

Nazarene Roots:
Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers
By Stan Ingersol

Study Guide by Judi King

How This Guide May Help You

This guide is divided into seven sessions. Because they are meant primarily to be used by pastors for individual reflection, feel free to work through them at your own speed. A suggested plan is to set aside an hour once a week for each session.

You may also wish to use this guide with the pastoral team. In that case, plan to meet once a week to discuss the questions together. You may want to ask the team to answer the questions on their own during the week prior to meeting, and then discuss your reflections when the whole team meets together.

If you use this study guide in a group setting, you may find that there are many more questions given than you can possibly discuss in one group meeting. Feel free to select the questions you want participants to discuss, or take more weeks to work through these sessions.

Except for the introduction, the questions are drawn mainly from the book, with supplemental materials taken from the accompanying DVD: “Reflecting on Our Nazarene Heritage—A Roundtable Discussion,” featuring Paul Bassett, Stan Ingersol, Tom Noble, and Janine Metcalf. You will want to watch the DVD prior to beginning the study. The DVD contains about 4 hours of material, including individual interviews with each of the panelists. It will be helpful to review the DVD several times during this course of study as well.

It is recommended that you keep a study journal for reflections, responses, comments, and questions. You will be referring back to these from time to time, and reviewing all your responses in the last session.

The Introduction draws heavily from the material presented in the DVD. Here, you will find that the book has been addressed from the point of view of several themes. The Introduction is designed to help you begin to think in terms of these basic themes. When

you begin reflection on the book itself, you will organize your thoughts about the leaders presented in the book according to the themes. It will be helpful to have thought through the definitions of these terms as well as your preconceptions before you study what these leaders have done.

About Stan Ingersol

Stan Ingersol has served as the denominational archivist of the Church of the Nazarene since 1985. He is co-author of a new denominational history, *Our Watchword and Song: The Centennial History of the Church of the Nazarene*. He has published articles in *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, *Christian Century*, *Methodist History*, *Holiness Today*, and *Illustrated Bible Life*, among others. He received his Ph.D. in Church History from Duke University. He and his wife, Rev. Cheryl Somers-Ingersol, live in Overland Park, Kansas, and have two grown children.

About the Roundtable Panelists:

Paul M. Bassett:

Professor Emeritus of the History of European Christianity at Nazarene Theology Seminary, Kansas City. He is co-author of *Exploring Christian Holiness (Vol. 2): The Historical Development*, as well as numerous articles on Nazarene history and theology.

Janine Metcalf:

Senior pastor of El Cajon Church of the Nazarene in California, and a member of the faculty at Point Loma Nazarene University. She is also author and creator of the documentary, *Ablaze with Love: The Living Legacy of Our Nazarene Foremothers*. She co-authored *The Upward Call* and has written numerous articles on spiritual formation as well.

Tom Noble:

Professor of Theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City. He is the author of several books, including a centennial history of the Church of the Nazarene in the British Isles. He is currently working on a book about missionary David Hynd and has been commissioned to write a three-volume systematic theology.

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Recommended Reading:

Here We Stand: Where Nazarenes Fit in the Religious Marketplace, by Wes Tracy and Stan Ingersol (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1999).

Called Unto Holiness, by Timothy Smith (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1962).

A Plain Account of Christian Perfection, by John Wesley (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City)

From John Wesley's book list:

Jeremy Taylor, *Holy Living and Dying*

Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

William Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*

Website:

Online <www.nazarenepastor.org> you can find links to the Modular Course of Study.

Several modules have materials that relate to themes discussed in this curriculum. Feel free to use them as supplemental material.

For more information online on the Nazarene Roots Project:

Visit www.nazareneroots.org

*Questions about the curriculum and its usage can be sent via email to
<bmclaughlin@nazarene.org>.*

**Nazarene Roots:
Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers**

**Session 1:
Introduction to *Nazarene Roots***

Introduction

“Every life is a window that opens up onto the world. This book is about Christian lives. It is about lives whose faith and witness nourished the roots of the contemporary Church of the Nazarene.”

So begins the introduction to the book, *Nazarene Roots: Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers*, by Stan Ingersol. “Remembering our history is very important,” says Janine Metcalfe. “One of the ways to connect our story is not to be ashamed of our past. We need to see ourselves framed in the story of God. Our Wesleyan-Holiness heritage influences how we spread the gospel, how we live it out. It’s important to know our past.”

“It’s important for us to know we are connected to the larger body of Christ. We have to give an answer to the whole church, not just to our own denomination,” adds Paul Bassett.

How does our heritage as Wesleyans inform how we share the gospel story? In what ways does it affect how we live out Christianity in our lives? You’re about to embark on a seven-week study of the shakers and movers found between the pages of this book. As you work through the following sessions, answers to these questions and many more will come to light.

This study guide is for pastors who want to understand the past in order to speak to the present and lay a foundation for the future. It is about what our tradition has to say about who the pastor is and what he/she is about. It is also about how our congregations fulfill the vision of our forebears.

The issue isn’t looking backward for its own sake, but to get a handle on history in order to look forward. There is tremendous value in understanding our tradition—it informs who we are, where we’ve been, and where to go forward. Knowing the past is an important part of the present and future. When we know where we came from, we know where we are going.

A Roundtable Discussion

Begin by watching the DVD, “Reflecting on Our Nazarene Heritage—A Roundtable Discussion,” featuring Paul Bassett, Stan Ingersol, Tom Noble, and Janine Metcalf. The DVD contains about 4 hours of material, so you may want to split up the viewing, especially if you are using this study with a group. There is a panel discussion as well as individual interviews with the panelists. The panel discussion is about 3 hours in length, and the interviews are about an hour. The questions in this session come out of the discussion on the DVD, so it will be helpful to hear what the panelists have to say before you begin.

A Study Journal

As you reflect on the questions below, be sure to write down your reflections, questions, comments, and other thoughts in a study journal kept specifically for these sessions. You will be reviewing what you have written from time to time during these sessions, and particularly in the final session. At that point, you will want to look back at your initial impressions of this study and compare it to what you have learned by the end of the book.

