

OUR CORE VALUES

To the Leader:

Week Three will cover our three core values: Christian, missional and holiness.

Objective: To help children realize there are 3 “Core Values” which define us as Nazarenes.

Material Needed:

- If possible find these pictures for the first activity: bird, rose, bee, tree, ocean, elephant, cloud, jacket, cat, banana
- Bible or read from this lesson
- White board or chalk board or a large piece of paper posted on the wall
- Pencils or markers
- Acrostic Worksheet, 1 per child

Early Arrival Activity:

You can play this game for 10-15 minutes.

Ask the children to come up with 3 words they think describe them specifically. Help them to describe things that make them unique, not just outward characteristics like “boy” or “tall” but personality characteristics that describe their character such as serious, curious, inquisitive, kind, etc.

After all the children have arrived, tell them you are going to reveal three words that describe a picture, and with those three words you are sure they will be able to tell you exactly what the picture is.

Feathered – Wings – Beak - BIRD

Thorns – Stem – Petals - ROSE

Buzz – Honey – Insect - BEE

Trunk – Branches – Leaves - TREE

Salty – Waves – Water - OCEAN

Tusk – Big – Trunk - Elephant

Puffy – White – Sky - CLOUD

Zipper – Hood – Warm - JACKET

Pet – Fur – Meow - CAT

Yellow – Fruit – Peel - BANANA

Say: We believe as Nazarenes there are three words that describe who God has called us to be. These words are CHRISTIAN, HOLINESS, AND MISSIONAL.

Bible Story with Discussion: Acts 2:42-47 (NIV), The Beginning of the Church

Begin by explaining to the children our understanding of what it means to be Christian, Holiness, and Missional. Remind the children that we believe God has called us as Nazarenes to live in these ways. Read this story with the children, asking them to think of where they see our three core values in the story.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Say: The early believers soon realized there was a lot that needed to be done if they were going to follow Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples." (See Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20.) The early Christians knew it was important to pray and study God's Word as well as share what they had with others. The Bible reminds us that these early **Christians** were living a life of **Holiness** while being **Missional** to the people that they met.

Review questions:

1. What were the people doing in the early days of the church that sounds like what it means to be a Christian?
2. What were the people doing in the early days of the church that sounds like a life of Holiness?
3. What were the people doing in the early days of the church that sounds like someone who is Missional?
4. What were the people doing in Acts 2:43-47 that still happens in our church today?
5. What can we do to help our church be more like the church we read about in Acts 2:42-47?

Memory Verse and Review:

"No matter what happens, live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ. Then I will know that you remain strong together in the one Spirit" (Philippians 1:27a, *NIRV*).

Review game: Tic-Tac-Toe Review

Draw a large Tic-Tac-Toe board on a dry erase board, chalk board, or large piece of paper mounted on the wall. Divide the kids into two teams, "Xs" and "Os." Alternate between the teams asking questions about the lesson. When the question is answered correctly, allow a child to draw their team's symbol on the board/paper. The first team to get "three in a row" wins. Play several rounds.

Activity/Craft/Science: An acrostic is a form of writing in which the first letter, syllable or word of each line, paragraph, or other recurring feature in the text spells out a word or a message. Have the children create an acrostic with the word "Church." Use the sheet provided. Help them think of creative ways to talk about words that describe how we as Nazarenes live out being "Christian, Holiness, and Missional."

Personal Challenge or Take away and Prayer: Begin a discussion with the group, allowing children to discuss how they can help their church be more "Christian, Holiness, and Missional."

- 1a. How can you (child's name) know Christ better?
- 1b. How can you (child's name) help others in our church to know Christ better?

2a. How can you (child's name) live more like Christ would want you to live?

2b. How can you (child's name) help others in our church live like Christ would want us to live?

3a. How can you (child's name) share God's love with others?

3b. How can you (child's name) help our church share God's love with others?

Close with a prayer.:

Thank you God for the (name of your church) you have provided for us to be a part of. Give us strength to be the people You have called us to be. Help us be more like Christ, living a holy life. Help us to find ways to share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

