pot is half-way filled. Let's keep going!

- The Church of the Nazarene in Mesoamerica has been around since the year 1903 when it first came to Mexico.

The Church of the Nazarene encourages Christian education. In Mesoamerica, the Church of the Nazarene has built 12 educational institutions:

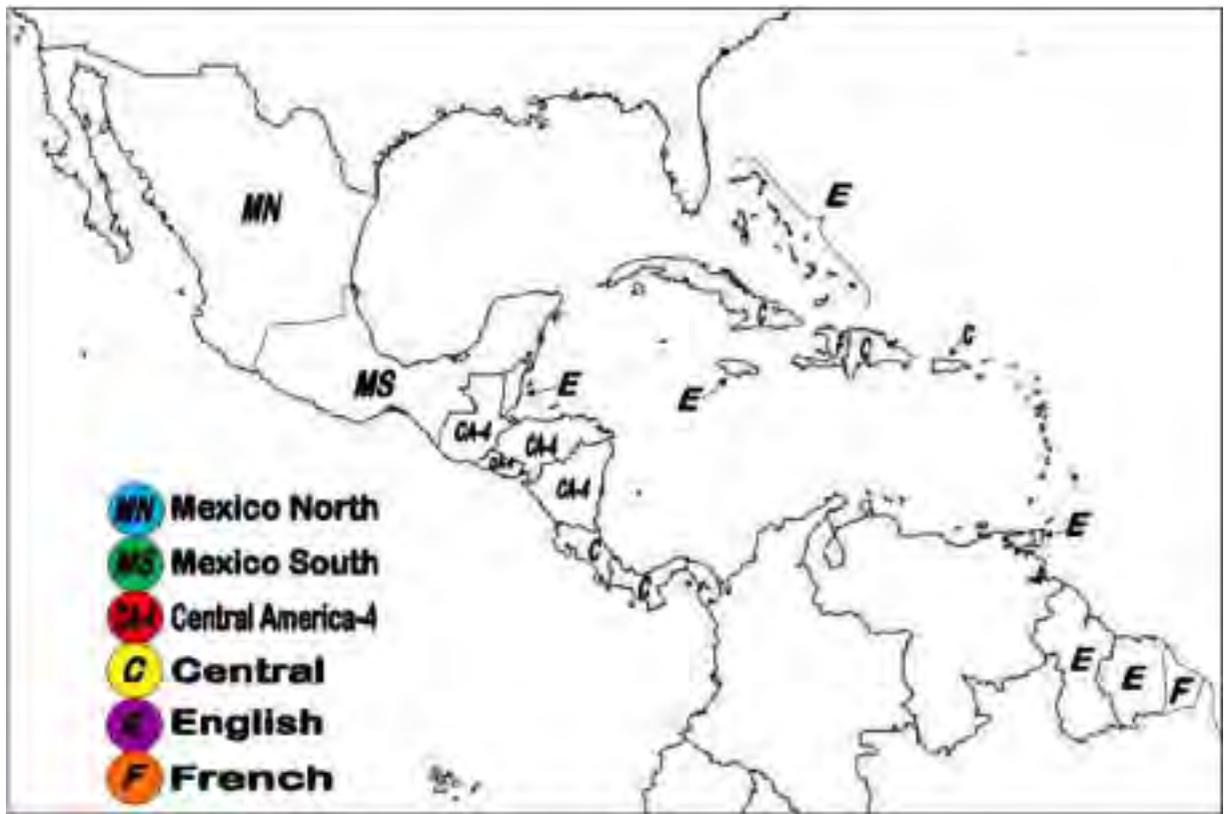
1. Seminario Nazareno de las Americas, San José, Costa Rica
2. Instituto Biblico Nazareno, Havana, Cuba
3. Seminario Nazareno Dominicano, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
4. Instituto Biblico Nazareno, Cobán, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala
5. Seminario Teológico Nazareno de Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala
6. Séminaire Théologique Nazaréen d'Haïti, Pétionville, Haiti
7. Escuela Biblica Nazarena de la Huasteca, San Luis Potosí, Mexico
8. Instituto Biblico Nazareno del Noreste, Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico
9. Instituto Biblico Nazareno del Noroeste, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico
10. Instituto Biblico Nazareno del Sureste, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico
11. Seminario Nazareno Mexicano, A.C., Mexico City, Mexican Federal District, Mexico
12. Caribbean Nazarene College, Santa Cruz, Trinidad

