



**Nazarene  
Membership  
for Kids**

**LEADER'S GUIDE**



WordAction Publishing Company  
Kansas City, Mo.

**id.**

**Nazarene Membership for Kids**

Copyright © 2010

By WordAction Publishing Company

**Creative Development Team:** Andrew Ervin, Melissa K. Hammer, Jenni Montebianco, Jessica Springer, Troy Snyder

**Contributing Writers:** Jon Edlin, Melissa K. Hammer, Bruce J. Nuffer, Jessica Springer

**DVD Production:** Rob Gaut

Flash Media provided by [GamesinaFlash.com](http://GamesinaFlash.com)

**Editorial Team:**

Melissa K. Hammer

*Senior Editor*

Merritt J. Nielson

*Curriculum Director*

C. Eric Bryant

*WordAction Director*

C. Hardy Weathers

*Publisher*

**Cover Design:** Rob Gaut

**Interior Design:** Sharon Page

A PDF of this leader's guide is provided on the *Enhanced Resource CD*. You may print this for distribution within your local church ministry.

All Scripture quotations unless indicated are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*® (NIV®). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

*id. Nazarene Membership for Kids* is published by WordAction Publishing Company™, 2923 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64109. Copyright © 2010 by WordAction Publishing Company. Canadian GST No. R129017471.

# contents

A Letter from the Editor	4
Getting Started	5
Session 1	11
Session 2	20
Session 3	27
Session 4	32
Session 5	39
Planning the Service	47
Resource Recommendations	48

# dear id. leader,

The decision to join the Church of the Nazarene will affect a person's lifestyle, choices, and relationships. This is a serious, important, and ongoing commitment. It is a commitment that each person, whatever his or her age, needs to make in a prayerful and informed manner. The church membership candidate should know what it means to be a Christian, what it means to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, be baptized in the faith, be a disciple or follower of Him, and be a willing disciple-maker.

Beyond these basics, an understanding of the Church universal, the Church of the Nazarene, and agreement with the rules of the Church of the Nazarene is essential. This involves an introduction to the history of the church, as well as to the Articles of Faith and Core Values. You will want participants in this membership study to clearly understand their decision to join with the church.

This membership study has been prayerfully prepared to provide you, the leader, with a resource to assist you in preparing children for membership in the Church of the Nazarene. You are leading children into a decision to join with a specific denomination. You are preparing church members dedicated to holiness, as together: We are committed to making Christlike disciples in the nations; We are committed to being a Christian people; We are committed to being a holiness people; We are committed to being a missional people.

As you lead this membership study, consider your commitment to Jesus Christ, and then your commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ, and the denominational Church of the Nazarene. How has this transformed your life? How will you communicate this transformation to the students you are leading?

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Blessings,

*Melissa*

**Melissa K. Hammer**

WordAction Publishing Company

Nazarene Publishing House

mkhammer@wordaction.com

# getting started

## Scripture

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

## Purpose

The purpose of this *leader's guide* is to provide you with the basic resources to conduct a class (divided into five sessions) for preteens (children ages 10-12 recommended) in preparation for membership, joining with the Church of the Nazarene. We will refer to students in the membership study as preteens or children.

*id.* stands for the word *identity*. It is our belief that preteens will, through the decision to become members of the Church of the Nazarene, establish their identity first in Jesus Christ, then as believers united with all believers everywhere in belief, witness, and service, as Nazarenes. A people called to belong to a holiness church, united in mission to live in personal relationship with Christ, making Christlike disciples in their world . . . a people who follow the Nazarene.

## First Steps

Get familiar with the materials provided. Go through the *leader's kit*. View the tutorial provided on the *DVD*. Have paper and pen available. Write notes and questions that occur to you as you explore the materials. Read this *leader's guide*, along with each of the five student booklets. You will want to fill in the blanks of each student booklet to better assist the preteens that you lead. Then view the additional segments provided on the *DVD*. These are:

- Church of the Nazarene history spot
- Commercial for this membership study
- Five session segments (*one segment for discussion within each of the five sessions of study*)

Next, view the items provided on the *Enhanced Resource CD*. The items provided are:

- Poster (to customize and print for advertising)
- PDF of this leader's guide (print extras as needed)
- PDF of the parent guide (print and distribute to parents)
- Quiz Game (Flash media. There is a separate segment for each of the five sessions, plus a final review segment. Play each game as a review for each session)

- Church history time line sheet (print for use in session 1)
- Church of the Nazarene periods in history chart (print for use in session 1)
- Journal pages (for use in each session; print one per preteen)
- Session posters (for use in each session; print one per session)
- Parent letters (one for each session; print one per parent per session)
- Clip art (use as needed for your advertising and newsletter purposes)
- Membership certificate and card (print one per preteen, fill out and distribute the card at the completion of Session 4, and the certificate during the membership service)

## Additional Background Study

You may visit the web site for the Church of the Nazarene at <[www.nazarene.org](http://www.nazarene.org)> and search “What We Believe.” Here you will find helpful links:

- About Nazarenes
- Articles of Faith
- Beliefs
- Core Values
- History
- Mission
- Purpose
- Questions

Follow the links for additional study in these areas as you prepare this church membership study. Encourage other leaders and parents to visit these study links.

## Faith Words

These are “words of the faith.” ***Faith Words*** and their definitions help preteens understand essential concepts of the faith. There are eight total ***Faith Words*** provided within this membership study.

### Session 1, This Is My Church!

- Church

### Session 2, This Is It!

- Believers

### Session 3, This Is Not It!

- Body of Christ

## Session 4, This Is for Me!

- Commitment
- Unity

## Session 5, This Is for Life!

- Fellowship
- Consecrate
- Disciple

## Choose a Study Leader

A membership study can be taught by a believer within the church. We recommend a pastor or children's pastor as a first choice. Parents may also want to do this study one-on-one with their preteens. If this is the case, encourage the parents to invite the pastor to serve as a director for the family. It is also possible to invite a children's teacher to serve as the leader for this membership study.

Remember that whoever is chosen as the leader needs to have these characteristics:

1. Be a Christian, firmly grounded in the faith
2. Be a member of the Church of the Nazarene
3. Be in agreement with the doctrines and rules of the Church of the Nazarene
4. Be a positive communicator and teacher of children
5. Be a creative teacher, comfortable with using different methods to teach during each session
6. Be someone who is not afraid to say "I don't know," and someone who will enjoy looking for answers to questions the preteens might ask

## Let Your People Know

Before conducting a church membership study for preteens, it is important to let your church community know about it. This will help parents and children to discuss the opportunity for church membership. It is important to provide ample time for children and their families to pray about this step.

When you have the dates and times of the study sessions established, you can use the resources provided as a part of the *id leader's kit* to advertise the study. The resources include:

- Poster (provided on the *Enhanced Resource CD*). This can be customized for your church, printed, and displayed for families to see
- Commercial (provided on the *DVD*). This can be used in church services, digital bulletin boards, online web sites, or during announcements in settings, such as children's church to get the word out about the approaching study

- Clip art (provided on the *Enhanced Resource CD*). These images can be used to make invitation postcards, letters, and flyers to distribute to families.

## Where and When

This church membership study is best used with a small group of preteens. It is recommended for children ages 10-12, but can be used successfully with younger children (ages 7-9) when used one-on-one or with parents. We will refer to students in this leader's guide as preteens or children.

If you plan to do this during a time at the church, you can choose a Sunday morning, afternoon, or evening; a Wednesday evening; or even another designated day during the week. You will need to set aside **five consecutive session times**. Each session should be **one hour**. Check with your pastor, and then check the church calendar to establish the best timing for the five sessions. Once you have established the five session times, then set a membership service on the service schedule. This will be a special service and should be planned with care.

If parents plan to conduct a one-on-one membership study with their children, arrange the timing of the membership service with the pastor and parents so that their children can join with the church following the family study.

## Session Schedule

Follow this basic one hour schedule for each of the five sessions.