Getting Started

As you work your way through this study, the answers to a number of questions will become obvious. The following are several concerns we’ll be looking at again at the end of these sessions. You may write down your thoughts on these questions now, or wait till the end of these sessions. Keep in mind that this is not a test to see how much you know, but rather an opportunity to fill gaps of knowledge you may have about the Church of the Nazarene and to challenge you to examine your own assumptions about the vision and mission of the church.

◆ What is the real tradition of the Church of the Nazarene? What kinds of things are we doing now that reflect our core values? What kinds of things are we doing now that do not reflect our core values? What kinds of things did the founders of our church hold to be important that are no longer reflected in our church today? What new directions have we taken? How can we recover the good from the past, while also embracing valuable actions today?

◆ What lessons can we learn from the people in this book? What can we bring into our church today that will help us to better reflect our forebears? Are there mistakes they made that we may be repeating, or that we can avoid?

◆ What can we learn from them that lets us know we are being faithful to our tradition? How did they reflect holiness in their day? What about mission, education, social concern, equality, reconciliation, innovation, and leadership? How do our programs and practices reflect this tradition?

Questions for Reflection

Be sure to make notes on your responses to these concerns now, so that you can see how these responses change after reading the book.

1. What do you hope to learn from this study? What value do you see in knowing the spiritual history of our church?
2. How is the history of key figures in the holiness tradition and their ideas an important study for the church? For Nazarenes? For pastors?
3. What do you know about the origins of the Church of the Nazarene? What was important to our founders? Why did they feel it necessary to break with their churches and begin a new work?
4. What is the distinctive of our church? Why do we exist? What do we care about?
5. What holds our church together—what can be said about every Church of the Nazarene, no matter what size or where it is located?
6. What does the Church of the Nazarene mean to me? To the members of the congregation in which I serve?
7. How do I know that I am being faithful to our tradition? How do we know who we are?

Reviewing the Themes

The panel discussion on the DVD, “Reflecting on Our Nazarene Heritage—A Roundtable Discussion,” featuring Paul Bassett, Stan Ingersol, Tom Noble, and Janine Metcalf, identifies a number of key areas that will be explored more fully in the following sessions. Spend some time reflecting on the questions below. There may be too many to cover in a one- or two-hour period, so plan to spread out your study of these sections over the following weeks. The following sessions will recommend one of these areas to reflect more thoroughly about, so that you can cover all of these in the seven weeks allotted to this study. For this first session, we recommend you spend most of your time on the first three: Holiness, Mission, and Social Concern.

A. HOLINESS

“God, who is holy, calls us to a life of holiness. . . . Holiness in the life of believers is most clearly understood as Christlikeness.” —From the Core Values of the Church of the Nazarene

1. What is your definition of holiness? What does it mean to live a holy life? How would you state John Wesley’s definition of holiness? How did the American Holiness Movement change the way holiness was perceived?

2. Theologian Tom Noble gives the following as a definition of holiness as it was taught by John Wesley:

- ◆ Christian perfection as perfect love: Love God with all one’s heart, mind, and spirit.
- ◆ It comes about by entire sanctification, an act of God, instantaneous.
- ◆ By the Holy Spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Death of self-centered mind-set.
- ◆ Can only be experienced by the Christian who has first grown in grace.

a. How does this definition compare to your understanding of the doctrine of entire sanctification?

b. Do any of these steps surprise you?

c. Are any of these steps new to you?

3. What factors led to an interest in holiness in 19th-century America?

4. Are people not as interested in holiness today? What do you see people in your community looking for?

B. MISSION

Our forebears did mission, not as a recruiting tool, but because people needed help. Mission is taking the church out to the world where people need us. When we help others in their need, we show them Christ.

This is the agenda for the church. Ministry is contextualized to meet the needs of people wherever they are and whoever they are. Why do we exist? We exist for others. The overall mission of the church is to reach out and bring salvation to the lost.

“We are a sent people, responding to the call of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into all the world, witnessing to the Lordship of Christ and participating with God in the building of the church and the extension of His kingdom.” —From the Core Values of the Church of the Nazarene

1. Part of being missional is figuring out who is not being reached. How do we step in the gap?

2. What does it mean to be a church that is missional? How has your church carried out this imperative?

3. What do you know about the history of mission in the Church of the Nazarene? What is our historical emphasis on mission in the church?

4. What are the statistics on international involvement in the Church of the Nazarene today?

5. What does it mean to be an international church? Is our denomination open to a shift in leadership to the international sector?

C. SOCIAL CONCERN

The history of Wesleyanism is rooted in a concern for the less fortunate. John Wesley advocated tirelessly against slavery and started hospitals, homes for orphans, schools for poor children, and banks to help the poor become entrepreneurs. Taking the

gospel to the poor was an outgrowth of a basic idea that developed during his time at Oxford. Applied on a large scale, it became the dynamic behind Methodism's phenomenal growth.

Wesley was deeply and personally moved by those who were like sheep without a shepherd. If the Church of England would not reform, then he was determined that the Methodist societies would form a network below formal church structures, bringing people to faith, making them accountable to one another for their conduct and discipleship, and pressing upon them the biblical call to holiness, which included taking care of the poor.

Phineas Bresee similarly felt a strong concern for the less fortunate, and it was because of them that he left the Methodist church and became involved with what was to become the Church of the Nazarene.

1. What did John Wesley mean by the term "social holiness"?
2. Evangelism and social concern were wedded in our formative period; however, they have since often been alienated from each other. Why did this come about?
3. How involved is your church in compassionate ministries? Has this been an emphasis in your church?
4. How do the people in your congregation regard ministry to the less fortunate?

D. EDUCATION

Historically, the Church of the Nazarene has placed a great emphasis upon education, especially that of the clergy. The requirements for ordination were designed to nurture a Wesleyan identity among Nazarene ministers and keep the church on a path of continuity with its spiritual and theological inheritance.

1. Why do you think education was so important to the founders of the church? What purpose does strong theological education play in the Body of Christ?
2. Until 1944, ordinands in the Church of the Nazarene were required to read one of the major biographies of Wesley. Until 1932, they also read a selection of his sermons and

J. A. Wood's *Christian Perfection, As Taught by John Wesley*, a 400-page compilation of Wesley's writings on holiness drawn from his different works. Wesley was a social reformer, theologian, liturgist, and evangelist. How have Nazarenes done at appropriately each of these when considering the church's task? Is there more we can still learn from Wesley?

