

NAZARENE ESSENTIALS—LESSON ONE PARENT’S GUIDE

To Parents:

For the next thirteen weeks, your children will learn about the Church of the Nazarene.

Week One is an overview of the Church of the Nazarene’s purpose and mission to fulfill the Great Commission and to spread scriptural holiness.

Week Two will include a brief overview of the history of the denomination, John Wesley’s influence, and what it means to live a holy life.

Week Three will cover the Church of the Nazarene’s three core values: Christian, missional and holiness.

We will spend weeks four through ten on each of seven characteristics in kid-friendly language. These traits depict what we believe should characterize every local Nazarene church.

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| 1. Meaningful Worship (Week Four) | We worship God through many ways because of our relationship with Him. |
| 2. Theological Coherence (Week Five) | We understand God better because of scripture, the Church, our minds, and our experience. |
| 3. Passionate Evangelism (Week Six) | We follow Jesus' example of sharing God’s love and the good news of salvation with others. |
| 4. Intentional Discipleship (Week Seven) | We grow as Christians by spending time with God through participating in Church, reading the Bible, praying and listening for God to help us make good choices. |
| 5. Church Development (Week Eight) | We create new churches around the world. A church is a group of people who gather regularly to learn about Jesus and share His love. |
| 6. Transformational Leadership (Week Nine) | We become leaders that make a difference by following Jesus' example. |
| 7. Purposeful Compassion (Week Ten) | We lovingly serve others because Jesus loves us and all people. |

Week Eleven, “Our Wesleyan Theology,” explores the view point and influence of John Wesley on Nazarene beliefs.

Week Twelve focuses on how our church is organized to accomplish its mission.

Finally, in Week Thirteen, we will explore what it means to be a global church.

No matter where we go in the world, The Church of the Nazarene shares these common beliefs and the message of holiness.

As you review this lesson with your child, consider the Church of the Nazarene's role in building God's Kingdom on earth. Nazarenes are on a mission to share Jesus' love and to be Jesus' hands and feet, making Christlike disciples in all the nations and here at home as well. We have a message of holiness to share, bringing hope to all. Our children need to understand that they are a part of God's work in the world. Ask God to guide you as you teach them the importance of willingly joining Him and using their gifts and abilities to share His love with others.

Lesson Objective: To understand that the Church of the Nazarene exists to fulfill the Great Commission and teach people to live holy lives. Students will learn they are a part of the body of Christ within a local Church of the Nazarene and that they can join God at work in the world around them by using their gifts and abilities to share God's love.

Bible Story: "Jesus Gives the Great Commission" - **Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)**

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Scripture Memory Verses: The Great Commission –Matthew 28:19-20a
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Personal Challenge:

How does our local church (name of your church) follow Jesus' instructions and share His love with others? Telling people about God and His love, worshiping, praying for people, giving money, serving people in need, practicing hospitality, sending missionaries, building churches, hospitals, and schools around the world.

How can I be a part of my church's mission and share Jesus love? Helping and being kind to others, telling people God loves them, praying for people who need help, offering to serve others.

Who can I share the good news of Jesus' love with? Have children name people with whom they will share Jesus' love. Remind them to begin by praying for these people and that God will begin now to prepare hearts to receive the good news of Jesus' love.

PRAYER:

Dear Father, help us to obey You, to go and make disciples, and to remember that You always go with us and help us accomplish what You ask us to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.