<b>Time:</b>	<b>Activity Focus:</b>
5 min.	Welcome; settle in
5 min.	Prayer requests; pray
10 min.	Light snack; eat
35 min.	Lesson Focus ( <i>allow time for discussion</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVD segment or segments (<i>see DVD</i>)</li> <li>• Session Poster (graffiti discussion)</li> <li>• Student booklet (eight pages)</li> <li>• Include the bonus idea</li> <li>• Journal (<i>see Enhanced Resource CD</i>)</li> <li>• Quiz Game (Flash media review game; <i>see Enhanced Resource CD</i>)</li> </ul>
5 min.	Closing prayer; wrap up; dismissal

## Materials Needed

- Bible (for leader use, students should also have Bibles)
- *Manual* for the Church of the Nazarene (most current)



- Church of the Nazarene Brochure (Core Values) (order U-54, pkg. of 25, Nazarene Publishing House)
- *id. Nazarene Membership for Kids*, Leader's Kit
  - Leaders' Guide
  - Parent Guide (you have one copy. Print copies from the **Enhanced Resource CD**)
  - **Enhanced Resource CD**
  - **DVD**
  - Five session booklets (you have a set provided in the **leader's kit**. You will order one set for each preteen. See the information provided in the **leader's kit** for ordering information)
- Computer, printer, paper, cardstock, and certificate paper
- Computer, screen, and projector (for the quiz review game)
- Photocopier and paper (standard and ledger size)
- TV and DVD player
- Laminating film, opt.
- Pens, pencils, and washable markers
- Pocket folders (one per child)
- White board, dry erase markers, and eraser (or chalkboard and chalk)
- Chairs and tables
- Pastor support and participation
- Parent support and participation
- Hand mirror for Session 1
- Blank bookmarks, ribbon, scissors, and hole punch for Session 2
- Game buzzer or bell for Session 3
- Priority Mail envelopes for Session 4
- Dr. Seuss book, "Oh the Places You'll Go" for Session 5
- Colored art pastels for Session 5
- You will need the names of the local church pastor, local Sunday School Superintendent, District Superintendent, District Children's Ministries Director, and the General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene for Session 5

## Wrap It Up

As a part of Session 4, you will invite the pastor to visit your study session. The pastor will explain the service "The Reception of Church Members" that will be followed as the candidates (students) for membership join with the Church of the Nazarene. Examples for this are found in the Church of the Nazarene **Manual**.

Invite parents (or other legal guardians) to be present for this special segment of Session 4. Allow plenty of time for questions to be asked and answered. This will likely extend Session 4 by 30 minutes.

As a part of this service, you may want to have each candidate give a brief testimony as to why church membership is a vital and important step.

Print (see the **Enhanced Resource CD**) a membership card and certificate for each preteen. Complete the information. Give the card to each preteen at the close of Session 4. Reserve the certificates for presentation during the membership service. Encourage families to place these certificates in a special scrapbook, album, or frame. The students may want to display the framed certificate in their rooms. Encourage students to carry the membership cards in their wallets, billfolds, or store in another important place. It is recommended that the cards are laminated for durability.

As you wrap up the class during both Sessions 4 and 5, remember to stress the commitment of this membership step. This is a lifetime decision that is being made.

Remember that memories are made through family celebrations. In joining with the Church of the Nazarene, these preteens are joining a family of believers. Plan a special all-church celebration to follow the membership service. Display the photo and testimony of each member candidate in a special area. Serve simple refreshments (such as punch and cookies). Encourage the members of the church to celebrate the addition of these new members through this time of fellowship.

**id.** THIS CERTIFIES THAT

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."  
Romans 12:5

\_\_\_\_\_ is a Member - Memorial Church of the Nazarene

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Identify in Christ  
Identify in the Church

- We are a Christian people
- We are a holy people
- We are a missioned people

You have completed the basics of knowing what this study is about. Now follow each session outline to teach the five sessions of this course.

# session 1

To be used with student booklet,  
"This Is My Church!"

## Scripture

"We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

## Purpose

The purpose of this one-hour session is to complete the membership study session, "This Is My Church!" This is the first session of five. When this session is completed the preteen will have a basic understanding of the Church as the people of God, the history of the Church of the Nazarene and its structure as a denomination, The Apostles' Creed, the *Core Values* and *Articles of Faith* for the Church of the Nazarene, and discover information about their local Church of the Nazarene. This session will lead into Session 2, "This Is It!"

## Preparation

Prepare by reading this section of the *leader's guide* and the student booklet, "This Is My Church!" Look up the scripture references in the booklet. Complete the answers in the student booklet. Read the recommended sections of the *Manual* and review *The Apostles' Creed*, along with the *Core Values* and *Articles of Faith* of the Church of the Nazarene. For more information on the Church of the Nazarene go online at <[www.nazarene.org](http://www.nazarene.org)>. View the *DVD* segments. Play the quiz review game for Session 1.

