



MY FAITH:

NAZARENE CATECHISM FOR KIDS

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE • SHORT CATECHISM LEADER'S GUIDE

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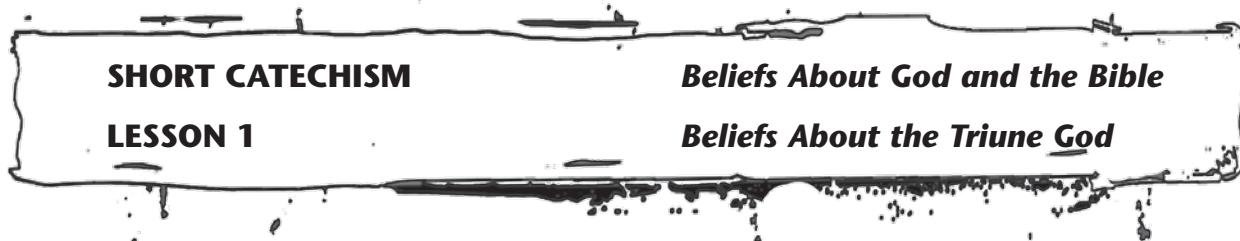


MY FAITH: NAZARENE CATECHISM FOR KIDS

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MY FAITH



AGREED STATEMENT OF BELIEF

We believe in one God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (26.1) See Articles of Faith I-III on pages 109-110.

LESSON GOALS

To help students

- Discover who God is—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and what each person of the Trinity does.
- Feel awe and wonder as they consider the wisdom, power, holiness, and love of God.
- Grow in love for Jesus and in gratitude for the salvation he provides.
- Express appreciation for and a desire to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

CHECKPOINTS

- Could students give the main ideas found in the answers to catechism questions 3, 5, 9-11, 13-14, 17, 21, 24, 25-26, and 30?
- Did students express feelings of awe, wonder, reverence, or love for God?
- Could they identify the goal of Christ's life and ministry?
- Did any students tell of situations when the Holy Spirit has helped them?
- How did students' ideas about God the Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit change during this lesson?

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- Bible (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)
- Bible (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, one per student)
- The *Manual* (Church of the Nazarene)
- *My Faith: Student* (one per student)

- Agreed Statement of Belief and Articles of Faith I-III (Enhanced DVD, interactive video and Say-Along presentation and Enhanced DVD presentation)
- The Apostles' Creed (Enhanced DVD and video Say-Along)
- Lesson 1 Questions and Answers (Enhanced DVD, PowerPoint)
- Where Could These Beliefs Lead? (Enhanced DVD, interactive video)
- Agree or Disagree? Interactive Video (Enhanced DVD)
- Pencil or pen (one per student)
- Scissors and markers
- Construction paper (various colors), Index cards
- Plasti-Tak, pins, or other fasteners
- White board and dry erase markers (or newsprint and marker)
- TV and DVD player
- Computer with monitor and projector and screen (if large group)

WHY TEACH THIS LESSON?

Knowing a person is an essential part of relationship. In fact, without some knowledge of the other person we can be in relationship *to* him or her, but not in relationship *with* him or her. It is no different with God. If a Christian is to be in relationship with God the Father through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, it is important to know who they are. Thankfully, God has revealed himself through his actions in history, prophesies, the Bible, and especially in Jesus Christ. This makes knowledge of God, his purposes, and his character possible.

Scripture teaches us there is only one God. It also speaks of God the Father, his only begotten Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. They are not the same person, yet they all have the characteristics of deity. Their ministry and identities are interconnected in an unusual way. The Church describes this unique way of being as "Trinity"—three in one. "Trinity" is a concept we can begin to understand, but cannot get our minds completely around. Yet in order to be faithful to God's self-revelation to us, we live with this mystery.

As your students learn more about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, they will have the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God. Help them think about how important this knowledge is for their personal spiritual lives. Encourage them to praise God for who he is and what he has done for us.

TEACH THE CATECHISM

Dig In

Choose activities to review catechism questions, spark students' interest in this session, and introduce them to key ideas.

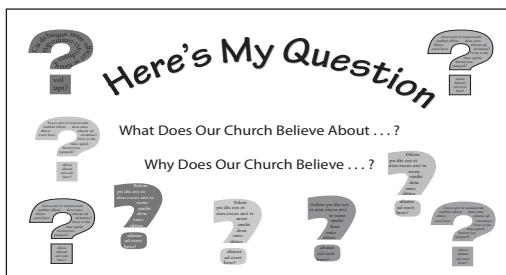
HERE'S MY QUESTION

From construction paper, cut out large question marks. On additional construction paper print "Here's My Question," "What Does Our Church Believe About . . . ?" and "Why Does Our Church Believe . . . ?" The first caption should be larger than the other two.