E. RECONCILIATION/PEACEMAKING

The church is often silent on the issue of race relations and related topics. Yet, we have a long history of reaching out to people no matter who they are or where they come from.

1. How was racism perceived in the early days of the Church of the Nazarene? How did Nazarenes do at accepting persons of various ethnicities, including African-Americans?
2. Where did the name "Nazarene" come from, and why did our founders choose it to symbolize what they wanted our church to be?
3. What is your congregation's understanding on the issue of reconciliation/peacemaking?
4. Do you think your church is a welcoming church to all who enter? Are there some who are not welcome?

F. EQUALITY

The Church of the Nazarene has been a pioneer in allowing women to hold leadership roles in the congregation, including senior pastor. Women played a key role in the early days of the denomination. In recent years, women have begun to reclaim this presence, though they still have far to go in finding acceptance in modern congregations.

1. The prevailing attitude toward women in leadership in the early days of the church was quite positive. What was the biblical basis for this acceptance?
2. At what point did the embrace of women in leadership change in the church? Why?

3. What about the leadership role of women in your congregation? Where do women fit in?

4. How does your church regard women in ministry? Do you make an effort to include women in leadership?

G. LEADERSHIP

1. What is good leadership in the church? What qualities do you admire in other leaders?

2. What kind of leader do you think you are? What are your strongest qualities? Where do you think you need the most improvement?

3. What about those in leadership in your congregation? How prepared are they for their responsibilities? What kind of training does your church offer them?

H. INNOVATION

1. How innovative would you say your church is? Do you like to try new things?

2. How successful have such attempts been? Are you discouraged when something new doesn't work out, or do you simply change your direction?

3. What does it take to be truly innovative? What good things come from innovations?

4. What are some of the downsides of being innovative? Is it always worth it to try new things? How difficult is it to get others on board with new ideas?

Where Are We Headed?

Now that we have laid out these eight key areas, we can move into our study of *Nazarene Roots*. For your next session, be sure to read the first chapter of the book. During the coming week, you may want to review the Panel Discussion on the DVD as well.

Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:1-10:

“These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Prayer

Heavenly Father, the Israelites knew the importance of remembering their history. Through the long years in Egypt, the wandering in the wilderness, through the anarchy of the period of the judges, and across the deserts to Babylon and home again, even to the Diaspora and the Aliyah, they remembered whose people they were, where they had come from, and consequently, where they were going.

We have a responsibility today to remember our Christian heritage as well. May we be found faithful as well, to all those who have gone before us, from Adam and Eve in the Garden who were the first to be given hope of a Savior, to the patriarchs and matriarchs of our faith in Israel, to the founders of our faith in Jerusalem and beyond, down the ages of Christendom to our own Nazarene founders. Amen.

**Nazarene Roots:
Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers**

Session 2

Chapter 1: A Christian Tradition

Introduction

The Church of the Nazarene's "Core Values" statement affirms three values as central to the church: *Christian, holiness, and missional*. They underscore that Nazarenes are *one with the wider people of God, Wesleyan-Holiness in experience and theology, and sent into the world* as Christ was sent into it. Each affirmation bristles with implications, and each core value anchors a host of other important values.

The first chapter in *Nazarene Roots* illuminates various dimensions of what it means to say that we are *Christian*. Generations of faithful disciples have preceded the Church of the Nazarene. The 12 leaders spotlighted in this first chapter are certainly not inclusive of all those who have gone before us.

The essays in this chapter deal with important dimensions of Christian faith and practice. The early ones illustrate the struggles of those who contributed to the development of Christian orthodoxy—the doctrines and understandings commonly held by Christians in the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant communities alike. Essays in the middle of the chapter touch on issues of spiritual discipline and the reform of the Christian church.

The third group of stories deal with the "religion of the heart," as Protestant pietism is often described. The Nazarenes are a people in the Pietist tradition, and for that reason, it is important to know what pietism is and how it connects various strands of the Christian story.

In this chapter:

Ignatius of Antioch

Athanasius

Augustine

Catherine of Siena

John Huss

Martin Luther

Thomas Cranmer
Roger Williams
Philip Jacob Spener
Jonathan Edwards
George Whitefield
William Wilberforce

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

Reviewing the Themes

Let's start by reviewing the themes we discussed in the last session. As you read through the first chapter, did you notice how each of the individuals responded to the areas we've highlighted? Of course, not all of these themes were touched on by each of the individuals covered.

- ◆ Holiness
- ◆ Mission
- ◆ Social concern
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Reconciliation/Peacemaking
- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Innovation

1. Of our eight themes, which ones do you see most consistently in the people presented in this chapter?
2. How did each of these individuals demonstrate these qualities?
3. Did any of them face the same kind of challenges? How did they differ in their responses? In what ways did they respond similarly?
4. What lessons have you learned from the people in the book?

5. How do the programs and practices in your church reflect the Christian tradition?
6. What new ideas have these leaders given you that you might want to incorporate into the ministry of your church?

Use the following questions in regard to each of the eight themes. We've started with holiness. If you feel a particular theme does not apply, skip it, and go on to the next one. This might be a lengthy exercise if you follow it too rigorously, so use your judgment in deciding how much time to spend on each of the eight themes.

1. If you had to write a statement on holiness based solely on what you have learned about it from these individuals, what would it be?
2. How does this compare to the statement you wrote in the first session?
3. How does your understanding of holiness differ from what you see in these individuals? How is it the same?

Questions for Study

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

1. This chapter encompasses a large span of time (most of Christian history). What do these individuals have in common, in spite of the time span?
2. Ignatius believed the bishop to be a protector of sound doctrine and a focus of unity. The linkage was critical: heresy was not a mere difference of religious opinion; it tended to disintegrate Christian communities. Who safeguards doctrine and unity in the church today?
3. What creed did the Council of Nicea produce? What are its main points? Why is this creed still an important touchstone of orthodox Christianity today?

4. What are some of the contributions of these Christians? Which do you think are the most significant contributions to the development of Christianity as we know it today?