MAYBE SOME DAY YOU CAN STUDY AT ONE OF THESE SCHOOLS!!!

Ana: I am so happy we have been able to tell you about our Church of the Nazarene and the different ways we spread the love of God to all men, women and children. I love it so much that when I am through with high school I intend to attend a Nazarene Bible School.

Membership Teacher show the children where these countries are on the map of the Mesoamerica Region. Encourage children to look at the map. Choose a different color for every symbol representing the different fields where we have the Church of the Nazarene.

The Fields of the Church of the Nazarene - Mesoamerica Region - 2013



*In the year 2014 God is still at work on the Mesoamerica Region. We have over 356,000 members spread out across 31 countries. This figure is always changing as the Church of the Nazarene is growing very fast!!!

Ok. More questions!

1. When did the Church of the Nazarene first come to the Mesoamerica Region?
2. Which country did it first come to?
3. What year did the Church of the Nazarene come to your region?
4. Are you a member?

Great job everybody! We got our pot filled up!!! We are now ready to go for our trip!!!

LESSON 10 - oBEy

OBJECTIVES

In this lesson the children will learn what, as Nazarenes, they are to BE and how they are to OBEY!

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible

LESSON EXPLORATION

The children had fun on their trip with Pastor J! They really loved spending time with him learning as they played together.

They have all come back together with Diego & Ana. Diego is starting them out.

LESSON 10

oBEy

Diego: You have now learned a lot about the Church of the Nazarene.

It's time to: - BE!

- OBEY!

First, BE saved, praying, and loving servants of Jesus Christ. Then, God will help you as you OBEY His commandments.

BE . . . -SAVED!

Ana: Nazarenes:

*have said we are sorry for our sins

*believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins

*have received salvation from Jesus Christ

Because we are saved our eternity will be spent with God in . . .

HEAVEN - A WONDERFUL PLACE!

Heaven is a wonderful place

Filled with glory and grace

I want to see my Savior's face

Oh, Heaven is a wonderful place

I WANT TO GO THERE!

Ana: God has even shown us how to choose to live holy, sanctified lives. Isn't God wonderful!!!

BE..... - Praying

Diego: Nazarenes pray and talk to God! If we want to be like God, then we must talk to Him and read His Word every day.

Sofia: What does it mean when I hear people say:

"WE PRAY IN JESUS' NAME?"

Diego: In the book of Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus showed his disciples how to pray in what we call:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Jesus prayed to God: "YOUR will be done!"

Not: God, you must do MY will!"

"In the Name of Jesus" means we are asking for things according to the will of God. He knows what is best!"

BE.... - Loving servants

Sofia: Nazarenes seem to love each other very much!

Ana: Yes, we really do! Christianity is a life of LOVE!!! God loves us so much that He gave up His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we might be able to go to heaven one day. John 3:16 says:

For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Nazarenes want to follow Jesus' example and love one another too.

Hey, would you like to play a game with me to help us memorize that verse in the Bible?

Ok, lets write that verse out.

Everyone read the words with me.

Now I'm going to erase one word of the verse.

Read it again. Can you remember which word was erased?

Good job. Sofia, you come erase another word of the verse.

Now, can we say it again?

Good work! Let's keep going like this until we have the whole verse memorized!

Juan: Nazarenes are called 'servant leaders', right?