Fasten the first caption to the top of a bulletin board or on the wall. Attach the other two captions below this. Have question marks, markers, and fasteners ready for students to use.

Activity: Direct students' attention to the bulletin board captions and the question-mark shapes. Explain that as people grow and mature they think more about their beliefs. Say, **You may have wondered what our church believes about God, Jesus, and being a Christian. Or perhaps you know something about our beliefs, but you wonder why we believe the way we do. My Faith is a class where you will consider these important subjects. You can ask questions about your beliefs and together we will search for answers.**

Have students write their questions on the question marks, decorate as desired, and attach them to the bulletin board.



Discover Our Faith

INTRODUCE MY FAITH

Activity: Explain that *My Faith* is a catechism that teaches the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene. Have students turn to the contents page of

Materials and Preparation

- *My Faith*: Student (one for each student)

the book to discover the subjects covered in this catechism. Then have them turn to page 7 to look at the questions and answers dealing with this session. Help students identify the three parts to each item: question, answer, and scripture verse(s).

Ask, **Why is it important for Christians to know what we believe about subjects like these?** (*Beliefs influence the way we think and live, and religious beliefs are the most important beliefs a person has. However, people don't all believe the same about God, Jesus, salvation, the Holy Spirit, or Christian living. Christians need to know what they believe—and why they believe it—so they can live as God teaches. Also, Christians who know what they believe can withstand temptation to choose wrong beliefs and wrong actions better than those who don't know or understand what they believe.*)

Why do you think the catechism questions include Bible verses? (*God's Word is the source of our Christian beliefs. Our beliefs are not simply ideas that church leaders decided to teach. The scripture verses with each question and answer show what God's Word teaches about these subjects.*)

CATECHISM AND THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

Activity: Explain or review what the creeds, the *Manual*, the Agreed Statement of Belief, and Articles of Faith are. You can use the segments on the Enhanced DVD to say these with the students.

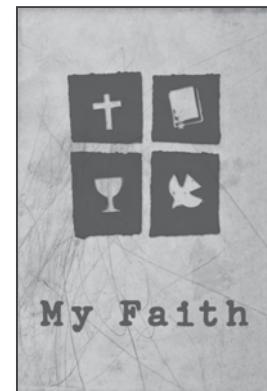
Point out that these documents have been included on pages 71-86 in the students' book. Ask, **Since our beliefs come from the Bible, why do we need creeds, a Manual, the Agreed Statement of Belief, and**

Articles of Faith? Let students discuss. (*Some people read the Bible and use it to teach wrong things about God and other subjects. The creeds were written to teach the apostles' message about God. Even when Christians read the Bible, they often understand God's Word in different ways. Certain beliefs of Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, or Baptists are different from our beliefs. The Articles of Faith tell us how Nazarenes understand the teachings of the Bible. The Agreed Statement of Belief is a summary of the creeds understood in light of the Articles of Faith, and is the standard of belief for joining with the Church of the Nazarene.*)

Read Articles 1, 2, and 3 from the *Manual* or from pages 109-110 of this leader's guide. You may also use the segments from the Enhanced DVD. Find these on the DVD-ROM portion. Ask volunteers to tell whether this was easy or difficult for them to understand. Explain that the Articles of Faith were written for adults. The catechism takes the ideas in the Articles and teaches them through questions and answers in everyday language that a kid can understand.

Materials and Preparation

- A recent edition of the *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene (check with your pastor)
- Agreed Statement of Belief and Articles of Faith I-III (Enhanced DVD, PowerPoints® and Say-Along video)
- The Apostles' Creed (Enhanced DVD, Say-Along video)
- *My Faith: Student*



The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the 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 hades;
The third day he arose 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.

DISCUSS STUDENTS' QUESTIONS

Activity: Say, *In My Faith we will study questions and answers that express our church's beliefs. However, it is important for you to think about what you believe.*

In this class, you may ask questions about your beliefs and search for answers to those questions. Assure students that every question will be treated respectfully. Tell students some of the questions you have wrestled with through the years and those with which you are still dealing.