5. What is Pietism, and what influence did it play on John Wesley and those who became part of the Holiness Movement?

Reviewing the Themes (continued)

If you weren't able to complete your study of the themes in the first session, take the time now to reflect on Education.

D. EDUCATION

Historically, the Church of the Nazarene has placed a great emphasis upon education, especially that of the clergy. The requirements for ordination were designed to nurture a Wesleyan identity among Nazarene ministers and keep the church on a path of continuity with its spiritual and theological inheritance.

1. Why do you think education was so important to the founders of the church? What purpose does strong theological education play in the Body of Christ?

2. Until 1944, ordinands in the Church of the Nazarene were required to read one of the major biographies of Wesley. Until 1932, they also read a selection of his sermons and J. A. Wood's *Christian Perfection, As Taught by John Wesley*, a 400-page compilation of Wesley's writings on holiness drawn from his different works. Wesley was a social reformer, theologian, liturgist, and evangelist. How have Nazarenes done at appropriately each of these when considering the church's task? Is there more we can still learn from Wesley?

A Study Journal

Pick the one individual in this chapter who has impressed you the most. Be sure to note your reflections on the following questions in your journal.

1. What was it about this individual that caught your attention?

2. How did the person respond to the challenges of his or her unique situation?

3. Look again at the eight categories above. Given the information in the book, how do you think this person would define each of these areas based on what you have learned about his or her character?

4. How would you have responded to the challenges this person faced?

Where Are We Headed?

In this session, we've examined a number of key figures in the history of Christianity. We've viewed them through the lens of our eight themes, and compared our ministry today to what they accomplished in their day. As we move on to our next chapter, "A Methodist Heritage," we'll take a look at the founders of Methodism, John and Charles Wesley, and then cross the ocean to the United States, where it was not long before the American Holiness Movement was born.

Scripture

1 John 3:11, 16-24:

"This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us."

What does it mean to be a Christian? This question is not easily answered. Nor do all Christians agree on the answers: witness the many, many denominations and sects

today. All Christians do agree, however, that the answer is to be found within the pages of our Bible.

Prayer

This week, take a look at your journal so far, and underline or highlight the most important concepts you wrote down. Use this closing prayer as a time to talk to God about these thoughts. Spend some time listening to what He has to say to you about this study. Ask Him to reveal any actions you should take as a result of what you have learned.

Nazarene Roots: Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers

Session 3

Chapter 2: A Methodist Heritage

Introduction

Early Nazarenes understood themselves to be part of the wider Methodist people. When evangelist C. W. Ruth wrote W. C. Wilson of Kentucky, urging him to join the Nazarenes, he emphasized that “the Nazarenes are nothing in the world but old-fashioned Methodists.” Then Ruth paraphrased a sentence from the minutes of an early Methodist conference in London and reaffirmed by American Methodists in 1784: “Our business,” Ruth said, “is to spread Scriptural Holiness over these lands.”

The Nazarene Articles of Faith reflected the doctrinal and spiritual core of Wesleyan theology. For that very reason, J. B. Chapman urged all Holiness preachers to be dedicated readers and students of John Wesley’s writings. Theologian A. M. Hills believed that the Nazarenes stood in continuity with historic Methodism in the six basic areas of superintendency, evangelism, missions, theological education, spiritual formation, and higher education.

This chapter focuses on people in the Methodist traditions whose lives were connected to the Wesleyan-Holiness impulse. Besides the founders of Methodism, they include revivalists, sect leaders, black evangelists, and missionaries. Their witness to the religion of the warmed heart and their dedication to a gospel of Christian perfection was well-known to early Nazarene leaders.

In this chapter:

Charles Wesley

John Wesley

The Wesleyan Tradition

John Wesley’s Extended Influence on the Nazarenes

Francis Asbury

Jarena Lee and Julia Foote

Orange Scott

Phoebe Palmer

B. T. Roberts
John Inskip
German Methodism
Sam Jones

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

Reviewing the Themes

Let's start by reviewing the themes we discussed in the first session. As you read through this chapter, did you notice how each of the individuals responded to the areas we've highlighted? Once again, not all of these themes were touched on by each of the individuals covered.

- ◆ Holiness
- ◆ Mission
- ◆ Social concern
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Reconciliation/Peacemaking
- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Innovation

1. Of our eight themes, which ones do you see most consistently in the people presented in this chapter?
2. How did each of these individuals demonstrate these qualities?
3. Did any of them face the same kind of challenges? How did they differ in their responses? In what ways did they respond similarly?
4. What lessons have you learned from the people in the book?
5. How do the programs and practices in your church reflect the Christian tradition?

6. What new ideas have these leaders given you that you might want to incorporate into the ministry of your church?

Use the following questions in regard to each of the eight themes. We've started with holiness. If you feel a particular theme does not apply, skip it, and go on to the next one. This might be a lengthy exercise if you follow it too rigorously, so use your judgment in deciding how much time to spend on each of the eight themes.

1. If you had to write a statement on holiness based solely on what you have learned about it from these individuals, what would it be?

2. How does this compare to the statement you wrote in the first session?

3. How does your understanding of holiness differ from what you see in these individuals? How is it the same?

Questions for Study

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

1. In this chapter, we've looked at the founders of Methodism as well as those who played key roles in the American Holiness Movement. Were you surprised at any of the connections between theological traditions represented by these individuals?

2. Ingersol writes: "Methodism's basic unit and character was formed at Oxford. To be a Methodist was to belong to a religious society that promoted a right relationship with God through common prayer, Bible readings, mutual exhortation, and discipline. The study of scripture led Wesley and the other Oxford Methodists to believe that "faith without works is dead," so they reached out to the poor, the destitute, and the prisoners, ministering to body and spirit alike as there was need." How much of this influence do you see in the Church of the Nazarene today? How much should there be?

3. Who was James Arminius, and what was his contribution to Wesleyan-Arminian theology?
4. What were the four streams of the American Holiness Movement, and how do these four distinct streams differ from each other? Which one does the author say Nazarenes fit in? Would you agree that we fit best in this theological stream?
5. What was German Methodism? Who were some of the Nazarene leaders who came out of German Methodism? What should the heritage of German Methodism mean to us?

