



CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE

**Catechism
Family Guide**

The Nazarene Church has a rich history of being a Christian, Holiness, and Missional church, but what does that mean?

**Do you know what you believe?
Can you explain what you believe?
Why do you believe what you believe?
Do your kids know what it means to be a Nazarene?**

If any of these questions has you sweating, this booklet is for you!

Catechism (KA'-tuh-ki-zm) is a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians. It helps lay the foundation for faith development by investigating beliefs and how they align with Scripture.

This year, each of your elementary-aged children will be introduced to a few catechism questions and answers. The aim of this isn't to just memorize and be able to say the "right answers", but to begin a journey of discovery about what we believe, why we believe what we believe, and how to talk about the foundation for those beliefs.

On the following pages, you will find the selected questions and answers for each grade level for the 2023-2024 school year, and a special memory passage or creed for each class. Included at the end is the complete set of catechism questions. The questions are grouped under different topics, and you may find it helpful to look at the questions immediately before or after a specific question to gain further context.

We hope you will partner with us and practice these questions at home with your child(ren). Remember, the "correct" word-for-word recitation isn't the goal—a robust understanding of our beliefs is.

Our children's worldviews are constantly being shaped by the world around them. Whether you are aware of it or not, influences in their lives are telling them what to believe and why. Someone or something is catechizing your child(ren). As a parent, you get to choose if it will be you! We are praying for you and your family as we embark on this journey together!

Kindergarten/1st Grade
Leader: Judi Luginbill

Catechism Questions:

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.

Q12 How does God make himself known to us? (*HEBREWS 1:1-2; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:13; ACTS 18:28*)

A12 God makes himself known to us in many ways but most importantly, through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible

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.

Q25 Who is the Holy Spirit? (*JOHN 14:26; ROMANS 8:9 (NRSV)*)

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.

Q36 What is the Bible? (*2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17*)

A36 The Bible is a collection of books that teach us the truth about who God is, what he has done for us, and how he wants us to live.

Q46 What did Jesus say were the greatest commandments?
(*MATTHEW 22:34-40*)

A46 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Q52 How did sin enter the world? (*GENESIS 3:6*)

A52 Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve rebelled against God and disobeyed his command.

Q96 *What is the Church?* (ROMANS 12:4-5)

A96 The Church is all the people whose sins have been forgiven and who trust Jesus as their Savior. It includes all Christians living now and in the past.

Q97 *Who is a Christian?* (ROMANS 10:9)

A97 A Christian is a person whose sins have been forgiven and who has received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Q114 *What is prayer?* (PSALM 3:4a; ISAIAH 65:24)

A114 Prayer is talking and listening to God.

Memory Work: Greatest Commandments (Matthew 26:37-39)

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

2nd Grade

Leader: Cheryl Johnson

Catechism Questions:

Q26 *Is the Holy Spirit God?* (2 CORINTHIANS 13:14; GENESIS 1:1-2)

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

Q37 *How were the books of the Bible written?* (2 PETER 1:20-21)

A37 The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were written by human authors who wrote as God, through the Holy Spirit, inspired them.

Q40 *Why did God give us the Bible?* (ROMANS 15:4; JOHN 20:31)

A40 God gave us the Bible to reveal what he is like and to guide us to a true and saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Q48 *Why did God create people?* (PSALM 37:4; REVELATION 4:11)

A48 God created people to enjoy a loving relationship with him and to honor him with their lives.

Q53 *What happened to Adam and Eve as a result of the first sin?*

(ROMANS 5:12; GENESIS 3:13, 16-19)

A53 When Adam and Eve sinned, their relationship with God was broken. They became separated from him and death entered human life.

Q55 *What do we call this first sin and its effect on all creation?*

(ROMANS 5:12, 14)

A55 We call this sin “the fall” because humanity fell from a state of holiness into bondage to sin.

Q64 *For whom did Jesus die?* (LUKE 13:3b; JOHN 3:18)

A64 Jesus died for every person, but only those who repent of their sins, believe, and receive him as Savior will be saved.

Q99 What does God want the Church to do? (MATTHEW 28:19-20)

A99 The Church's mission is to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey God's commands. God wants Christians to show that he, through the Holy Spirit, changes people so they love him, love others, and live for him.

Q108 How are Christians to live? (AMOS 5:14-15a; JOHN 13:35; EPHESIANS 5:1-2)

A108 Christians are to be imitators of Christ. Christians are to do good, avoid evil, and love one another.

Q109 What does it mean to do good? (LUKE 10:27; 1 JOHN 5:3; HEBREWS 9:14)

A109 For Christians, to do good is to love, obey, and serve God as he has taught us in the Scriptures.

Memory Work: Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

3rd & 4th Grade
Leader: Dean McCombs

Catechism Questions:

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.

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.”

Q14 *Is Jesus Christ God?*

(COLOSSIANS 2:9; JOHN 1:1-2)

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

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.

Q41 *What is the major message of the Bible?* (JOHN 3:16)

A41 The major message of the Bible is that God loves us and has made a way for us to be saved from sin through his Son Jesus Christ.