Diego: That is right Juan! With the love of God in our hearts, Nazarenes try to care for and serve those who are around us. Jesus told us,

Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant. (Mathew 20:26)

Diego: Out of our desire to serve, when Ana's uncle passed away, the Nazarene family came together to help and to show love to Ana's beloved family. Ana's family did not have to feel alone and like no one cared.

Ana: Thank you all for coming to be with us during that sad moment! You made our family to feel really loved!!!

Juan: I have even seen members of the Church of the Nazarene around my town caring for some poor people. Is that something important for Nazarenes?

Diego: Yes, it is very important. Nazarenes teach people to live holy lives. We teach against things like:

- stealing
- corruption
- being dishonest
- not taking care of all that God gives us; including our bodies

If Nazarenes can help people to live holy lives, many of the things that keep people poor will not be in their lives.

Ana: - BE the child that God wants you to be; a saved, praying and loving servant of God.

Membership Teacher: Memorize with your child:

You shall LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and you shall LOVE your neighbors as yourself. This is the greatest commandment. (Matthew 22:37 & 38)

OBEY

Ana: Now that you are becoming a saved, praying, and loving servant of God, He can tell you what He wants you to do. We must do our best to OBEY God!

Sofia: What kinds of things can we children do for God?

Ana: Well, first of all, keep close to God and be his friend.

Diego: How do you do that?

Juan: I know! We need to spend time praying to God and reading our Bibles every day. That is how He tells us what He wants us to do!

Sofia: Also, it is important that we take part in our church services and Sunday School!

Ana: Yes Sofia and Juan. You are very right - those are the most important things children should do!

After that we can lovingly serve other people according to the spiritual gifts that God gives us. We can teach our friends about Jesus, visit sick people, clean or sweep the church, pray, help to cook food or lead worship, smile at someone, and more!

Diego: Don't forget about giving! Nazarenes joyfully give tithes (10% of their income) & special offerings to their church/God's house! Out of all that God does for us, it is the least that we can do for Him.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, (Malachi 3:10a)

Ana: There are so many ways to OBEY God. In the Bible, Exodus 20 helps us learn even more ways. While Moses was leading the children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan, God gave him the Ten Commandments to be followed.

Diego: Yes, those really help! Just as we have rules in school that we must OBEY, God gave us these commandments to follow in order to stay right with Him and to help us live in today's world. I have a fun way to help us learn the Ten Commandments by using our hands and fingers. Watch this . . . !

#1 - I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD . . . YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

(Hold up your pointing finger like a big #1. Now shake your finger as if saying "No, No, No!")

You shall have no other gods! The Lord alone is God! He must mean more to us than anything else! We cannot pay any attention to charms or witchcraft. These are evil. If you get sick, do not cheat yourself by visiting people who claim to be 'super prayer-ers', but are really false worshippers looking for money! This is evil too.

#2 - DO NOT MAKE ANY IDOLS

(Hold up two fingers together, and make them "bow" up and down.)

Idols are absolutely wrong! Praying to 'saints' or ancestors to ask them to help us is idol worship. We cannot use them to influence God!

#3 - DO NOT TAKE THE NAME OF GOD IN VAIN

(Hold three fingers over your mouth and say, SH!!!!!!)

God deserves respect. It is wrong to use God's name as a bad word or as a curse. It is wrong to say, "I swear to God." Christians speak the truth.

#4 - REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY

(Hold your two hands flat together - fingers straight, as if praying.)

Nazarenes keep Sunday as a day of rest to honor God through worship, learning of Him, and fellowship.

#5 - HONOUR YOUR FATHER & YOUR MOTHER

(Put 5 fingers of right hand to their forehead like a military salute.)

Lovingly respect your elders.

#6 - DO NOT KILL

(Hold up five fingers in one hand. Place your pointing finger of the other hand into the palm of the first hand, like a gun.)

- which is hatred, and not love!

#7 - DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

(Hold out your left hand palm up and have your pointing finger and your middle finger of your right hand walk on the palm, like a bride and groom walking down the aisle to be married.)