Reviewing the Themes (continued)

If you weren't able to complete your study of the themes in the first session, take the time now to reflect on Reconciliation/Peacemaking.

E. RECONCILIATION/PEACEMAKING

The church is often silent on the issue of race relations and related topics. Yet, we have a long history of reaching out to people no matter who they are or where they come from.

1. How was racism perceived in the early days of the Church of the Nazarene? How did Nazarenes do at accepting persons of various ethnicities, including African-Americans?
2. Where did the name "Nazarene" come from, and why did our founders choose it to symbolize what they wanted our church to be?
3. What is your congregation's understanding on the issue of reconciliation/peacemaking?
4. Do you think your church is a welcoming church to all who enter? Are there some who are not welcome?

A Study Journal

Pick the one individual in this chapter who has impressed you the most. Be sure to note your reflections on the following questions in your journal.

1. What was it about this individual that caught your attention?
2. How did the person respond to the challenges of his or her unique situation?
3. Look again at the eight categories above. Given the information in the book, how do you think this person would define each of these areas based on what you have learned about his or her character?
4. How would you have responded to the challenges this person faced?

Where Are We Headed?

In this chapter, we've taken a look at our Methodist heritage. This includes not only John Wesley, but many others, both in Europe and across the ocean in America, who played a role in reaching out with the message of holiness. Next week, we'll be looking at the formation of the Church of the Nazarene, as holiness groups throughout the U.S. and overseas began pooling their resources in order to strengthen their outreach to the world.

Scripture

Acts 13:1:

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

“The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.”

The Early Church saw the importance of sending out missionaries to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Every Christian since then has been part of the larger

movement to tell the story of Christ. We have heard the good news because someone before us followed in the tradition of the first evangelists. We are Wesleyan Christians because John Wesley and others like him followed God's call to bring a message of holiness to the church and beyond.

Prayer

Look again at what you have written in your journal this week, and underline or highlight the most important concepts you wrote down. Use this closing prayer as a time to talk to God about these thoughts. Spend some time listening to what He has to say to you about this study. Ask Him to reveal any actions you should take as a result of what you have learned.

**Nazarene Roots:
Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers**

Session 4

Chapter 3: Spirit of the Founders

Introduction

The founders shaped the Church of the Nazarene's initial trajectory. Their vision brought the church into existence, their energies propelled it forward for a generation, and their values were enshrined in its doctrine and structures. But is their vision still relevant to our time and culture? To answer that, we must ask questions: What did the founders intend? What were their principal concerns? What methods did they use?

Their fundamental purpose was to attain unity in holiness. To achieve this, they promoted the religion of the heart by emphasizing Christian conversion, the sanctification of believers—including entire sanctification—and faithful discipleship. To support this fundamental purpose, they also believed that the Church of the Nazarene should preserve an apostolic ministry inclusive of women, be in active ministry to the poor, and be committed to carrying out a mission to the world. They agreed that these aims were best accomplished through a structure adapted from Methodism that had been democratized and reformed.

The founders had various strengths, but all were committed to establishing a denomination in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition. Every Nazarene generation since then has stood on their shoulders.

In this chapter:

Fred Hillery

William Howard Hoople

Phineas F. Bresee

J. P. Widney

C. B. Jernigan

Robert Lee Harris

J. O. McClurkan

C. W. Ruth

John Short

Hiram F. Reynolds
Mary Lee Cagle
George Sharpe

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

Reviewing the Themes

Let's start by reviewing the themes we discussed in the first session. As you read through this chapter, did you notice how each of the individuals responded to the areas we've highlighted? Once again, not all of these themes were touched on by each of the individuals covered.

- ◆ Holiness
- ◆ Mission
- ◆ Social concern
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Reconciliation/Peacemaking
- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Innovation

1. Of our eight themes, which ones do you see most consistently in the people presented in this chapter?
2. How did each of these individuals demonstrate these qualities?
3. Did any of them face the same kind of challenges? How did they differ in their responses? In what ways did they respond similarly?
4. What lessons have you learned from the people in the book?
5. How do the programs and practices in your church reflect the Christian tradition?

6. What new ideas have these leaders given you that you might want to incorporate into the ministry of your church?

Use the following questions in regard to each of the eight themes. We've started with holiness. If you feel a particular theme does not apply, skip it, and go on to the next one. This might be a lengthy exercise if you follow it too rigorously, so use your judgment in deciding how much time to spend on each of the eight themes.

1. If you had to write a statement on holiness based solely on what you have learned about it from these individuals, what would it be?

2. How does this compare to the statement you wrote in the first session?

3. How does your understanding of holiness differ from what you see in these individuals? How is it the same?

Questions for Study

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

1. What are some of the many holiness publications mentioned in this chapter, and why were they influential during the formative years of the church?

2. How important was the role of world mission at this time? What were some of the mission fields, and who were the missionaries willing to go?

3. How many denominations met at Pilot Point to form the Church of the Nazarene? What was the process that led up to the merger there?

4. Pilot Point was not the only merger that took place in the history of the Church of the Nazarene. What were some of the other mergers that took place?

5. What was the benefit of the mergers of these small independent holiness churches and regional denominations?

Reviewing the Themes (continued)

If you weren't able to complete your study of the themes in the first session, take the time now to reflect on Equality.

F. EQUALITY

The Church of the Nazarene has been a pioneer in allowing women to hold leadership roles in the congregation, including senior pastor. Women played a key role in the early days of the denomination. In recent years, women have begun to reclaim this presence, though they still have far to go in finding acceptance in modern congregations.

1. The prevailing attitude toward women in leadership in the early days of the church was quite positive. What was the biblical basis for this acceptance?
2. At what point did the embrace of women in leadership change in the church? Why?
3. What about the leadership role of women in your congregation? Where do women fit in?
4. How does your church regard women in ministry? Do you make an effort to include women in leadership?

A Study Journal

Pick the one individual in this chapter who has impressed you the most. Be sure to note your reflections on the following questions in your journal.

1. What was it about this individual that caught your attention?
2. How did the person respond to the challenges of his or her unique situation?
3. Look again at the eight categories above. Given the information in the book, how do you think this person would define each of these areas based on what you have learned about his or her character?

4. How would you have responded to the challenges this person faced?

Where Are We Headed?