Q51 *What is sin?* (1 JOHN 3:4; JAMES 4:17)

A51 Sin is rebellion against God, that is, a person placing his or her own will above God’s will and choosing to disobey God.

Q56 How did the sin of Adam and Eve affect people who were born later? (PSALM 51:5; ROMANS 7:18a)

A56 Since Adam and Eve, all people are born without a personal relationship with God and with a drive to turn away from him. This drive is known as *original sin*. Every part of who we are has been damaged by sin.

Q60 What did God do to make it possible for people to be saved from sin and live in fellowship with him? (1 JOHN 2:1-2)

A60 God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to make atonement for sin.

Q68 What makes it possible to repent and turn to God? (JOHN 6:44)

A68 The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives makes repentance possible. He helps us feel sorry about our sins, and gives us the ability to choose to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Q100 How does the Church carry out the mission God gave it? (1 PETER 1:15-16; ACTS 1:8; ACTS 2:46-47; ROMANS 12:6-8)

A100 The Church carries out its mission by living holy lives, by telling others about Jesus, by worshiping together, by helping fellow Christians grow spiritually, and by serving others in Jesus' name.

Memory Work: The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

5th Grade
Leader: Holly Knurek

Catechism Questions:

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.

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.

Q18 Why could only Jesus be our Savior? (COLOSSIANS 2:9; JOHN 3:16-17; JOHN 17:20-27)

A18 Only Jesus is both completely God and completely human. Because of this, only he could be the perfect sacrifice needed for the forgiveness of our sins. Only Jesus joined divinity and humanity in himself so he could bring God and humans together in a deeper way.

Q35 How does the Holy Spirit teach us? (JOHN 14:26, 16:13)

A35 The Holy Spirit teaches us by helping us understand the Bible, by guiding others to speak the truth to us, and by giving us a sense of peace with God or conviction of sin.

Q49 What do we mean when we say people are created “in God’s image?” (GENESIS 1:26)

A49 Because human beings are created in God’s image, they are free to make choices about right and wrong. Also, they can live in fellowship with God and reflect God’s nature of holy love.

Q63 What is the only way a person can be saved from sin? (ACTS 4:12)

A63 The only way a person can be saved from sin is by trusting in Jesus and the atonement he made.

Q80 How can a person be sure he or she has been saved? (ROMANS 8:15-16; ROMANS 5:1-2)

A80 The Holy Spirit assures those whom have trusted Jesus as Savior that they are in right relationship with God. This is called the “witness of the Spirit.”

Q85 When should a Christian begin to live a holy life? (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13; HEBREWS 10:10; HEBREWS 12:14)

A85 Christians are to begin living holy lives as soon as they receive Jesus as Savior.

Q86 What makes it difficult for Christians to live holy lives? (JAMES 1:13-15A)

A86 The tendency to want our own way, rather than God’s way, makes it hard for Christians to live holy lives.

Q123 What is Christian baptism? (ROMANS 6:3-4; HEBREWS 10:22)

A123 Christian baptism is the sacrament that uses water to help symbolize dying with Christ, being buried with him, and being resurrected as a new person in Christ. It shows that the believer has received Christ’s promised salvation and has begun to live a new life with God. It also symbolizes having our sins washed away.

Q126 What is the Lord’s Supper? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26)

A126 The Lord’s Supper is the sacrament that uses bread and wine (grape juice) to symbolize Christ’s death for our sins. It is also a means by which Christ strengthens and helps us spiritually. When we participate in the Lord’s Supper, we celebrate with thanksgiving that Christ has saved us, and we look forward to his second coming.

Memory Work: The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-10)

- ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

6th Grade
Leader: Mara Castle

Catechism Questions:

Q1 Where can we find a summary of the basic beliefs of all Christians?

A1 The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed sum up Christian beliefs.

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.

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 the Father (interceding for us). He also reigns as King, guiding and directing the Church.

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

Q34 How does the Holy Spirit lead us to entire sanctification? (2 CORINTHIANS 3:18; 1 PETER 2:2)

A34 The Holy Spirit helps us grow spiritually. This helps us realize our need to be freed from our sinful drives. He gives us the ability to place ourselves completely in God's hands and trust him to entirely sanctify us.

Q42 How can we be sure the message of the Bible is true and trustworthy? (PSALM 33:4; 2 TIMOTHY 3:15)

A42 By faith we can be sure the message of the Bible is true and trustworthy because the Spirit of God inspired all of the writings of the Bible and faithfully uses them to bring us to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Q54 How did Adam and Eve's sin affect the rest of creation? (ROMANS 8:20-21; GENESIS 3:17-18)

A54 Adam and Eve's sin caused the rest of creation to fall too. Creation doesn't work quite right anymore. The parts of creation decay and damage one another and people. People now have to struggle against creation in many ways.

Q72 What words describe what happens when a person believes and is saved? (TITUS 3:4-7)

A72 The words *justification*, *regeneration*, and *adoption* describe what happens when a person believes and is saved.