Let students take turns pointing out and reading the questions they wrote earlier, or give them time to write questions now. Do not answer the questions, but assure students you will work with every question during the weeks of the class. Today, you will discuss questions about God, the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

WORDS ON THE WALL

Activity: Ask students to think of words or short phrases that describe God. Have them call out the words as they write them on index cards and give them to you to attach to a wall or bulletin board. The idea is to post as many ideas as you can as quickly as possible.

When students have exhausted their ideas, discuss the words. Listen carefully to what students say. It will help you understand what they believe about God. Remember to include God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Say, **None of us fully understands God. However, we can know more than enough to help us know him personally and trust in him. Let's see what the Bible teaches us about God.**

THE CATECHISM

Activity: Choose one of these ways to work through the catechism questions and answers.

1. Open the PowerPoint file for Lesson 1 of the short catechism. Read each question, look up the scriptures provided, and discuss the probable answer as a class. Facilitate discussion, but do not comment on the accuracy of their ideas. When the students have decided on an answer, bring up the catechism answer on the PowerPoint. Discuss any differences between the catechism answer and the students' answer. Address any mistaken ideas the students may have included in their answer. Encourage students to ask any questions they have about the material. Check especially to see that students understand the meanings of words.

2. Divide students into three groups. For each question, have one group read the question, the second group read the answer, and the third group read the verses. Then discuss the question as described in

Materials and Preparation

- Questions students wrote earlier or materials to do this now (see "Here's My Question")

Materials and Preparation

- Index cards
- Marker or pencil for every student
- Plasti-Tak or other fastener

Who is God?

Genesis 1:1; Psalm 47:7-8



God is the Creator of everything and the Ruler of the universe. When we say "God" sometimes we mean our Heavenly Father, and sometimes we mean the Trinity.

suggestion 1. For succeeding questions, rotate the reading. Group 2 reads the question, group 3 the answer, and group 1 the scriptures, and so forth.

3. If your students are reluctant readers, read the material to them, then discuss as described.

Q3 Who is God?

GENESIS 1:1; PSALM 47:7-8

A3 God is the Creator of everything and the Ruler of the universe. When we say "God" sometimes we mean our Heavenly Father, and sometimes we mean the Trinity.

The statement that God is our Father is important. Some people say God is only an impersonal force or energy. We believe that God is like Jesus and like Jesus said he is. God is a loving, caring Being who has authority over us and with whom we may have a personal relationship. Human beings are persons with minds, feelings, and wills. So, it makes sense to believe they were created by an even greater personal Being, rather than by an impersonal force or energy.

Q5 What is the Trinity?

DEUTERONOMY 6:4; MATTHEW 28:19; 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14; GALATIANS 4:6

A5 Trinity means "three in one." There is only one God, but he exists and reveals himself in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity is impossible to understand fully. However, it may help to think about other "three-in-one" things with which we are familiar. An egg is one example. It is one egg, yet it includes the shell, the white, and the yolk. All three together form the egg, yet separately each is egg: eggshell, egg white, and egg yolk. (Note: This is not a perfect analogy, because the eggshell, egg white, and egg yoke are three different parts of the egg. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not parts of God.)

There are two errors people sometimes make when they think about the Trinity. One is to think of three separate Gods—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The second error is to say there is only one God but he takes on different forms at different times. We believe that God is One, but he reveals himself in three Persons at the same time—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

On a chalkboard or newsprint draw a triangle. Explain that we often use this symbol to illustrate the idea of the Trinity. To be complete, a triangle must have all three sides. It is not a triangle if one side is missing.

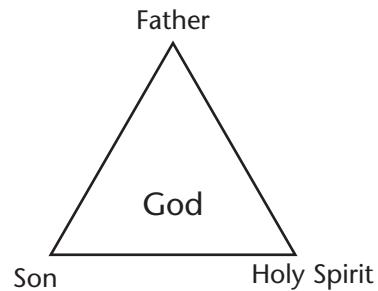
Label the three sides and center of the triangle as shown.

Say, **There is only one God, but he exists as three Persons.**

Each Person of the Trinity has a special relationship to us. God the Father is our Creator and Ruler. Jesus Christ is God's Son and our Savior. The Holy Spirit lives within us, when we are Christians, to guide and direct us. Yet together, these three are one God.

Word Alert!

Reign—To rule over



Our Wesleyan Perspective

In short, God the Father is God beyond us—the Creator and Governor of the universe. God the Son is God beside us—the Redeemer who came into our world and became one of us. And God the Holy Spirit is God within us—the indwelling Comforter and Sanctifier.

Rob L. Staples*

Q9 How do we describe God's nature and character?

ISAIAH 6:3; 1 JOHN 4:16; DEUTERONOMY 7:9

A9 We describe God's nature and character as "holy love."