The process of unification of the many holiness denominations and independent churches around the U.S. and overseas was long and complex. Yet, when the process was complete, the Church of the Nazarene emerged stronger than ever. The new church had the advantage of a wide diversity of ideas, experience, spiritual strength, and dedication. Next week, we'll look closer at the people who oversaw the organizational structure of the church.

Scripture

Acts 11:21-26:

“The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

“News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”

It was in Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians. That's when the real work of establishing the new church began! What does it mean to be a Christian? What distinguishes Christians from other religious groups? Our task in this study is to examine what it means to be Nazarene.

Prayer

Look again at what you have written in your journal this week, and underline or highlight the most important concepts you wrote down. Use this closing prayer as a time to talk to God about these thoughts. Spend some time listening to what He has to say to you about this study. Ask Him to reveal any actions you should take as a result of what you have learned.

**Nazarene Roots:
Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers**

Session 5

Chapter 4: Shaping the Nazarene Way

Introduction

The people profiled in this chapter played a primary role in shaping the character of ideas and institutions within the Church of the Nazarene in its first century. Some were founders, while others had their ministry in the church's second and third generations. Each contributed to the emerging mosaic of Nazarene culture.

These pastors, missionaries, evangelists, educators, and laity are representative of hundreds of others who labored to build Nazarene churches, missions, and colleges. They are also distinguished by the excellence with which they pursued their ministries and discipleship.

"The Nazarene way" emphasized evangelism, cross-cultural missions, literature, compassionate ministry, and education as the critical methods by which the church was to carry out the denominational mission. Each strand was related directly to the church's focus on holiness of heart and life. Like John Wesley, the Nazarenes turned to those who were "like sheep without a shepherd" and offered them Christ. They built colleges to educate pastors and laity, and started theological seminaries. In solidarity with Christ, they met the needs of the poor through orphanages, maternity homes, hospitals, clinics, and inner-city rescue missions. Nazarenes worked together, pooling financial resources through the church's connectional system, enabling local churches to multiply their impact by supporting general, district, and regional ministries.

In this chapter:

M. D. Wood & India

Susan Fitkin

Robert Pierce

C. J. Kinne

C. A. McConnell

B. F. Haynes

E. F. Walker

William C. Wilson
John W. Goodwin
Roy T. Williams
Haldor and Bertha Lillenas
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Robert Balie Mitchum
Bud Robinson
E. P. Ellyson
E. E. Angell
Theodore & Minnie Ludwig
J. B. Chapman
H. Orton Wiley
David Hynd
American Blacks
Maynard James
H. T. Reza
Timothy Smith

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

Reviewing the Themes

Let's start by reviewing the themes we discussed in the first session. As you read through this chapter, did you notice how each of the individuals responded to the areas we've highlighted? Once again, not all of these themes were touched on by each of the individuals covered.

- ◆ Holiness
- ◆ Mission
- ◆ Social concern
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Reconciliation/Peacemaking
- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Leadership

◆ Innovation

1. Of our eight themes, which ones do you see most consistently in the people presented in this chapter?
2. How did each of these individuals demonstrate these qualities?
3. Did any of them face the same kind of challenges? How did they differ in their responses? In what ways did they respond similarly?
4. What lessons have you learned from the people in the book?
5. How do the programs and practices in your church reflect the Christian tradition?
6. What new ideas have these leaders given you that you might want to incorporate into the ministry of your church?

Use the following questions in regard to each of the eight themes. We've started with holiness. If you feel a particular theme does not apply, skip it, and go on to the next one. This might be a lengthy exercise if you follow it too rigorously, so use your judgment in deciding how much time to spend on each of the eight themes.

1. If you had to write a statement on holiness based solely on what you have learned about it from these individuals, what would it be?
2. How does this compare to the statement you wrote in the first session?
3. How does your understanding of holiness differ from what you see in these individuals? How is it the same?

Questions for Study

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

1. What are the different organizations within the Church of the Nazarene highlighted in this chapter?
2. How did the mission program get started?
3. We've already noted that holiness publications played a large role during the Holiness Movement and in the early days of the Church of the Nazarene. What did C.J. Kinne see as the value of a good publishing company? What kinds of materials did Nazarene Publishing House publish, and what is their ministry today?
4. How important were evangelists in these early days of the church? What role did they play in spreading the message of holiness?
5. The general superintendents have many varied duties today. What were some of their duties in the early years? How did they hold the church together in those early years?
6. Examples can be found of all of the themes we've highlighted in these sessions. If time allows, see how many examples of each of the themes you can find in this chapter. What insights do these examples give you about each of the themes?

Reviewing the Themes (continued)

If you weren't able to complete your study of the themes in the first session, take the time now to reflect on Leadership.

G. LEADERSHIP

1. What is good leadership in the church? What qualities do you admire in other leaders?
2. What kind of leader do you think you are? What are your strongest qualities? Where do you think you need the most improvement?
3. What about those in leadership in your congregation? How prepared are they for their responsibilities? What kind of training does your church offer them?

A Study Journal

Pick the one individual in this chapter who has impressed you the most. Be sure to note your reflections on the following questions in your journal.

1. What was it about this individual that caught your attention?
2. How did the person respond to the challenges of his or her unique situation?
3. Look again at the eight categories above. Given the information in the book, how do you think this person would define each of these areas based on what you have learned about his or her character?
4. How would you have responded to the challenges this person faced?

Where Are We Headed?

A church institution has many responsibilities. Thus, the organizational structure is quite large. In this chapter, we've looked at the beginnings of key departments within the church: the mission program, evangelists, publications, the Sunday School, the institutions of higher education, music, and the general superintendents' office. Next week, we'll look at the unique role of women in the ministry of the church.

Scripture

Exodus 18:13-17:

"The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, 'What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?'

"Moses answered him, 'Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws.'

"Moses' father-in-law replied, 'What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.'"

Acts 6:1-5:

“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’

“This proposal pleased the whole group.”

There is a great deal of planning and organization that goes into holistic ministry. One person cannot do all that is necessary to meet all the needs that we will encounter as ministers of the gospel. A distribution of the work load is vital. Fortunately, God has already foreseen the need and has raised up leaders in all areas of ministry.