Q73 What is justification? (JOHN 5:24; ROMANS 5:1; ROMANS 3:21-26)

A73 Justification is God's action to forgive sinners who repent, free them from guilt and punishment for their sins, and make them right with him.

Q74 What is regeneration? (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; JOHN 3:3-7)

A74 Regeneration is God's action to give spiritual life to a repentant sinner, so the person can stop sinning and live the Christian life.

Q75 What is adoption? (1 JOHN 3:1)

A75 Adoption is God's action to make the repentant sinner his very own child.

Q84 What do we mean when we say Christians are to live holy lives? (MATTHEW 22:37-39; EZEKIEL 36:25-27; TITUS 2:11-14; 1 PETER 1:15-16)

A84 Christians are to love God completely, love others as themselves, and show this love by obeying and serving God in everything. A Christian's character and desires should reflect God's more and more.

Q102 What is a denomination?

A102 A denomination is a group of churches that have joined together under one authority because of shared beliefs and in order to serve God together.

Q105 What do all denominations have in common? (1 CORINTHIANS 1:10; GALATIANS 1:6-8)

A105 All denominations believe in the same God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They accept The Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed.

Q106 What are the guiding principles of the Church of the Nazarene?

A106 The guiding principles of the Church of the Nazarene are expressed by three core values. We are *Christian* because we put Christ at the center of our lives. We are a *holiness* church because we seek to be holy people in all areas of our hearts and lives. We are *missional* because we are committed to worshiping God, learning, growing, witnessing, and serving others.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Nazarene
Catechism
Questions
and
Answers***

**Beliefs About the Triune God, Part 1:
The Father**

Q1 Where can we find a summary of the basic beliefs of all Christians?

A1 The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed sum up Christian beliefs.

Q2 Where can we find a summary of the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene?

A2 The Agreed Statement of Beliefs sums up the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene as stated in the Articles of Faith.

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.

Q4 Is there more than one God? (ISAIAH 44:6; DEUTERONOMY 4:35)

A4 There is only one true and living God.

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.

Q6 Why is God greater than any other being? (ISAIAH 40:28; JOB 11:7)

A6 God is greater than any other being because he has always lived and always will live and because he is not limited in any way.

Q7 Why do we say that God is Creator of everything? (GENESIS 1:1; HEBREWS 11:3)

A7 God is the Creator of everything because in the beginning there was nothing. Then God made everything.

Q8 How does God work in the universe today? (ISAIAH 40:25-26; 2 PETER 3:9; PSALM 66:18-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-20)

A8 God keeps the universe operating and enables everyone who responds to him to be saved from sin.

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.

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.

Q12 How does God make himself known to us? (HEBREWS 1:1-2; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:13; ACTS 18:28)

A12 God makes himself known to us in many ways but most importantly, through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible

**Beliefs About the Triune God, Part 2:
Jesus Christ**

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.

Q14 Is Jesus Christ God?

(COLOSSIANS 2:9; JOHN 1:1-2)

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

Q15 What do we mean when we say God the Son “became incarnate”?
(MATTHEW 1:18; LUKE 1:26-35)

A15 We mean that God the Son became a human being when, through the power of the Holy Spirit, he was born of the Virgin Mary. His name is Jesus.

Q16 What do we mean when we say Jesus is the “God-man”? (JOHN 1:14)

A16 Jesus is completely God and completely human.

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.

Q18 Why could only Jesus be our Savior? (COLOSSIANS 2:9; JOHN 3:16-17; JOHN 17:20-27)

A18 Only Jesus is both completely God and completely human. Because of this, only he could be the perfect sacrifice needed for the forgiveness of our sins. Only Jesus joined divinity and humanity in himself so he could bring God and humans together in a deeper way.

Q19 Why is it important that Jesus is completely God (divine)? (JOHN 14:9; HEBREWS 4:14-16)

A19 Because Jesus is completely God, he was born without sin. He was able to perfectly keep God’s Law. Jesus also reveals God the Father to us.

Q20 Why is it important that Jesus is completely human? (HEBREWS 4:14-15; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:21-22)

A20 Because Jesus is completely human, he understands what it's like for us to be tempted and live in a sinful world. He succeeded where Adam failed and is reversing the effects of Adam's fall. He is able to represent us before God the Father.

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.

Q22 What does Jesus' resurrection teach us? (ROMANS 1:1-4; ACTS 2:32-33)

A22 Jesus' resurrection teaches us that he is the Son of God, his sacrifice for our sin was accepted by God, and that death and sin have been defeated.

Q23 Why is Jesus' ascension important? (EPHESIANS 4:9-10; JOHN 16:7)

A23 When Jesus ascended, he began a new stage of his ministry and sent the Holy Spirit to us.

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 the Father (interceding for us). He also reigns as King, guiding and directing the Church.

**Beliefs About the Triune God, Part 3:
The Holy Spirit**

Q25 Who is the Holy Spirit? (JOHN 14:26; ROMANS 8:9 (NRSV))

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.

Q26 Is the Holy Spirit God? (2 CORINTHIANS 13:14; GENESIS 1:1-2)

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

Q27 Where is the Holy Spirit now? (GALATIANS 4:6; PSALM 139:7-12)

A27 The Holy Spirit is present everywhere in the world and especially in the lives of all Christians.

