Nazarene Essentials Small Group Study for Children "Who We Are and What We Believe" INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Thank you for choosing *Nazarene Essentials Small Group Study for Children*. To lead this 13-week course, you will need:

- The Nazarene Essentials Small Group Study for Children Leader's Guide
- Handouts for each child/student/parent, when applicable
- A copy of *Nazarene Essentials*, downloadable at **Nazarene.org/essentials**.

Before the first session, we recommend sending an email with the link (Nazarene.org/essentials) to participants' parents, inviting them to download a personal copy of *Nazarene Essentials*.

This small group study parallels the adult *Nazarene Essentials* study. *Nazarene Essentials* provides a basic overview of the Church of the Nazarene—where we came from, what we believe and our vision for the future. Designed to promote discussion between parents and children, this series will help children understand the Church of the Nazarene's purpose and mission to make Christlike disciples and spread scriptural holiness in the nations. We will cover our history as a denomination, our theology, our core values, our global reach, and the seven distinguishing characteristics of the Church of the Nazarene.

Each week's study contains an opening activity introducing the lesson, a Scripture focus with memory verse, a Bible Story with age-appropriate discussion questions, a review game, an activity/object lesson and a personal challenge. Each lesson includes a participant handout with the memory verse and Bible story reference, as well as a take-away thought or concept.

The Articles of Faith are briefly covered in Session 11 but we recommend following-up this study with a deeper look into the Articles of Faith with WordAction Curriculum: "My Faith, Nazarene Catechism for Kids" or "Nazarene Membership for Kids." (Currently, these resources are available in English only.) You may find some students interested in church membership and/or baptism afterwards.

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