

Our Global Family

To the Leader:

Week Thirteen will cover “Our Global Family.” Read through “A Connected Church” in *Nazarene Essentials*. The global Church of the Nazarene is a global community of believers, grounded in the Wesleyan tradition. No matter where you go in the world, the Church of the Nazarene shares these common beliefs and the message of holiness. Nazarenes understand themselves to be a people who are Christian, holiness, and missional. The mission statement of the Church of the Nazarene is, “To make Christlike Disciples in the nations.”

Objective: To help children understand that being a part of the Church of the Nazarene is more than just being a part of their local church. This lesson will (1) help children realize there are churches all over the world that have the same beliefs and mission we have and (2) help them understand and know why our calling and mission statement is “to make Christlike Disciples in the nations.”

They will see the importance of their mission – to go into all the world – and the role they play in being a part of the global Church of the Nazarene.

Material Needed:

- Bible
- Five items for each child.(choose one of the following: marbles, rocks, crayons, sticks, balls, etc.)
- 1 cup or plate for each child (anything you can put the above items in.)
- Pencils
- Print a copy of the “The World Map” for each child

Early Arrival Activity: Pass It On

You can play this game several times. Everyone is given five items (rocks, sticks, crayons, balls, marble etc.) It would be best if each of these items were all one color for each child. Everyone forms a big circle, at least two feet apart from each other. Each person places their items at their feet. (These items could be placed in a bucket, cup or on a plate etc.) When the leader says go everyone must quickly take one item and place it in any another person’s stack. Everyone does this at the same time. The object of the game is to “pass on” all of the items in your stack before anyone else or have the fewest left when time expires. If you can put the child’s name on their area or cup etc. It will make it easier for them to go back to their area and not get confused.

Say: Did you pass on your items to just your best friend or not worry about who you were giving them to and share with everyone? How did you decide who you were passing your items to?

Let’s imagine for a few minutes that each of these stacks of items represent Nazarene churches from all around the world. What do you notice about these stacks of items? (*Some have more items in them, some have less. If you used the colors you can make note of how each person’s items have passed to several others.*)

The Church of the Nazarene is a global Church. That means that we do not just focus and think about our needs, but we minister and care about the needs of people around the world. We want people all over the world to know about Jesus and become a follower of Him.

Why do you think we should be a global church? *(Let several children answer.)*

Bible Story with Discussion: The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

Today we are going to read, from God's Word, about how Jesus wants us to treat others.

Read or Tell the Bible Story: Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

This is a great Bible Story to have a few children act out while you are reading or telling. You might want to tell it once, then have volunteers act out different parts as you retell the story.

²⁵ *On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* ²⁶ *"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"* ²⁷ *He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"^[e]; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[d]* ²⁸ *"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."* ²⁹ *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"* ³⁰ *In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead."* ³¹ *A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.* ³² *So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.* ³³ *But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.* ³⁴ *He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.* ³⁵ *The next day he took out two denarii^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."* ³⁶ *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"* ³⁷ *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

Review questions:

What were the questions the man asked Jesus?

What was Jesus' reply?

According to this scripture, who is our neighbor?

Would that just mean people who live in our city or country?

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

This is a mission that Jesus gave His followers right before he went back to Heaven. It is a mission He gave to all of us.

Ask: What is a disciple? What does it mean to “make disciples”? Is this just something that adults can do? Can you tell others about Jesus and what he has done for you? Are there other ways that you can “make disciples”? (good place to talk about missions) Where did Jesus tell us to go and make disciples?

Read the memory verse several times, having the children repeat each phrase after you. Say it slow at first, and then say it faster for several repetitions. Then say it quietly and then loudly. Have the children repeat the phrases in the same manner you have used.

Say: In the Bible story, Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

As a global church we love people all over the world who we don’t even know. We love people who may not have the same skin color as us or be able to speak the same language as us. Because we love them, we want them to know about Jesus and become followers of Him. We want to “make disciples.” So how can we show those people that we love them? How can we help them to know about Jesus and become followers of Him?

Wait for children to respond. Possible answers include: pray for them, give offerings to missions, etc.

There are ministry opportunities within the Church of the Nazarene that reach all around the world. Let’s pray and ask God to show us, as part of the global church, how we can make disciples and make a difference in people’s lives.

Pray: God, thank You for loving us and sending your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Help us, Lord, to see people the way You see people. Help us love others the way You love others. Thank You for our Global Church of the Nazarene and the people in churches all over the world who are helping others know about You. Show us what we can do and how we can help with this mission. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Personal Challenge:

Say: We can make a difference in the world! Pray and ask God to show you how you can make a difference. Write it down on paper, and put it where you will see it every day. Every time you see it, ask God to help you make a difference in those neighbors that are near to you and those neighbors that live around the world.