## Gather materials for this session

- Bibles (one for you, one for each preteen)
- *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene
- *Core Values* Brochure (U-54, order at NPH.com)
- This *leader's guide* (student booklet answers are underlined)
- *This Is My Church!* student booklet (one copy for you, and a copy for each preteen)
- Journal page 1 (*Enhanced Resource CD*, one copy for each preteen)
- Pocket folder and pencil (one per preteen)
- Markers

- Session 1 poster (*Enhanced Resource CD*, print for classroom use)
- TV and DVD player with *DVD* history segment and Session 1 segment
- Computer, screen, and projector with quiz review game from the *Enhanced Resource CD*
- Church of the Nazarene Periods in History chart (printed from the *Enhanced Resource CD*)
- Church History time line sheet (printed from the *Enhanced Resource CD*)
- White board, dry erase marker, and eraser
- Table and chairs (seating for all session participants)
- Hand mirror

Make sure you understand the position of the Church of the Nazarene concerning membership.

“All persons who have been organized into a local church by those authorized to do so, and all who have been publicly received by the pastor, the district superintendent, or the general superintendent, after having experienced Christian baptism, and 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, shall compose the full membership of the local church. The local church leadership shall seek to place every member into a ministry of service and a discipleship support group” (*Manual, 107, Full Membership*).

“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 minister shall receive qualified candidates into the membership of the church in a public service, using the approved form for the reception of members (801)” (*Manual, 107.1*).

“Only those who are full and active members of the local church, and have reached their 15th birthday, may hold office in the church where the local law allows, vote in annual or special meetings, or represent the church as delegates to the district assembly” (*Manual, 107.3*).

Remember that you are part of an important spiritual formation event in the lives of the preteens in this membership study. There will be those who complete the five sessions and decide that church membership is the next step. There may be those who do not choose membership at this time. That is acceptable. Pray with each preteen. Seek God’s direction for

this important step in the preteen's life. Enjoy the experience with preteens as they discover what it means to join with the Church of the Nazarene.

## Session 1

### Welcome (approximately 5 min.)

As the preteens arrive, welcome each by name. Introduce yourself to family (or greet) and engage in conversation about the week's events in their family life.

It is appropriate to encourage parents to remain and participate in the session with their children.

After all participants have arrived, invite them to join you at the table.

Share your name and something unique about you. For example, a favorite food or book is a nonthreatening option. Invite each participant to do the same.

Share the planned schedule for this session and the next five sessions. Give families the date of the membership service. Explain that the pastor will be joining the discussion during Session 4 to answer questions about the service. Invite families to plan to attend Session 4.

### Prayer (approximately 5 minutes)

Say, **Prayer is important for the Christian. As a part of this membership study, we will spend time in prayer. We will share our needs, our requests, and our praises. We will petition God together. We will praise and thank God together. This is an important part of being a family of believers in Jesus Christ.**

Share prayer requests, needs, and praises with the group. Pray together. You may open the prayer by addressing God. Then invite children to speak out in prayer or pray silently. After an appropriate time, close the prayer, thanking God for His greatness and love. Praise God for the opportunity to come together and discover more about membership with the Church of the Nazarene.

### Snack (approximately 10 min.)

Distribute the light snack. This can be something simple, such as cool water to drink and grapes and cheese cubes. Eating together will allow the preteens to relax and get comfortable with one another. Clean up the snack items, and then settle in for the main part of the lesson.

### Session 1 Lesson (approximately 35 min.)

Gather at the table. Talk about the one rule of the sessions, "respect." Say, **We must respect one another. This means that we show care and concern for each other. We do not talk when another person has something to say. We take turns. We listen. We do not say or do hurtful things. We are careful to ask permission before touching someone else, even if we only want to give a pat on the back.** Adjust how you share this portion to the age level with whom you are working.

Give each preteen a pocket folder and pencil. Say, **This will be your folder to keep your membership materials.** Have markers available. Let the children print "id" and their name on the folder. This gives a sense of ownership for the materials.

