

INTRO & PART 1: THE REVELATIONS OF GOD

Start your discussion by watching the relevant video, then discuss the corresponding questions. The videos can be found on our **NAC USA app** or by going to **ndi.nac-usa.org**, **RESOURCES**, then **SMALL GROUPS**, then *Small Group Curriculum* on the right-side menu and finally, click on ***Our Catechism***. You might find it helpful to have either the NAC Catechism or Catechism Q&A handy in print or on your phone. Just search for **naccatechism** or **nacfaq** where you download apps.

QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 33-52**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 1-28

1. What is a catechism?
2. How does understanding the catechism give us the tools to *always be ready to give a defense to everyone* (1 Peter 3:15)?
 - a. In discussing what it means to “give a defense” reference the following quote from the introduction: *“The Catechism presents...that which binds us together and that which distinguishes us. The presentation of these differences is not intended to exclude others or close ourselves off to them, but can rather be a starting point for fruitful dialogue with other Christians.”*
3. What are two overarching ways that God reveals Himself?
4. Why does God reveal Himself to us in stages?
5. What response is God looking for when He reveals something to us?
6. How has God revealed Himself to you personally lately?
7. What does this stir-up within you? Is there something you can do this week to glorify God because of this revelation?
8. Discuss our beliefs about the Bible. Use the following quotes:
 - a. *“The author of Holy Scripture is God. Its writers were human beings whom the Holy Spirit inspired. In style and form of expression the books of the Bible bear the mark of their respective writers and their perceptions of the world”* (CNAC 1.2 and page 45).
 - b. *“Each bible passage must be read in view of its context. Its interpretation must always be consistent*

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PART 2: THE CREED

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 55-76**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 29-50

1. What is a creed? (See supporting article - ***The Creed***)
2. Discuss the following creedal statements and hymns from the New Testament (some you will have to look up and read together). What beliefs are they professing?
 - a. *Jesus is Lord!* (Romans 10:9)
 - b. *The Lord is risen indeed!* (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)
 - c. *Maranatha – O Lord, come!* (1 Corinthians 16:22)
 - d. 1 Timothy 3:16
 - e. Philippians 2:6-11
 - f. Colossians 1:15-20
3. Read and discuss the Apostles' Creed and the Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople (CNAC 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.3).
 - a. **Apostles' Creed:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal [catholic] church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
 - b. **Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople:** We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

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PART 3: THE TRIUNE GOD

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 79–160**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 51-214

1. What do you know about God? Can you describe Him to someone?
2. Read Psalm 103, 135, and/or 139. What does each tell us about God? What characteristics are expressed by the writers?
3. Discuss the references to the triune God in the Old and New Testament (CNAC 3.2.1 and 3.2.2).
4. What are some characteristics of the triune God? What are characteristics ascribed to each Person of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
5. What are the visible and invisible parts of creation?
6. God created you! What is your role in His creation? Generally, but also very specifically to the life you are living today?
7. How do you understand Jesus as true God and true human?
8. Read John 1:1-18 together. What do these verses tell us about God, the Son – Jesus Christ?
9. What are some of the names of Jesus (or “I am” statements)? What do they tell you about Him?
10. Why did Jesus use parables to teach? What is your favorite parable from Jesus, and why is it your favorite?

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11. Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18. The promised return of Jesus gives our lives perspective, purpose, and great hope. Have you ever used Jesus' return to comfort someone else? In what other ways can you share the life and love of the Lord Jesus with others?
12. How was the Holy Spirit active in the past (in the Old Testament, in past history, etc.)? How is the Holy Spirit active today? (CNAC 3.5.1, 3.5.1.2, 3.5.2, 3.5.3, 3.5.3.1, 3.5.3.2, 3.5.4.1, 3.5.4.3, 3.5.5.2)
13. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit filled, inspired, and "came-upon" people to fulfill specific tasks that God called them to do. But then it would leave them (see 1 Samuel 16:14 and Psalm 51:11). How is this different from what we believe about the "indwelling" gift of the Spirit received in Holy Sealing?
14. How has the gift of the Holy Spirit been active in you this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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PART 4: MANKIND IN NEED OF REDEMPTION

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 163–200**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 215-279

1. How many pencils would you need to write down all the sins you've committed in your life? How many erasers would you need to try and erase them? Now think of just today: What sins have you committed that have separated you from God and His love?
2. What is sin? (See CNAC 4.1, 4.2, 4.2.1, 4.2.1.1 and supporting article - ***What is sin?***)
 - a. How does it affect mankind?
 - b. How does it affect the creation?
 - c. Review the supporting article - ***Made in His image.*** What three fundamental relationships did He create us to exist in? How did sin effect these relationships? How did Jesus change these relationships? How does the Holy Spirit change these relationships?
3. Read Romans 5:18-19 together. How did sin come into the world? How has sin been defeated?
4. Review the supporting article - ***What is repentance?*** Discuss each of the five (5) aspects of repentance. How can we put into practice Martin Luther's encouragement that the "entire life of believers...be one of repentance"?
5. What is a conscience? Read Romans 2:14-15 together. How can our conscience show an awareness of God's will? (CNAC 4.2.13)
6. How would you describe or define the word faith?
7. What are some of the events in God's plan of salvation? List as many as you can. (CNAC 4.4)