Q28 How does the Holy Spirit work in the lives of those who are not Christians? (JOHN 16:7-8)

A28 In the lives of those who are not Christians, the Holy Spirit reveals God's love for them, shows them they are sinners, and encourages them to receive Jesus as Savior.

Q29 What does the Holy Spirit do when a person becomes a Christian? (JOHN 6:63; 2 CORINTHIANS 1:21-22; JOHN 1:12-13)

A29 When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit gives him or her spiritual life so that the person becomes a child of God.

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

Q31 Why do we need the Holy Spirit to do these things for us? (GALATIANS 5:16-17, 22-25)

A31 We need the Holy Spirit because his presence in our hearts gives us the desire to live for God and the strength to reject sin.

Q32 How does the Holy Spirit help us know we are God's children?
(GALATIANS 4:6-7; 1 JOHN 3:10; 1 JOHN 4:7)

A32 The Holy Spirit makes us aware that we have a changed heart, and a good relationship with God. With the Spirit's help, we love God and obey him as our Father. We begin to love others with the love of God.

Q33 In what way does the Holy Spirit change our hearts? (ROMANS 8:5; EZEKIEL 36:25-27)

A33 The Holy Spirit replaces our sinful attitudes and desires with new ones that are like God's.

Q34 How does the Holy Spirit lead us to entire sanctification? (2 CORINTHIANS 3:18; 1 PETER 2:2)

A34 The Holy Spirit helps us grow spiritually. This helps us realize our need to be freed from our sinful drives. He gives us the ability to place ourselves completely in God's hands and trust him to entirely sanctify us.

Q35 How does the Holy Spirit teach us? (JOHN 14:26, 16:13)

A35 The Holy Spirit teaches us by helping us understand the Bible, by guiding others to speak the truth to us, and by giving us a sense of peace with God or conviction of sin.

Beliefs About the Bible, God's Holy Word

Q36 What is the Bible? (2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17)

A36 The Bible is a collection of books that teach us the truth about who God is, what he has done for us, and how he wants us to live.

Q37 How were the books of the Bible written? (2 PETER 1:20-21)

A37 The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were written by human authors who wrote as God, through the Holy Spirit, inspired them.

Q38 What do we mean when we say that human authors wrote as God inspired them? (2 PETER 1:21)

A38 Through the Holy Spirit, God prompted human authors to write down his Word and he guided their minds and hearts as they wrote.

Q39 What does "plenary inspiration of the Bible" mean? (2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17)

A39 "Plenary inspiration of the Bible" means that God guided the writers of every book of the Bible, therefore the Bible is fully "God's Word."

Q40 Why did God give us the Bible? (ROMANS 15:4; JOHN 20:31)

A40 God gave us the Bible to reveal what he is like and to guide us to a true and saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Q41 What is the major message of the Bible? (JOHN 3:16)

A41 The major message of the Bible is that God loves us and has made a way for us to be saved from sin through his Son Jesus Christ.

Q42 How can we be sure the message of the Bible is true and trustworthy? (PSALM 33:4; 2 TIMOTHY 3:15)

A42 By faith we can be sure the message of the Bible is true and trustworthy because the Spirit of God inspired all of the writings of the Bible and faithfully uses them to bring us to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Q43 What sums up the Law in the Old Testament?

A43 The Ten Commandments sum up the Law.

Q44 What are the four commandments that teach us how to relate to God? (EXODUS 20:3-11)

A44 You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Q45 What are the six commandments that teach us how to relate to others? (EXODUS 20:12-17)

A45 Honor your father and mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Q46 What did Jesus say were the greatest commandments? (MATTHEW 22:34-40)

A46 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Q47 Why are these commandments a summary of the Ten Commandments and all God's Law? (1 JOHN 5:2-3; ROMANS 13:9-10)

A47 The goal behind the Ten Commandments and the Law is to teach us how to love God and our neighbor.

Beliefs About the Human Race and Sin

Q48 *Why did God create people? (PSALM 37:4; REVELATION 4:11)*

A48 God created people to enjoy a loving relationship with him and to honor him with their lives.

Q49 *What do we mean when we say people are created “in God’s image?” (GENESIS 1:26)*

A49 Because human beings are created in God’s image, they are free to make choices about right and wrong. Also, they can live in fellowship with God and reflect God’s nature of holy love.

Q50 *How else were Adam and Eve, the first people, like God? (ECCLESIASTES 7:29)*

A50 In the beginning, Adam and Eve had no sin in their lives.

Q51 *What is sin? (1 JOHN 3:4; JAMES 4:17)*

A51 Sin is rebellion against God, that is, a person placing his or her own will above God’s will and choosing to disobey God.

Q52 *How did sin enter the world? (GENESIS 3:6)*

A52 Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve rebelled against God and disobeyed his command.

Q53 *What happened to Adam and Eve as a result of the first sin? (ROMANS 5:12; GENESIS 3:13, 16-19)*

A53 When Adam and Eve sinned, their relationship with God was broken. They became separated from him and death entered human life.