Q10 What do we mean when we say God is holy?

DEUTERONOMY 32:4; 2 SAMUEL 22:31; ISAIAH 55:8-9

A10 God is different from all other beings, and everything about him is good and perfect.

When people speak of God's holiness, they usually mean that God never does anything wrong. This is true. However, the most important meaning of holy is *different from all other beings*. God is "one of a kind." He is so much greater than any other being that he does not fully compare to anyone or anything.

Q11 What do we mean when we say God is love?

1 JOHN 4:10; 1 JOHN 4:7

A11 God wants the highest good for every person and he continually works to bring this about. God especially showed his love to us by sending Jesus Christ into the world to be our Savior. He is the source of all love.

Word Alert!

Exalted—Honored, praised.

Righteousness—To be in right relationship with God, and to obey him because of that right relationship. To be right or good in thoughts, words, and actions. Righteousness also includes the desire for all people to experience what is right—justice.

Our Wesleyan Perspective

The way we define "holy" and "love" is very important because these terms tell us who God is. We probably already have some idea about the meaning of these words by the time we study this catechism. It can be tempting to define our terms according to our society's current definitions, or our desire for them to mean something particular. However, we must bring our definitions into line with Scripture in order to properly understand "holy love." God is love and has always been love. God's definition of love can account for all of his actions, teachings, and commands in the Old and New Testaments. Does your definition line up with God's?

*Rob L. Staples, "Words of Faith: Trinity," *Herald of Holiness*, January 1997, 24.



Checkpoint

As you discussed the above questions, did your students react with awe, wonder, reverence, or love for God?

Q13 Who is Jesus Christ?

JOHN 3:16; MATTHEW 16:13-16

A13 Jesus Christ is the only Son of God and the Savior of the world.

Some of your students may have heard Christians called God's sons or God's children. However, Jesus is God's Son in a different way from Christians. Jesus is the only begotten *divine* Son of God, which means he is also God and has the same nature as God the Father. Christians are God the Father's adopted children.

Q14 Is Jesus Christ God?

COLOSSIANS 2:9; JOHN 1:1-2

A14 Yes, Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity. He has always lived and always will live.

One of the Church's most important beliefs about Jesus is that he is God, as God the Father is God. This belief is different from what some religious groups teach. They say Jesus was only a very good man whom God filled with his Spirit in an unusual way.

Have your students reflect on the similarities between what Christians believe about God the Father and God the Son. Review the meanings of words used to describe God, particularly *infinite* (*not limited*), *eternal* (*without beginning or end*), and *holy*. Ask, **Which of these words can we use to describe God's Son, Jesus?** (*All of them because he, too, is God.*)

Q17 Why do we say Jesus is our Savior?

1 PETER 2:24

A17 Jesus is our Savior because his life, his suffering and death on the cross, and his resurrection made it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins and live for God. He saves us from a life of sin and from hell.

Remind students that God is holy, therefore anything sinful is at odds with him. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, they became sinful. Their sin separated them—and all people born since then—from God. It took One who himself is holy—without sin—to make it possible for people to once again live in right relationship with God.

Say, Jesus' purpose in coming to earth, and his ministry, was to make our salvation possible. Let's see what Jesus did and how he carried out God's plan to save people from sin.

Word Alert!

Eternal life—The special kind of life God gives to those who trust Jesus as Savior.

Eternal life is life as God's friend, which begins on earth. Those who keep trusting Jesus enjoy **eternal life** forever in heaven.

Perish—To die. Those who die without a relationship with God are separated from Him forever.

Word Alert!

Deity—A god, especially the one true God.

On a whiteboard write the words Incarnation, Baptism, Temptation, Ministry, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Ask volunteers to briefly summarize each event in the life of Christ. Add details as needed. Be ready to provide definitions from the Word Alert! list.

Incarnation: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Son was born as a human baby, Jesus.

Baptism: John the Baptist told people to repent of sin and be baptized to show they had repented. Jesus asked John to baptize him too.

Temptation: For 40 days and nights, Satan tempted Jesus to choose his way rather than God's way for Jesus' life and ministry. Jesus refused to obey Satan.

Ministry: Jesus lived a sinless life on earth for 33 years. During his last three years, he healed the sick, raised the dead, and taught people about God.

Death: Although he is God's Son, Jesus allowed the religious leaders and Roman rulers to crucify him on a cross.

Resurrection: On the third day after Jesus' death on the cross, God raised him from the dead to life again.