Distribute the booklet, "This Is My Church!" for Session 1. Turn to page 2 (the inside front cover). Have a volunteer read the "hello letter" for the group.

Say, **Today we are going to learn more about the Church and specifically the Church of the Nazarene.** Watch the segment from the *DVD*. Pause before the children on the *DVD* answer each question. Allow preteens in your session to give their answers. Then watch the answers of the children on screen. The questions: What is a creed? What is your best guess to when the Christian church began? and Which book of the Bible tells about the Early Church? Say, **Let's find out more about the Church.**

Display the Church History time line in a place where the preteens will be able to see it. This is printed from the *Enhanced Resource CD*. If you have a larger group, you may want to enlarge the time line and show it projected from the computer. You may also want to print a time line sheet for each class member to have and place in the folder.

Distribute Bibles for use. Have the preteens turn to the student booklet, page 3.

## **The Church at Its Root.**

Ask, **Who are we? I am one person. If we look at all of us together in this room, we are people. Who do we belong to? (God). So, we are the people of God.** Have the preteens fill in the blanks.

Ask, **What is history? Why is it important to us?** (History is a record of the past. It is a true story that tells where we came from. It helps us know about important events and people.)

**We have a history in the Church. Part of this history is recorded for us in the Old and New Testaments of what important book?** (The Bible)

Have a volunteer read Acts 1:4-5.

Say, **Jesus, our Lord and Savior, came to earth. He lived as a man. He taught about God, the Father. He was baptized. He healed people. He had apostles on earth. These were a specific group of men that He trained to carry His message into the world. He died, was raised from the dead, and appeared to His followers. Jesus told them to wait. He promised the Holy Spirit. As the Church we are believers in Jesus Christ, God's Son. We are His disciples or followers today. We receive power from the Holy Spirit to live for Him; and daily live in right relationship with Him and with other people.**

Have a volunteer read Acts 1:11.

Say, **We believe that Jesus is alive and living in heaven. He is with God, the Father. He is interceding on our behalf. We know that He is with us. He hears us**

when we talk with Him. We know that someday we will live in heaven with Him. We also wait, knowing that He will keep His promise and one day come back to earth to establish a forever kingdom of those who love Him and serve God.

Say, **We are a part of the Church universal. This is all Christians, everywhere. The Church of the Nazarene identifies itself as a Christian people, and as a part of the Church universal.**

Display the time line sheet. Say, **The Church universal, all believers, has existed since the time of the Early Church. This is taught to us in the Bible. The Book of Acts teaches about these early believers. Let's go through some other times in church history. What happened in A.D. 106? (Persecution) What is persecution? (Harm that is done by one person to another because of hate. People in the Early Church were persecuted because they believed that Jesus is God's Son and shared these beliefs with others.) Say, Persecution still occurs in different areas of the world today. You can search online at <[www.persecutedchurch.org](http://www.persecutedchurch.org)> to find out more about persecution that happens today. You can also pray for those who endure persecution because of their belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

Say, **The Dark Ages was when *The Apostles' Creed*, which had been around since a very early time in the church, became accepted as we know it today.** Point this out on the time line. **This was around what time? (700's). We are going to learn more about what this says. We are also going to have a challenge.**

Ask a volunteer to find "Middle Ages" on the time line. Ask, **Does anyone know something about the Middle Ages? One important thing that happened was that the Bible was first translated into English. Can you find who did this? ([Wycliffe](#))**

Ask a volunteer to find the Renaissance on the time line. Ask, **Who printed the first Bible? ([Gutenberg](#)) This was on a printing press. Always before the Bible had to be handwritten. This was a time consuming and expensive process. There were not many Bibles. So most people did not have a Bible to actually read. And not everyone knew how to read. Show the Bible that you have. Say, One way that we can know what God teaches is because we have a Bible that we can read. This was important to the time of the Reformation. This time helped people to get back to knowing and understanding what God teaches us through His Son, Jesus Christ and through the Bible. Did you know that Bibles are still being translated today into many languages? There are Bibles translated into languages around the world. Parts of the Bible are translated into more than 2,200 different languages. What do you think it would be like to not have a Bible in your language? How does knowing this affect how you feel about the Bible that you have and read?**

Say, **So the Church of the Nazarene is a part of the Church.** Ask a volunteer to read the *Faith Words* definition of *Church*.