Q54 *How did Adam and Eve’s sin affect the rest of creation? (ROMANS 8:20-21; GENESIS 3:17-18)*

A54 Adam and Eve’s sin caused the rest of creation to fall too. Creation doesn’t work quite right anymore. The parts of creation decay and damage one another and people. People now have to struggle against creation in many ways.

Q55 What do we call this first sin and its effect on all creation?

(ROMANS 5:12, 14)

A55 We call this sin “the fall” because humanity fell from a state of holiness into bondage to sin.

Q56 How did the sin of Adam and Eve affect people who were born later? *(PSALM 51:5; ROMANS 7:18a)*

A56 Since Adam and Eve, all people are born without a personal relationship with God and with a drive to turn away from him. This drive is known as *original sin*. Every part of who we are has been damaged by sin.

Q57 What are the results of original sin? *(ROMANS 7:5, 18-19)*

A57 The results of original sin are that everyone commits acts of sin, has a drive to commit more sins, and cannot turn from sin to righteousness without God’s help.

Q58 What is God’s response to sin? *(PROVERBS 15:9; 1 PETER 5:10)*

A58 God hates sin. He wants to get rid of it and restore everything that has been damaged by it.

Q59 What is God’s response to sinners? *(EPHESIANS 1:3-8; 2 PETER 3:9)*

A59 God’s loving response is to offer us salvation from sin so we can live in fellowship with him and be holy.

Beliefs About Salvation

Q60 What did God do to make it possible for people to be saved from sin and live in fellowship with him? (1 JOHN 2:1-2)

A60 God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to make atonement for sin.

Q61 What do we mean when we say Jesus made atonement for sin? (1 PETER 2:24; ROMANS 6:17-18)

A61 Jesus suffered and died on the cross so we could turn to God, be forgiven of our sins, be freed from original sin, and live in fellowship with God.

Q62 What do we mean when we say “fellowship with God?” (1 JOHN 1:3; ROMANS 5:10; COLOSSIANS 1:21-23a)

A62 Fellowship with God means that we love God and he loves us. We are no longer God’s enemies. We live for God and we do things his way.

Q63 What is the only way a person can be saved from sin? (ACTS 4:12)

A63 The only way a person can be saved from sin is by trusting in Jesus and the atonement he made.

Q64 For whom did Jesus die? (LUKE 13:3b; JOHN 3:18)

A64 Jesus died for every person, but only those who repent of their sins, believe, and receive him as Savior will be saved.

Q65 What does it mean to “repent” of our sins? (EZEKIEL 18:30; ACTS 3:19)

A65 To “repent” means to change our minds completely about sin. We turn away from sin and turn to God. We feel sorry for our sin, ask for forgiveness, and decide to live for God.

Q66 What happens when people repent of their sins? (ISAIAH 55:7)

A66 When people repent of their sins, God forgives them and enables them to believe they have been forgiven.

Q67 Are we able to repent of sin by our own strength of will? (ROMANS 7:21-25; ROMANS 8:6-7)

A67 No. Our will is under the powerful influence of sin.

Q68 What makes it possible to repent and turn to God? (JOHN 6:44)

A68 The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives makes repentance possible. He helps us feel sorry about our sins, and gives us the ability to choose to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Q69 What is this work of the Holy Spirit called? (ROMANS 5:8)

A69 This work is called “prevenient grace,” which is God’s love, power, and mercy reaching out to people before they know him or want him.

Q70 Who receives prevenient grace? (ISAIAH 26:10; TITUS 2:11; ROMANS 10:11-13; EPHESIANS 2:8-9)

A70 All people receive prevenient grace. This means all people are able to repent of sin, trust God, and be saved from their sins.

Q71 Why do all people receive prevenient grace? (2 PETER 3:9)

A71 All people receive prevenient grace because God loves us and wants us to be able to choose to love him in return.

Q72 What words describe what happens when a person believes and is saved? (TITUS 3:4-7)

A72 The words *justification*, *regeneration*, and *adoption* describe what happens when a person believes and is saved.

Q73 What is justification? (JOHN 5:24; ROMANS 5:1; ROMANS 3:21-26)

A73 Justification is God’s action to forgive sinners who repent, free them from guilt and punishment for their sins, and make them right with him.

Q74 What is regeneration? (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; JOHN 3:3-7)

A74 Regeneration is God’s action to give spiritual life to a repentant sinner, so the person can stop sinning and live the Christian life.

Q75 What is adoption? (1 JOHN 3:1)

A75 Adoption is God’s action to make the repentant sinner his very own child.

Q76 What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation? (1 JOHN 4:13; EPHESIANS 1:13-14)

A76 The Holy Spirit lives within us, makes us alive to God, and begins to transform us to be more like Jesus.

Q77 How should a person's life change after becoming a Christian? (ROMANS 6:11-13; EPHESIANS 3:16; ROMANS 8:5)

A77 A person will be able to resist temptation as he or she relies on the Holy Spirit. He or she will have less desire to sin, and discover a new desire and power to live for God.