Ascension: Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he returned to heaven. He is there today, interceding (speaking) with the Father for us.

Next, read the information provided that tells the spiritual significance of the event. Have the students identify which part of Jesus' life best fits the statement you've read.

Incarnation: Because Jesus is completely God and completely human, he—

- Shows us clearly what God is like
- Shows us what God planned for human beings to be like
- Makes it possible for us to become what God wants us to be

Baptism: Jesus never sinned and did not need to be baptized.

However, as our Savior he chose to identify completely with us (put himself in our place). As a result, he is a loving and merciful Savior.

Temptation: Jesus endured every kind of temptation that human beings experience, but he never sinned. Because our Savior overcame temptations even greater than ours—

- He knows exactly what we go through when we are tempted
- He can help us overcome our temptations

Life and Ministry: Through his sinless life and his teachings, Jesus showed us who God is, what he is like, and how to live in relationship with him. He is our teacher and example.

Death: Because Jesus suffered and died on the cross, no one needs to pay the penalty for his or her sin. Jesus' sacrifice has made it possible for all who trust in him to receive forgiveness for sins and become reconciled (friends) with God.

Resurrection: The two greatest enemies of all people are sin and death. Jesus defeated both of these. Therefore, anyone who trusts in Jesus can experience victory over sin and live eternally.

Ascension: In heaven, Jesus continues to live as both God and man. He intercedes (speaks) for us perfectly because he fully understands the struggles and temptations we face. Also, he has the power to help us overcome sin and live for God.

Q21 What happened after Jesus died on the cross?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4; ACTS 1:3; LUKE 24:50-51

A21 After Jesus died on the Cross, God raised Him from the dead on the third day. Jesus stayed on earth for 40 days and then ascended into heaven.

Q24 Where is Jesus now and what is he doing?

MARK 16:19; EPHESIANS 2:6; HEBREWS 7:25; EPHESIANS 1:20-22

A24 Jesus is now in heaven, at the right hand of God the Father. His ministry is to be our representative before God (interceding for us). He also reigns as King, guiding and directing the Church.

Be sure the students understand what *interceding* is. Compare Jesus' intercession for us with the way a parent might intercede for a child. If a neighbor is upset over something the child has done, the parent might say, "We're sorry. It was an accident. We will pay for any damages." If a child needed help at school, the parent might say, "James is working hard, but he needs extra help. Could you provide him a tutor?" Jesus provided for our forgiveness and is with God the Father, interceding for us.

Word Alert!

Intercede—To present the needs or interests of one person to another person. To help one person better understand another person. To pray for another person's needs. In heaven, Jesus **intercedes** for us with God the Father.



Checkpoint

Ask volunteers to give one sentence descriptions of who Jesus is and what he came to earth to do. Encourage each student to tell something other students have not already mentioned.

Q25 Who is the Holy Spirit?

JOHN 14:26; ROMANS 8:9

A25 The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, the Christian's Helper who comes to us when we believe in Christ. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is also known as the Spirit of Jesus or the Spirit of Christ.

A person's *spirit* is what makes him or her "alive and able to act."² Ways to describe the Holy Spirit are "God communicating with us" or "God in action in our world and our lives."³

Emphasize that the Holy Spirit is a person. We should never think of the Holy Spirit as "It" or as an impersonal force or power like electricity. However, neither should we think of the Holy Spirit as a third God. He is the *spirit of God the Father* and of *Jesus* because as a member of the Trinity he brings the Father and Son with him to a degree.

Note the word *Counselor* in John 14:26. Explain that the Bible calls the Holy Spirit by several different titles. Each title describes a way the Holy Spirit works in people's lives. Ask, **What does a counselor or a teacher do to help a person? As our Counselor and Teacher, how do you think**

Word Alert!

Flesh—The body, or human life without the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. When **flesh** is used as a way of speaking about sinfulness, it means life apart from God. The Bible does not teach that our physical bodies are sinful.

the Holy Spirit helps us? (*The Holy Spirit helps us know right from wrong; helps us know what to do in a situation; reminds us of what God has done for us*)

Also note the meaning of *flesh* since the use here differs from ordinary usage.

Q26 Is the Holy Spirit God?

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14; GENESIS 1:1-2

A26 Yes, the Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. He has always lived and always will live.

Q30 What does the Holy Spirit do in the lives of Christians?

ROMANS 8:16; JOHN 16:13-14; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23; JOHN 14:26

A30 The Holy Spirit helps Christians know they are God's children, teaches them the truth of Christ, helps them live as Christians, and leads them into the experience of entire sanctification.