The Church of the Nazarene also traces its history to a man named John Wesley. He was a preacher who believed and taught about Christian Perfection or holiness. The Church of the Nazarene came out of this movement. The Church of the Nazarene teaches that a person is saved by God's grace, transformed into the likeness of Christ, and that we continue to grow in our understanding of God's will for us. We believe that God sanctifies us. This act of Entire Sanctification comes after the initial regeneration or salvation of the believer. It is when we are made free from original sin, entirely devoted in obedient love to God. This means that we choose to give ourselves and our lives completely to God. We live holy lives, pleasing to God, through the infilling power of the Holy Spirit. This is where we get the power for a life of obedience and service to God. The power of Jesus Christ living in us.

**Can you find when John Wesley lived? (1703-1791)**

Pause and watch the segment on Church of the Nazarene history from the *DVD*. Print a copy of the "Church of the Nazarene Periods in History" document from the *Enhanced Resource CD*. You may want to print a copy for each preteen's folder. Briefly point out the highlights in the Church of the Nazarene's history. If time and resources allow, go online at <[www.nazarene.org](http://www.nazarene.org)> to explore together current global ministries of the Church of the Nazarene.

Have the preteens turn to booklet, page 4. Complete the challenge by locating a copy of *The Apostles' Creed* (if you are in the church building). Hint: Check the hymnal or in the pastor's office (with permission).

Read this "in the round." Assign one line of *The Apostles' Creed* to each preteen. Read around the circle, one line at a time, repeating readers, until the entire creed has been recited.

Ask, **When we read *The Apostles' Creed*, in whom are we professing our belief?** (God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit)

Challenge the preteens to talk about this statement of faith with another person, and then memorize it before the next session.

Turn to booklet page 5 and ask, **What does it mean for the Church of the Nazarene to be a part of the Church universal?** (We are Christian people, the followers of Jesus Christ, we are a part of the Church, all believers, everywhere, united together in worship and service to God.)

Nazarene (The Church of the Nazarene considers The Great Revival . . .).

Have a volunteer read Matthew 2:23. Ask, **Where does the name Nazarene come from?** Jesus the Nazarene. The name of the Church of the Nazarene literally tells others



that we are followers of Jesus, the Nazarene. Jesus was called a Nazarene because his hometown while he was on earth was Nazareth. We strive to live like Jesus in all we do, say, and think.

**Option:** Pass the hand mirror around the circle. Have each preteen look into the mirror. Ask, **Whom do you see? How does the person you see in the mirror relate to the denomination that is the Church of the Nazarene?** (Allow time for discussion. As they become members, they are a part of the denomination that is called the Church of the Nazarene. They are joined together with other members. Their actions and words are seen as the Church of the Nazarene.)

Ask, **So what is a denomination?** (Allow preteens to share their ideas.) **A denomination is an organized group of Christians. They are organized into local congregations. They believe and follow the same rules, government, and laws. All Christian denominations agree that Jesus is God’s Son and the Savior. They believe that all Christians are part of the Church universal. Each denomination then has specific beliefs that set them apart. For example, the Church of the Nazarene has the doctrine of holiness or the belief in a second work of grace called Entire Sanctification.** (It would be a good idea to invite the pastor to share more about this topic as time allows. This could also be an opportunity to ask preteens about other denominations they know about. Research and provide basic defining doctrines and beliefs of the churches that are mentioned. This will be something that you can do at the beginning of Session 2. Check in the *Manual* to share from the section “Covenant of Christian Conduct.”)

Divide the class into teams. Each team should be three or four participants. Have the teams work together to find the answers to the next three questions on page 5 (1908: Pilot Point; U.S.A. and Kansas).

Have a volunteer read Ephesians 2:5. Christ

Discuss, **Think of someone you know who is growing to be more like Christ.**

Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 3:18. likeness

Discuss, **What do you think is the goal of holiness Christians as they live for God in the world?**

Have a volunteer read Matthew 28:19. nations

Discuss, “How can you worship God, help others come to know Jesus as Savior, and follow Jesus in your everyday life choices?”