Q78 Does sin remain in the life of a saved person? (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13; GALATIANS 5:13; MATTHEW 26:41)

A78 The Holy Spirit gives us the power to resist temptation and obey God. However, original sin remains. This makes it a struggle to love and serve God with our whole heart and life.

Q79 How should a Christian respond to sin in his or her life? (1 JOHN 2:1; REVELATION 3:19; GALATIANS 5:16-17)

A79 A Christian who has committed a sinful act or realizes he or she has sinful desires should repent, ask for God's help in living a holy life, and do his or her best to live rightly.

Q80 How can a person be sure he or she has been saved? (ROMANS 8:15-16; ROMANS 5:1-2)

A80 The Holy Spirit assures those whom have trusted Jesus as Savior that they are in right relationship with God. This is called the "witness of the Spirit."

Q81 How does the Holy Spirit give us this assurance? (HEBREWS 10:22-23; 2 CORINTHIANS 3:3-5)

A81 We become aware of God's unending love for us and that we are no longer at odds with him. We love God in a way that wasn't possible before. Sometimes it is a quiet confidence in God's promises, at other times it can be intense and emotional. Our behavior and character begin to reflect Christ's.

Q82 Can a person who has been saved ever be lost? (GALATIANS 5:4; HEBREWS 10:26-27)

A82 A person who has been saved will be lost if he or she returns to a life of sin and refuses to repent.

Q83 If a person who has been saved can be lost, what hope does the Christian have of staying true to God and spending eternity with him? (ROMANS 8:38-39; JUDE 24-25)

A83 The Christian's hope is in God's grace, which is strong enough to enable any earnest Christian to stay true to God and spend eternity with him.

Beliefs About Entire Sanctification

Q84 What do we mean when we say Christians are to live holy lives? (MATTHEW 22:37-39; EZEKIEL 36:25-27; TITUS 2:11-14; 1 PETER 1:15-16)

A84 Christians are to love God completely, love others as themselves, and show this love by obeying and serving God in everything. A Christian's character and desires should reflect God's more and more.

Q85 When should a Christian begin to live a holy life? (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13; HEBREWS 10:10; HEBREWS 12:14)

A85 Christians are to begin living holy lives as soon as they receive Jesus as Savior.

Q86 What makes it difficult for Christians to live holy lives? (JAMES 1:13-15A)

A86 The tendency to want our own way, rather than God's way, makes it hard for Christians to live holy lives.

Q87 What do we call this tendency to want our own way rather than God's way? (PSALM 51:5; ROMANS 5:19)

A87 We call this tendency *original sin*. All people are born this way, and we continue to want our own way even after we have been saved.

Q88 Who made it possible for Christians to experience freedom from original sin and freedom to live holy lives? (HEBREWS 13:12; 1 JOHN 1:7-9)

A88 Jesus Christ, through his death and resurrection, made it possible for us to experience freedom from original sin and freedom to live holy lives.

Q89 What help is there for Christians who are struggling to live holy lives? (1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-13; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23; TITUS 2:11-14)

A89 God promises to change us so that we want his way more than we want our own way. He cleanses and empowers (enables) us to live lives that are pleasing to him. We call this act of God *entire sanctification*.

Q90 What difference does the experience of entire sanctification make in the lives of Christians? (TITUS 2:11-14)

A90 Entirely sanctified Christians live by the power of the Holy Spirit instead of being controlled by self will. They can increasingly love God and other people. They find it easier to obey and serve God because they no longer have to fight against self will.

Q91 Does this mean the entirely sanctified Christian will never again do anything wrong? (1 JOHN 2:1-2)

A91 No. Sometimes, because of human weakness, entirely sanctified Christians act in ways that don't honor the Lord and must ask his forgiveness. But, these actions are not the same as deliberately choosing to disobey God.

Q92 What must a Christian do to be entirely sanctified? (ROMANS 12:1; ACTS 15:8-9)

A92 To be entirely sanctified, we must give ourselves completely to God. We must believe that God will receive the gift of ourselves, change our tendency to want our own way instead of God's way, and give us strength to live the holy life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Q93 How can Christians know they have been entirely sanctified? (HEBREWS 9:14; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:12; GALATIANS 5:22-23)

A93 After we have trusted the Holy Spirit to cleanse us, the Spirit assures us we have been entirely sanctified. We also see the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Q94 How does the Holy Spirit work in the lives of Christians after they have been entirely sanctified? (JOHN 14:26; COLOSSIANS 1:9-12)

A94 The Holy Spirit teaches and guides us, helping us become more and more like Christ. When we do something that does not honor Christ, he brings this to our attention and encourages us to repent.

Q95 What must sanctified Christians do to remain free from sin? (GALATIANS 2:20)

A95 We must continually trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to help us love and obey God completely. Any time the Holy Spirit shows us something we have done wrong, we must repent and ask God's forgiveness.

Beliefs About the Church

Q96 What is the Church? (ROMANS 12:4-5)

A96 The Church is all the people whose sins have been forgiven and who trust Jesus as their Savior. It includes all Christians living now and in the past.