Prayer

Look again at what you have written in your journal this week, and underline or highlight the most important concepts you wrote down. Use this closing prayer as a time to talk to God about these thoughts. Spend some time listening to what He has to say to you about this study. Ask Him to reveal any actions you should take as a result of what you have learned.

**Nazarene Roots:
Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers**

Session 6

Chapter 5: Women Called

Introduction

Every pastor and layperson should know two things about the ministry of women in the Church of the Nazarene. First, the Nazarene *Manual* has never barred anyone from a lay or clergy office in the church, including the ordained ministry, on the basis of gender. Second, the church's historic position is thoroughly biblical. The founders were Bible-based people, and one of their defining characteristics was the deeply-held conviction that women were included in the apostolic ministry of the New Testament church. They were convinced, as Bresee put it, that as long as the Church of the Nazarene has an apostolic ministry, then women will be a part of it.

The Church of the Nazarene originated at a time when there was a growing body of literature affirming the role of women in the ministry. Much of that literature originated within the Wesleyan-Holiness movement itself. All three of the founding parent bodies that merged in 1907 and 1908 affirmed that there was a biblical basis for ordaining women, and all three had acted on that conviction by ordaining tested and proven women to the ministry.

This common commitment to the full equality of women in the ministry and in the church was one of the elements that helped knit these merging denominations together. The commitment to the ministry of women is a part of the Nazarene DNA.

Does the Church of the Nazarene lay claim to an apostolic ministry today in a way that Bresee and other founders would honor? The ministerial opportunities of Nazarene women clergy in the U.S. increased throughout the 1920s and 1930s, but experienced a sharp decline after the mid-1950s.

Our history points back to a solution. The recovery of a biblical understanding of apostolic ministry is part of the church's theological task. Our history teaches that setting God's people free for ministry is a distinguishing hallmark of the Wesleyan vision.

In this chapter:

Elliott J. Sheeks

Rebecca Krikorian
Olive Winchester
Lucía de Costa
Johnny Hill Jernigan
Mattie Mallory
Maud Frederick Chapman
Louise Robinson Chapman

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

Reviewing the Themes

Let's start by reviewing the themes we discussed in the first session. As you read through this chapter, did you notice how each of the individuals responded to the areas we've highlighted? Once again, not all of these themes were touched on by each of the individuals covered.

- ◆ Holiness
- ◆ Mission
- ◆ Social concern
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Reconciliation/Peacemaking
- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Innovation

1. Of our eight themes, which ones do you see most consistently in the people presented in this chapter?
2. How did each of these individuals demonstrate these qualities?
3. Did any of them face the same kind of challenges? How did they differ in their responses? In what ways did they respond similarly?

4. What lessons have you learned from the people in the book?
5. How do the programs and practices in your church reflect the Christian tradition?
6. What new ideas have these leaders given you that you might want to incorporate into the ministry of your church?

Use the following questions in regard to each of the eight themes. We've started with holiness. If you feel a particular theme does not apply, skip it, and go on to the next one. This might be a lengthy exercise if you follow it too rigorously, so use your judgment in deciding how much time to spend on each of the eight themes.

1. If you had to write a statement on holiness based solely on what you have learned about it from these individuals, what would it be?
2. How does this compare to the statement you wrote in the first session?
3. How does your understanding of holiness differ from what you see in these individuals? How is it the same?

Questions for Study

As you consider the following questions, be sure to write down any key thoughts, ideas, or questions you have in your journal.

1. Why has the promotion of women in leadership roles, including ordination, been part of the Wesleyan tradition? What do Wesleyans base this upon?
2. Besides the pastorate, what other ministries did women spearhead in the formative years of the Church of the Nazarene?
3. What was Olive Winchester's contribution as a woman in higher education? Why was her time at Nazarene colleges notable?

4. Do the calls of God ever conflict with one another? When a married woman is called into Christian ministry, does it conflict with her call to be a wife and mother? How did Johnny Jernigan answer these questions?

5. What qualities do women bring to ministry that are not as likely to be found in ministry done only by men? How does this make for a more holistic ministry in the church?

Reviewing the Themes (continued)

If you weren't able to complete your study of the themes in the first session, take the time now to reflect on Innovation.

H. INNOVATION

1. How innovative would you say your church is? Do you like to try new things?
2. How successful have such attempts been? Are you discouraged when something new doesn't work out, or do you simply change your direction?
3. What does it take to be truly innovative? What good things come from innovations?
4. What are some of the downsides of being innovative? Is it always worth it to try new things? How difficult is it to get others on board with new ideas?

A Study Journal

Pick the one individual in this chapter who has impressed you the most. Be sure to note your reflections on the following questions in your journal.

1. What was it about this individual that caught your attention?
2. How did the person respond to the challenges of his or her unique situation?
3. Look again at the eight categories above. Given the information in the book, how do you think this person would define each of these areas based on what you have learned about his or her character?

4. How would you have responded to the challenges this person faced?

Where Are We Headed?

We've reached the end of our study in the book, Nazarene Roots. In this final chapter, we've seen the vital role that women played in the beginnings of the Church of the Nazarene. Now, we have one more session left. We'll take a look back over the past six weeks and sum up our study.

Scripture

Acts 2:17-18:

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

"Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."

Joel's words, as quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost, form the main biblical justification for women in ministry. Based on this passage along with many others, the founders of the Church of the Nazarene and other holiness denominations concluded that women must not be excluded from ministry in the church. God has a role for women to play in His church; we must not stand against Him.

Prayer

Look again at what you have written in your journal this week, and underline or highlight the most important concepts you wrote down. Use this closing prayer as a time to talk to God about these thoughts. Spend some time listening to what He has to say to you about this study. Ask Him to reveal any actions you should take as a result of what you have learned.

**Nazarene Roots:
Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, & Reformers**

Session 7

Conclusion

Introduction

“When you row a boat, you don’t sit facing where you are going; you sit facing behind, and you take your landmarks from behind, landmarks that are lined up with what’s to come, where you are going . . . You keep a steady eye on what’s behind.”
(Paul Bassett)

What has this look at the past meant to you? In this final session, we’ll be reviewing what you have learned over these past six weeks. You’ll have a chance to examine what you have learned about Nazarene roots on the eight themes we’ve been exploring. As a final exercise, we’ll look once again at how the past brings meaning to the church today. Have we been faithful to those who came before us?