Turn to booklet, pages 6 and 7 for the discussion of the *Articles of Faith*. You will need a copy of the *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene for the definition of each article. You may also want to invite the pastor to lead this portion of the discussion. Have a volunteer read aloud each article as printed in the *Manual*. Then have all preteens number the article in the booklet and star those that they would like to learn more about. Invite them to talk with you

or the pastor for more in-depth information. A good resource for your further study is *Articles of Faith—a Small-Group study*. This is a part of the Christian Belief Series from WordAction Publishing Company (ISBN: 978-0-8341-2426-4, Leader's Guide). Another resource available from WordAction is the catechism pupil, *Discovering My Faith* (CD-977). This is a resource study that can be done with preteens in addition to this church membership study. It will take preteens more in-depth.

As you highlight and define each *Article of Faith*, ask, **Do you have any questions about this? How might you explain this using your words?** Allow time for discussion. It may be necessary to provide an additional scheduled hour for the *Articles of Faith*.

Conclude, ***The Articles of Faith* are very important to our denomination and to each of us. They help us to know what we believe. They help us to understand who we are as a people of God and as a denomination. They can help us tell others about what we believe and who we are. I challenge you to not only read these articles, but to pray and ask God to help as you grow in your understanding of them and in obedience as you live for Him.**

You may want to provide a copy of the *Articles of Faith* from the *Manual* for the preteens to place in their folders.

Continue the discussion on the bottom of booklet, page 7.

Say, **OK that was a lot of information in a short period of time. Let's take a closer look at how the Church of the Nazarene functions. Did you know that the Church of the Nazarene is a global church? That means we have churches around the world. Each area of the world is a region. Do you know what region you are a part of?** (Let preteens respond. Look up ahead of time to be able to share the world region of which you are a part. For example, USA/Canada.) **But there are even smaller groups. Any idea what this smaller group is called? (District) Have you ever been to a district camp or meeting? What other local churches were there? Write three in the booklet.**

**Answers:** Denomination; Region; District

Ask the pastor for the answer to the district name and number of churches on the district. This can be found in a district journal.

Ask, **Why is organization important?** (Let preteens share their ideas.) **Having organization gives us the structure needed to take care of local church needs. It helps us to be able to focus on what is important. We are organized so that we can share the good news of salvation with others, inviting them to know Jesus and accept Him as Savior, and to join with us in sharing this Great Commission message throughout the world.**

Print and place the session 1 poster on a wall in the classroom. This poster is available on the *Enhanced Resource CD*. Say, **This is my church. What have you discovered**

**about the Church of the Nazarene today? Think of one or a few words that you would use to describe the church. Write these on this poster.** Allow time for each preteen to think, and then write a word or phrase. If you need additional space, provide sticky notes. Give one to each preteen to write on. Then stick these on the poster. Say, **When you choose as a Christian to become a member of the Church of the Nazarene, you are joining with believers throughout the world who have also chosen to become members of the Church of the Nazarene. It is this decision that will give you the support to be a member of the Church of the Nazarene, and say, “This (the Church of the Nazarene) is my church!”**

Turn to booklet, page 8. Divide into teams to complete the Discovery Zone (up to the journal activity). You will need to complete this section before class. Print the answers on slips of paper. Place in different areas of the church building or room. Have the teams work together (give them a time limit of 10 minutes and location boundaries) to find the answers. You will tell them when to start and when to finish. Then have the teams take turns sharing the answers they found. Say, **This helps us know more about this local Church of the Nazarene. We are a part of the Church of the Nazarene on this district, in this region, and around the world. We are the Church. The people of God, believers in Jesus Christ.**

Print the journal page from the *Enhanced Resource CD* for this session. Give each preteen a copy. Encourage the preteens to complete the interview with the eldest living member of the local congregation (warn this person beforehand and get permission), and write about it on the journal page. Another option is to record this person and play the recording for the preteens, and then allow them to write about the recorded testimony.

Review this session’s learning with the Quiz Game (Flash media available on the *Enhanced Resource CD*). There are three levels that can be completed. There are 10 questions per level, with one bonus question per level.

Pray and dismiss. Encourage the preteens to place the booklet in their folders. Remind preteens to bring the folder to the next session for, “This Is It!” Say, **You have completed a quick overview of the Church of the Nazarene. Now we are ready to discover more about becoming a member of the Church of the Nazarene.**