Checkpoint

God does all his work in Christians' lives through the Holy Spirit. To help students recognize ways the Holy Spirit works, ask,

- **Who will tell us about a time you experienced the certainty that you were a Christian?** (Pause for responses.) **This is the Holy Spirit's work of assurance of salvation.**
- **Can anyone describe a time when—for the first time—you understood something you read in the Bible? Or, when you were trying to choose between right and wrong, have you ever remembered something from the Bible that helped you?** (Responses) **This is the Holy Spirit's work of teaching and reminding us what God and Jesus have said.**
- **Who can describe a way the Holy Spirit gave you strength to do what you knew was right?**

In addition to these ways the Holy Spirit works directly with us, the Spirit also works through other means. For example, sometimes the Holy Spirit uses the Bible and other Christians to guide and help us.

Explain that students will learn about the Holy Spirit's work of entire sanctification in a later lesson.

For now simply say, **The Holy Spirit also makes Christians holy.**

Do and Review

Choose from these activities to help students review catechism truths and reinforce what they have learned.

BELIEFS ON DISPLAY

Activity: One at a time, bring up the four statements about God on the screen and discuss how these

Materials and Preparation

- Where Could These Beliefs Lead? interactive video (from Enhanced DVD)
- TV and DVD player (or projector and screen)



beliefs might affect a person's life, behavior, and relationship with God. (*Kevin's beliefs may cause him to be afraid of God. He may find it hard to love a God like this. Derek probably doesn't worry much about doing what is right since he thinks God will let him get by with almost anything. Brad will continually try to make "deals" with God. Mark will more likely love, yet respect, God and try to please him.*)

When the class has discussed all four statements, ask volunteers to identify the correct beliefs about God. (*Mark's statements*) Ask other volunteers to tell how they would respond to Derek, Brad, and Kevin's wrong ideas. Then talk about the students' beliefs.

JESUS MAKES A PROMISE

Activity: Show Agree or Disagree? Interactive Video and explain that before his death, Dr. Purkiser was a leader in the Church of the Nazarene. This statement comes from his book *Beliefs that Matter Most*. Ask your students whether they agree or disagree with this statement and why. After a time of discussion, have a student read John 16:5-7 while the others follow along. Ask the following questions.

- **How did Jesus' disciples feel and why?** (*When Jesus told his disciples he was leaving them, they felt sad. They had spent three full years, day and night, with him and they wanted this to continue.*)
- **Tell how Jesus' statement to his disciples is like or is different from what you expected.** (*Jesus' response may surprise students. Jesus said his going away was good for the disciples because now the Holy Spirit would come.*)
- **How does Jesus' statement compare with what Dr. Purkiser said about the Holy Spirit?** (*They express the same idea because Dr. Purkiser was summarizing John 16:7. While we are on earth, having the Holy Spirit with us is better than having Jesus in person.*)
- If your students didn't see the truth of Dr. Purkiser's statement initially, ask, **How can this statement be true? What does this mean for us?** (*If Jesus was still with us physically instead of the Holy Spirit, he would only be in one place at a time and God's plan of salvation would be incomplete. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for Jesus to live in each one of us. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts from within.*)

If your students have difficulty answering this question, read John 7:37-39. Say, **These verses show us how the Holy Spirit continues the work of Jesus, and that this work could only be done after Jesus' ascension.**

Materials and Preparation

- Bibles (for teacher and students)
- Agree or Disagree? interactive video
- TV and DVD player (or projector and screen)

It is better for Christians to have the [Holy] Spirit with them than to have the actual presence of the Lord Jesus in the flesh.
—W.T. Purkiser

Closing

JOURNAL

Activity: Choose one or more journal activities about God the Father, Jesus the Son, or the Holy Spirit from pages 10, 15, and 21 in *My Faith*.

Allow time for students to work on one of these activities in class, or suggest they complete an activity during the week as part of their devotional time. If the activity is suggested as an at-home devotional exercise, remember to discuss it at the beginning of the next lesson and allow volunteers to share their work.

Materials and Preparation

- *My Faith*: Student (one book for each student)
- Pens or pencils



Checkpoint

Look again at the words describing God that students brainstormed earlier. Ask,

- **Which words help you better understand who God is? What he is like?**
- **Which words give you the best feelings about God?**
- **What are some things that are new or surprising to you from this lesson about God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit?**

Prayer: Encourage students to pray brief prayers, thanking God for who he is, for his greatness, and especially for his love to us.