Husbands and wives must have only one spouse and no other lovers. Do not stare at (admire) someone else, this is called lust.

#8 - DO NOT STEAL

(Hold up five fingers on your right hand and three on your left. Have your right hand grab the three fingers on your left.)

Be a loving person who is honest.

#9 - DO NOT LIE

(Hold up nine fingers. Then, cover your mouth with one hand after the other.)

No lying! God always wants us to tell the truth!

#10 - DO NOT COVET

(Hold up ten fingers and pretend to "grab" in front on you as if saying, "Give me! I want it!")

- wanting something that belongs to someone else. A servant wants to help others, not take from them.

These HAND COMMAND motions are from Ann Dunagan's book, *Hand Commands - The Ten Commandments for Little Ones* - published by Kregel Publications.

Juan: Those were really fun. They will help me to remember how to obey God.

Ana: Thank you Diego for teaching us those motions! I will always remember the Ten Commandments God asks us to obey.

Diego: Besides obeying God's commandments, there will be some of us Christians that God may ask something more. Some of us will be asked by God to give our lives to serve Him in full-time ministry as a pastor or a missionary.

Both help others grow closer to Jesus.

*The job of a pastor is to lead a church as they are telling others how God loves them.

*The job of a missionary is to take the Good News of Jesus to people of other cultures and places.

Diego: Did we tell you about our missionaries??? The Church of the Nazarene stresses missions! With the help of our missionaries, we have now advanced into over 160 countries!

Diego: I want us to learn these verses of the Bible:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Let's play a game to help us learn these verses. . . .

Everyone, say Matthew 28:19-20 together. I've written it out for us.

Now Juan, I want you to come stand by me. Turn your back to us so you can not see the verses. We're going to say the verses again - leaving out a word and instead inserting a 'clap' for that chosen word. Sofia, you come secretly point to the word you want us to clap on.

Juan, you guess what the missing word was that we clapped on.

Membership Teacher: Play this game several times with your children until they can all recite Matthew 28:19-20 by memory.

Diego: Great job everyone!!! As Nazarenes we are supposed to make disciples of Jesus everywhere we go. Acts 1:8 says,

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- in Jerusalem - tell your closest friends & (tribe) family members.
- in Judea - tell your neighbors.
- in Samaria - even tell those who you may quarrel with a bit, or who seem different from you.
- to the ends of the earth - the Good News is for ALL!

- Teach everyone God's ways - so they can know the truth.
- Disciple those who already believe- so they can know how to best follow Jesus.

As Christians, our lives and our words will show others the love of God and the CHANGE He has made in our lives.

Juan: How do you know if God has called you to minister like this?

Diego: Just like in the Bible, there was a boy called Samuel who God called three times. (Let's read from the Bible 1 Samuel 3:1-11)

God may not call you by name, like He did with Samuel. The Holy Spirit might speak in your heart.

Ana:

- Do you feel an extra excitement for teaching people about God?
- Stay active in your local church. (This is very good training!)
- Speak to your pastor about this call!

*When God calls you, you must prepare!

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

*The better you prepare yourself today, the more useful you will be to God tomorrow.

*You need to prepare yourself with the training & education needed to serve God.

*When you are old enough, talk with your pastor about how to take classes through your local Nazarene Bible College.

*If you feel God is calling you to serve, talk with your pastor about this call. He or she can spend time with you, seeing your commitment & dedication in the different ministry you feel you've been called to. Then the pastor can get in touch with the district superintendent or local ministry leaders, involving you more and more in ministry experience.

Pastor J: I am very excited to hear what you children have been learning. You have really learned a lot!

Fill in the blanks, ok children?

(Membership Teacher - You can give these words to use to fill in the blanks of what Pastor J is saying about the Church of the Nazarene: Nazarene, holy, Christian, salvation, Communion, Mesoamerica Region, God)

I can see you have learned how the Church of the Nazarene is a family of believers in Jesus Christ, the _____.

Nazarenes love their Bibles and follow their Manual.