Reviewing the Themes

- ◆ Holiness
- ◆ Mission
- ◆ Social concern
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Reconciliation/Peacemaking
- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Innovation

Inspiring examples of all of the themes we’ve highlighted in these sessions can be found in this book. What were some of the notable examples of each of the themes that were you able to discover? What insights do these examples give you about how these are lived out in the life of the church?

Let's look again at the questions we posed in the first session. In this exercise, we've edited many of the questions so that you can use them to review what you've learned these past six weeks.

A. HOLINESS

“God, who is holy, calls us to a life of holiness. We believe that the Holy Spirit seeks to do in us a second work of grace, called by various terms including ‘entire sanctification’ and ‘baptism with the Holy Spirit’—cleansing us from all sin, renewing us in the image of God, empowering us to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, and producing in us the character of Christ. Holiness in the life of believers is most clearly understood as Christlikeness.” —From the Core Values of the Church of the Nazarene

1. How would you state a definition of holiness based on what you've learned in this book? What does it mean to live a holy life? Has your understanding of holiness expanded as a result of looking at the various persons and eras profiled in the book?
2. How would you state John Wesley's definition of holiness?
3. What factors led to an interest in holiness in 19th-century America? Was this a new interest in the lives of Christians?
4. What was the American Holiness Movement, and how did it change the religious landscape in America?
5. What was the influence of this change on the rest of the world?

B. MISSION

“We are a sent people, responding to the call of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into all the world, witnessing to the Lordship of Christ and participating with God in the building of the church and the extension of His kingdom.” —From the Core Values of the Church of the Nazarene

1. What did it mean to the founders of the Church of the Nazarene to be a church that is missional?

2. What has been our historical emphasis on mission in the church? When did the church first engage in missions around the world?

C. SOCIAL CONCERN

1. What did John Wesley mean by the term “social holiness”?

2. How active were the early Methodists in social programs?

3. In what way did the holiness groups that followed carry on this tradition? What has been the historic emphasis upon social ministry in the church?

D. EDUCATION

1. Why was education important to the founders of the church? What purpose does strong theological education play in the Body of Christ?

2. When were the first educational institutions established in the church?

3. What were the requirements for clergy education in the church? How has this changed over the years?

4. What about education of the laity? What programs exist today for this purpose?

E. RECONCILIATION/PEACEMAKING

1. How was racism perceived in the early days of the Church of the Nazarene? How did Nazarenes do at accepting persons of various ethnicities, including African-Americans?

2. Were there many ethnic groups involved in the church in the early years? Who were they, and why did they get involved in the Church of the Nazarene?

3. What was the stance of most holiness people on the issue of abolition? What role did Holiness people play in the end of slavery, both in the England and the U.S.?

4. Where are we on this issue as a church today? Are we actively promoting reconciliation in the church?

F. EQUALITY

1. The prevailing attitude toward women in leadership in the early days of the church was quite positive. What was the biblical basis for this acceptance?

2. Who were some of the significant women leaders in the Holiness Movement? In the early days of the church?

3. What are some of the institutions that women helped organize?

4. At what point did the embrace of women in leadership change in the church? Why? Where are we at on this today?

G. LEADERSHIP

1. What is good leadership in the church? What qualities did you see in the leaders portrayed in this book that you admired most?

2. Are these qualities that you strive for in your own leadership role?

3. What have you learned about leadership from reading about these men and women?

H. INNOVATION

1. What were some of the innovations you saw in this book? What new ideas were adopted by the various leaders? How were these new ideas received?

2. How many have endured into our day?

3. What ideas have you gleaned from these leaders that you would like to put into motion in your church?

Questions for Reflection

The following questions are revisions of ones you answered in the first session. After working through the answers below, turn back to the answers you gave in the first session to see how your understanding of these questions has evolved.

1. What have you learned from this study? How does this compare with what you hoped to learn before you started (see your answer from the first session)?
2. Having worked through these lessons, what would you now say is the value you see in knowing the spiritual history of our church?
3. How is the history of key figures in the holiness tradition and their ideas an important study for the church? For Nazarenes? For pastors?

A Study Journal

At the beginning of the study, you were given some questions that you would hopefully be able to answer by the end of this study. Let's turn to these questions now.

◆ What is the real tradition of the Church of the Nazarene? What kinds of things are we doing now that reflect our core values? What kinds of things are we doing now that do not reflect our core values? What kinds of things did the founders of our church hold to be important that are no longer reflected in our church today? What new directions have we taken? How can we recover the good from the past, while also embracing valuable actions today?

◆ What lessons can we learn from the people in this book? What can we bring into our church today that will help us to better reflect our forebears? Are there mistakes they made that we may be repeating, or that we can avoid?

◆ What can we learn from them that lets us know we are being faithful to our tradition? How did they reflect holiness in their day? What about mission, education, social concern, equality, reconciliation, innovation, and leadership? How do our programs and practices reflect this tradition?

Where Are We Headed From Here?

How are we continuing the traditions and story in our church today? How are our efforts today informed by our tradition, our theology? These are important questions. After spending time with the Christians in this book, do you feel you are better able to answer these questions? In what ways are you seeking to allow the tradition and theology of Wesleyan-Holiness people to inform what you do today? How are you continuing the tradition and story of those who have gone before?

Scripture

1 Timothy 6:20:

“Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.”

The final words of Paul in his first letter to Timothy urge Timothy to “guard what has been entrusted” to him. Paul knew that without diligent care, the followers of Jesus would lose sight of what they had been taught and would fall into error. It is important that we hold on to the past in order to keep our eyes on the path ahead.

Hold on to the lessons you’ve learned in this study of these faithful Christians who have contributed to the heritage of the Church of the Nazarene. We are also on the way of holiness, contributing our own parts to the larger story of salvation.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, these men and women who gave so much to live in service to you have given me much to think about. As I’ve worked through these sessions and reflected on what their stories have meant to the church, I’ve prayed about what you would have me to do. Open my eyes to any new plans you have for your church, that I might serve you better and that we might bring glory to your name. Amen.