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Developing Tomorrow's Missionaries

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Churchmanship: Join the Club!

OBJECTIVE:

To introduce teenagers to the importance and purpose of membership in the Church of the Nazarene, including:

- Qualifications
- Benefits
- Cross-cultural challenges

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Our culture is full of clubs. It is natural to gather with people who have similar likes, dislikes, and hobbies. (Examples: Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Sports Teams) All clubs meet for a common purpose: to benefit members, and share common interests and activities. Membership is a way of showing your support for what the club believes, does, and supports.

Church membership is similar in some ways. Members enjoy worshiping God and working for the common purpose of seeing growth in their local church, as well as God's kingdom. Likewise, becoming a member of the Church of the Nazarene is a way to show support for the church and what it believes, supports, and does. Becoming a member also shows your desire to be actively involved in the mission of the church.

Your assignment is to tell others about your church and give them the opportunity to become a member. Begin by researching:

1. The purpose of the church
2. Qualifications to become and remain a member in good standing
3. Its benefits
4. Ways to tell others about your church
5. Give interested persons the opportunity to join

The following pages include questions to guide you.





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Research the purpose of membership

What is the purpose of membership in the Church of the Nazarene?

1. Begin with your pastor. Ask him about the purpose of the church and other questions such as:
 - Why should I become a member of the Church of the Nazarene?
 - What makes a member different from a non-member?
2. Research the Manual.
 - What does the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene state about the purpose of membership?
 - Are there any scriptures that support the value of membership as opposed to non-membership?



Research the qualifications for membership

What qualifications must one have to become a member in the Church of the Nazarene?

1. Begin with the Manual.
 - What does the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene clearly state as qualifications for membership?
 - Why are these important?
 - What would happen if you were to be untruthful about your qualifications?
2. Talk with your pastor. You may find the qualifications confusing or you may not understand them. Talk with your pastor and ask him to simplify the qualifications.

What qualifications must one maintain to continue as a member of the church?

1. Consult the Articles of Faith (A), and The Covenant of Christian Conduct (B) which are contained in the church manual.
 - A. Articles of Faith: Contain what we as Christians and the Church of the Nazarene believe about God, Jesus, the Church, etc.
 - B. Covenant of Christian Conduct: Contains specific guidelines on how Christians and members should live in and react to the world in which they live.
2. Talk with your pastor. You may find the qualifications confusing or you may not understand them. Again, talk with your pastor and ask him to simplify the qualifications you find difficult to understand. Consider the following questions:
 - A. Why are these important?
 - B. Which ones do you feel are most important?
 - C. Which entry surprised you?
 - D. What happens if you do not maintain these qualifications?
 - E. Will you remain a member?





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Research the benefits of membership

What are the benefits of being a member of the Church of the Nazarene?

1. Begin with the Manual.
 - A. What does the Manual state are the privileges and benefits of membership?
 - B. Does it sound like membership is worth it?
2. Talk with your Pastor. Your pastor, as always, can help clarify.
3. Talk with Members. Current members provide an excellent viewpoint on the benefits and privileges of membership because they have experienced them first hand. They can provide a wealth of information to help answer this question.

Recruit and convince members

Take all the information you have gathered, develop a plan for recruiting members, and try it out.

1. Begin with your mentor. Your mentor can be a great help along the way and will have notes to help guide you in this process. Ask them questions. Bounce ideas off of them. Brainstorm with them. Use them as your first possible "recruit."
2. Recruit your pastor. Your pastor can be an excellent recruit. Not only does he love the Church of the Nazarene and is a member, but is active in recruiting himself. Have him pretend to be a prospective member, deliver your "pitch", and ask for his feedback.
3. Recruit your friends. You may have Christian friends that are already members of the Church of the Nazarene. Use them as you did your pastor as "prospective" recruits. Deliver your "pitch" and ask for their feedback.
4. Parents and other members. If your parents are members, "recruit" them. Consider other members in the church and use them as possible recruits as well.
5. Make it fun and enjoyable. Membership in the Church of the Nazarene is a wonderful privilege. Make your presentation fun and enjoyable. Emphasize the joy and benefits of joining the club, and most of all, have fun!

Debrief with your mentor

When you have completed the steps above and finished your campaign, debrief with your mentor. Talk with them about issues and problems you discovered along the way.

- Did anyone reject your invitation to membership and why?
- Did anyone think membership was not important?
- Were they confused with the benefits or qualifications for membership?
- Were you able to clarify their confusion?
- Was it as easy to get them to join the "club" as you thought it would be?

If any other questions arise, feel free to discuss them with your mentor.