Nazarenes strive to live _____ lives.

Nazarenes strive to tell others about Jesus through missionaries.

Nazarenes stress the importance of _____ education!

Nazarenes understand that God is one in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Nazarenes teach about _____ - to be delivered and forgiven from the punishment of sins and to accept Jesus to rule their lives!

Nazarenes teach each other to live lives that are entirely sanctified to God's service and ways.

Nazarenes practice the sacraments of the church - baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy _____).

We believe that people choose where we will spend eternity - in heaven or hell, by whether or not they accept Jesus as their Saviour from their sins.

The Church of the Nazarene began in Pilot Point, TX - but now spreads all around the world - especially throughout the _____.

Nazarenes believe our jobs are to be saved, praying, and loving servants of God.

Nazarenes obey _____; praying, reading our Bible, following the 10 Commandments, and making disciples wherever they GO!

GO NAZARENES!

GO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

PASTOR J: So, who wants to be a member of the Church of the Nazarene?

CHILDREN: I do! I do!

PASTOR J: Let me read the membership service from the manual to you so you can know what to expect during our membership service next Sunday. Be sure to invite all your friends and family to come to church to see you join the Church of the Nazarene.

MANUAL 801.

THE RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS

The prospective members having come forward to stand before the altar of the church, the pastor shall address them as follows:

DEARLY BELOVED: The privileges and blessings that we have in association together in the Church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. There is in it such hallowed fellowship as cannot otherwise be known. There is such helpfulness with brotherly watch, care, and counsel as can be found only in the Church.

There is the godly care of pastors, with the teachings of the Word; and the helpful inspiration of social worship. And there is cooperation in service, accomplishing that which cannot otherwise be done. The doctrines upon which the church rests as essential to Christian experience are brief.

We believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We especially emphasize the deity of Jesus Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that human beings are born in sin; that they need the work of forgiveness through Christ and the new birth by the Holy Spirit; that subsequent to this there is the deeper work of heart cleansing or entire sanctification through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and that to each of these works of grace the Holy Spirit gives witness.

We believe that our Lord will return, the dead shall be raised, and that all shall come to final judgment with its rewards and punishments.

Do you heartily believe these truths? I DO!

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you realize that He saves you now? I DO!

Desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, do you covenant to give yourself to the fellowship and work of God in connection with it, as set forth in the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct of the Church of the Nazarene? Will you endeavor in every way to glorify God, by a humble walk, godly conversation, and holy service; by devotedly giving of your means; by faithful attendance upon the means of grace; and, abstaining from all evil, will you seek earnestly to perfect holiness of heart and life in the fear of the Lord? I WILL!

The minister shall then say:

I welcome you into this church, to its sacred fellowship, responsibilities, and privileges. May the great Head of the Church bless and keep you, and enable you to be faithful in all good works, that your life and witness may be effective in leading others to Christ.

It gives me pleasure on behalf of this church to welcome you into our membership. We trust that we will be a source of encouragement and strength to you and that you, in turn, will be a source of blessing and help to us. May the Lord richly bless you in the salvation of souls and in the advancement of His kingdom.

PASTOR J: *We hereby give you membership certificates which will be a reminder of all you've learned and the commitment you are making today to the Church of the Nazarene.*

(MEMBERSHIP TEACHER - These membership certificates may be purchased from your Mesoamerica Region Literature Coordinators.)

Ana: I am really proud of you. Thank you for making this decision. The best decision you can ever make is to become a member of the Church of the Nazarene.

Diego: We pray that you will become the next leaders in our local churches, districts, across the Mesoamerica region, or a general superintendent over the entire world! **GO NAZARENES!**



FRONT COVER PICTURE: PHOTO CREDITS

Anthony Ochieng - age 11,
Gwaipyana Ng'ang'a - age 9,
and Allan Otieno - age 10.

BACK COVER PICTURE: PHOTO CREDITS

Tarime Church of the Nazarene Sunday School Class, Tanzania

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