Q97 Who is a Christian? (ROMANS 10:9)

A97 A Christian is a person whose sins have been forgiven and who has received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Q98 Who is the head of the Church? (EPHESIANS 5:23)

A98 Jesus Christ is the head of the Church.

Q99 What does God want the Church to do? (MATTHEW 28:19-20)

A99 The Church's mission is to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey God's commands. God wants Christians to show that he, through the Holy Spirit, changes people so they love him, love others, and live for him.

Q100 How does the Church carry out the mission God gave it? (1 PETER 1:15-16; ACTS 1:8; ACTS 2:46-47; ROMANS 12:6-8)

A100 The Church carries out its mission by living holy lives, by telling others about Jesus, by worshiping together, by helping fellow Christians grow spiritually, and by serving others in Jesus' name.

Q101 How else do we use the word "church?"

A101 We use the word "church" to mean a place of worship, a local congregation, and a denomination.

Q102 What is a denomination?

A102 A denomination is a group of churches that have joined together under one authority because of shared beliefs and in order to serve God together.

Q103 What is the value of denominations?

A103 Denominations are valuable because they offer individual churches more ministry resources and accountability. Also, people can generally tell what a church believes by the denomination it belongs to.

Q104 Why are there many denominations? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:18-19)

A104 Some denominations formed because of disagreements over beliefs about God and how we should live and serve him. Other denominations agree with one another, but they were formed during different times and places.

Q105 What do all denominations have in common? (1 CORINTHIANS 1:10; GALATIANS 1:6-8)

A105 All denominations believe in the same God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They accept The Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed.

Q106 What are the guiding principles of the Church of the Nazarene?

A106 The guiding principles of the Church of the Nazarene are expressed by three core values. We are *Christian* because we put Christ at the center of our lives. We are a *holiness* church because we seek to be holy people in all areas of our hearts and lives. We are *missional* because we are committed to worshiping God, learning, growing, witnessing, and serving others.

Q107 To what theological tradition does the Church of the Nazarene belong?

A107 The Church of the Nazarene's theology is "Wesleyan." This is because we agree with the way John Wesley (1703-1791) explained the Bible's teachings. Wesley was a minister of the Church of England who is known for teaching that God is willing and able to entirely sanctify us in this life.

Beliefs About Christian Life

Q108 How are Christians to live? (AMOS 5:14-15a; JOHN 13:35; EPHESIANS 5:1-2)

A108 Christians are to be imitators of Christ. Christians are to do good, avoid evil, and love one another.

Q109 What does it mean to do good? (LUKE 10:27; 1 JOHN 5:3; HEBREWS 9:14)

A109 For Christians, to do good is to love, obey, and serve God as he has taught us in the Scriptures.

Q110 How can Christians increasingly love, obey, and serve God? (2 PETER 3:18)

A110 Christians can increasingly love, obey, and serve God as they learn what God wants them to do and rely on him to help them do it. We call this “growing in grace” or “growing spiritually.”

Q111 What do we call Jesus’ description of the attitudes Christians should develop? (MATTHEW 5:3-11)

A111 The description of Christian attitudes is called the Beatitudes.

Q112 Why are those who live according to the Beatitudes blessed?

A112 They are blessed because they are open to God’s presence and work in their lives.

Q113 What practices help Christians grow spiritually? (PSALM 119:16; COLOSSIANS 4:2; HEBREWS 10:25; GALATIANS 6:10; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:22)

A113 Bible reading, prayer, worship and Christian fellowship, receiving the Lord’s Supper, doing good to others, and avoiding evil all help Christians grow spiritually.

Q114 What is prayer? (PSALM 3:4a; ISAIAH 65:24)

A114 Prayer is talking and listening to God.

Q115 How are we to pray? (MATTHEW 6:9-13)

A115 Jesus taught us to pray with “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Q116 What evils should Christians avoid? (TITUS 2:11-12)

A116 Christians must avoid taking God's name in vain, dishonoring the Lord's Day, behaving immorally, using substances that harm the body, quarreling, gossip, being dishonest, prideful and immodest dress or behavior, mistreating others, choosing entertainment that dishonors God, and every other kind of evil.

Q117 What are some ways Christians love one another? (JOHN 13:34; ROMANS 15:30; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11; 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-5; GALATIANS 5:13)

A117 Encourage one another to live holy lives, pray for one another, and take care of each other when possible. Also by being patient, friendly, and giving one another the benefit of the doubt when a problem arises.

Q118 What are some ways Christians can do good to others?

(MATTHEW 25:35-36; ACTS 1:8; MALACHI 3:10; 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7)

A118 Telling others about Jesus, helping feed the hungry, caring for the sick, and giving money for God's work are examples of ways to do good to others.

Q119 What are some of the Christian's responsibilities to the Church?

(COLOSSIANS 1:10; HEBREWS 10:25; LUKE 22:19; 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7; GALATIANS 6:9-10; 1 PETER 2:12; EPHESIANS 6:18)

A119 Christians are responsible to do what they can to strengthen the Church. This is done by seeking to grow in knowledge and love of God as they live in right relationship with him and others, attending worship services, participating in the sacraments, giving time and money to the church's ministries, being in fellowship with other believers, being faithful representatives of Christ in society, and praying for fellow Christians in the local congregation and around the world.

Beliefs About the Sacraments and Divine Healing

Q120 What is a sacrament?

A120 A sacrament is an action Jesus commanded us to do. It uses physical materials to show outwardly what God has done for us spiritually.

Q121 Besides showing what God has done for us in the past, what else do sacraments do?

A121 Sacraments also provide ways for Christians to continue to experience God's grace.

Q122 What two sacraments do we celebrate within the Church of the Nazarene? (MATTHEW 28:19; LUKE 22:19-20)

A122 We take part in baptism and the Lord's Supper, which is also called Communion.

Q123 What is Christian baptism? (ROMANS 6:3-4; HEBREWS 10:22)

A123 Christian baptism is the sacrament that uses water to help symbolize dying with Christ, being buried with him, and being resurrected as a new person in Christ. It shows that the believer has received Christ's promised salvation and has begun to live a new life with God. It also symbolizes having our sins washed away.

Q124 What is the purpose of Christian baptism of infants? (ACTS 16:33)

A124 Infant baptism shows that a child is a member of God's family. The parents of baptized infants promise to bring them up in the Christian way, so they may personally trust Christ as Savior.

Q125 How may a person choose to be baptized?

A125 A person may choose to be baptized by going completely under the water [*immersion*], by being *sprinkled* with water, or by having water *poured* over him or her.

Q126 What is the Lord's Supper? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26)

A126 The Lord's Supper is the sacrament that uses bread and wine (grape juice) to symbolize Christ's death for our sins. It is also a means by which Christ strengthens and helps us spiritually. When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we celebrate with thanksgiving that Christ has saved us, and we look forward to his second coming.

Q127 What do the bread and grape juice used in the Lord's Supper symbolize? (1 CORINTHIANS 10:16)

A127 The unleavened bread (bread without yeast) symbolizes the breaking of Jesus' sinless body on the cross for our sins. The grape juice symbolizes Jesus' blood, which was poured out for our salvation.

Q128 Who may take the Lord's Supper? (1 CORINTHIANS 10:17)

A128 All who trust in Christ as Savior and who love their Christian brothers and sisters may take part in the Lord's Supper.

Q129 How do we prepare for the Lord's Supper? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-29)

A129 We prepare for the Lord's Supper by putting our faith in Christ and his sacrifice, giving thanks to him, and repenting of any sins we have done.

Q130 What is divine healing? (JAMES 5:14-15)

A130 Divine healing is God's action by which he cures sickness. God's Word encourages us to pray in faith for the healing of the sick.

Q131 Does believing in divine healing mean that Christians should not seek medical help when they are sick? (1 TIMOTHY 5:23)

A131 Christians should seek medical help when necessary, because this is one way God brings about healing.

Beliefs About Things to Come

Q132 What does the Bible teach about Jesus' second coming? (JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 3:21; HEBREWS 9:27-28)

A132 The Bible teaches that Jesus will return to earth as he promised.

Q133 What will happen when Jesus comes again? (JOHN 5:28-29)

A133 When Jesus comes again, the bodies of all people— both good and evil—will be resurrected and reunited with their spirits.

Q134 What will happen after the resurrection of the dead? (2 CORINTHIANS 5:10)

A134 After the resurrection of the dead, every person will appear before God to be judged for the way he or she has lived life on earth.

Q135 What is the great tribulation? (REVELATION 7:19-17)

A135 The great tribulation is a time of intense persecution of the Church.

Q136 What is the millennium? (REVELATION 20:1-6)

A136 The millennium is the time of Jesus' reign as King over the earth.

Q137 Why does the Church allow for different ways of understanding how all of these things to come fit together?

A137 The Church allows for a few different views about the tribulation and the millennium because the Scriptural teaching about them is unclear at times, and because they do not conflict with the clear teachings of the faith.

Q138 What reward will those who trusted in Jesus as their Savior and lived a Christian life receive? (ROMANS 2:7; PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21)

A138 Those who trusted in Jesus as Savior and lived a Christian life will be glorified and live forever with the Lord in heaven.

Q139 What is glorification? (1 CORINTHIANS 15:42-44a)

A139 Glorification is the final stage of sanctification. Those who serve God in this life will be completely without sin in heaven. They will also be free from the physical effects of sin like death and disease.

Q140 What will happen to those who refused to trust Jesus as their Savior and continued living in sin? (MATTHEW 13:40-43; 2 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9)

A140 Those who refused to trust Jesus as Savior will be separated from God and suffer eternal punishment in hell.

Q141 Does any human being know when Jesus will come again? (MATTHEW 24:36; 2 PETER 3:8-10)

A141 Jesus said only God the Father knows when Jesus will come again.

Q142 Since we don't know when Jesus is coming again, how can we be ready when he comes? (TITUS 2:11-13; 2 PETER 3:11-14)

A142 We can be ready for Jesus' second coming by daily trusting in Jesus as our Savior and by loving God and others.