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PART 5: GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 203–247**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 280–364

1. Why did God give His people commandments? (CNAC 5.1 and 5.2)
2. What are the Ten Commandments? (CNAC 5.3, 5.3.1.2, 5.3.1.3, 5.3.1.4 / See also supporting article – **God's commandments**)
 - a. Read Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21 together. Discuss how each of the commandments are contained in these verses. What does the additional context (where there is some) add to your understanding of their meaning?
3. Walk through each of the Ten Commandments (CNAC 5.3.2 – 5.3.10.5). Discuss the meaning of each, describe how they were carried out by the Israelites, and give an example of how each commandment is still relevant to your life.
 - a. How is the greatest commandment – *to love God and our neighbor* – present in each of the Ten Commandments?
 - b. Who is our neighbor? (CNAC 5.2.2)
4. Review the supporting article – **Living in Peace**, especially the quoted verses Matthew 5:43-48 and Romans 14:12-15.
 - a. What does Jesus teach about loving our neighbor in the verses from Matthew?
 - b. What does Paul teach about loving our neighbor in the verses from Romans?
 - c. How can we seek “higher ground” in a disagreement?
 - d. How can you *do all that you can to live in peace with everyone* (Romans 12:18)?

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PART 6: THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Start your discussion by watching the relevant video, then discuss the corresponding questions. The videos can be found on our **NAC USA app** or by going to **ndi.nac-usa.org**, **RESOURCES**, then **SMALL GROUPS**, then *Small Group Curriculum* on the right-side menu and finally, click on ***Our Catechism***. You might find it helpful to have either the NAC Catechism or Catechism Q&A handy in print or on your phone. Just search for **naccatechism** or **nacfaq** where you download apps.

QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 251–276**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 365-410

Keep in mind as you answer the following questions that we are discussing the broader church of Christ – *all those who believe in Christ, are baptized, and follow His teachings as disciples* - not the New Apostolic Church specifically.

1. What does the word "church" mean? What are some meanings that you associate with the word "church"?
2. What is the purpose of the church of Christ? (CNAC 6.2)
How does your church carry out those two purposes?
 - a. Were you surprised by the simplicity of the answer (only two things?!)?
 - b. How can you contribute to each purpose?
3. How does the Old Testament refer to or foreshadow the church of the New Testament? (CNAC 6.2.1)
4. How did Jesus establish His church?
5. When did the church of Christ first become apparent historically? What were the four characteristics of this early church? How do we continue in these activities today? (CNAC 6.2.2)
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. Discuss the image of the body of Christ as it relates to the church, and your congregation specifically.
 - a. According to these verses – how does each member contribute? How do the different parts of the body interact with each other?
 - b. How does the body of Christ relate to Jesus Christ Himself (see Ephesians 1:22-23 and Ephesians 4:11-16)?

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- c. How can you specifically support other members in the congregation? What spiritual gifts has God given you for the benefit of the church? What gifts do you see others contributing?
 - d. Review the supporting article – **Work of Ministry: No Limits**. Discuss how you can use your spiritual gifts outside the church.
7. Discuss the various other images for the church – the city of God, a prefiguration of the kingdom of God, “the flock,” “the field,” the house of God, the temple of God (CNAC 6.2.3, 6.2.3.3, 6.2.3.4, 6.2.3.5, 6.2.3.6). How do all these images add to your understanding of the church of Christ? What do they tell you about the church?
 8. Discuss the visible and invisible natures of the church (CNAC 6.3). How does this dual nature reflect Jesus Christ?
 9. Consider the words from our third article of faith: *I believe in... the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church* (CNAC 6.4.1 and 6.5). How does the church of Christ demonstrate each of these features?
 10. Review the **THRIVE booklet** from the supporting articles. Discuss the THRIVE acronym. What does it mean to be a member of the New Apostolic Church? What step will you take to work on one of the expectations this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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PART 7: MINISTRY

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 279–305**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 411-471

1. Describe the three references to ministry in the Old Testament: king, priest, and prophet. Give examples of each and discuss how they foreshadow ministry (CNAC 7.3.1). How was Jesus Christ the ultimate King, Priest, and Prophet?
2. Read John 17:6-19 together. What does Jesus pray for His disciples? How does He ask God to equip them for their calling?
3. What is the purpose of ordained ministry today?
4. What are the tasks of the apostolate (CNAC 7.4)? What are its characteristics (CNAC 7.4.1)?
5. What are the three ordained ministries of our church? What are the functions of each? (Review supporting article **Authority – with limits**)
6. Review the supporting article, **Fellowship with and in Christ**. Discuss the various aspects of the “apostles’ doctrine” that the Chief Apostle outlines. How is the first apostles’ doctrine related to what the apostolate preaches today?
7. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. Based on the Bible verses and the article what are the tasks of ministers of the church? Review the supporting article, **A path to ordination**. How is ordained ministry described? What steps is our church taking to equip new ministers?
8. How can you support the ministers in your congregation? Brainstorm as a group and have each person in the group pick something that they will do this week.

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PERSONAL REFLECTION

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PART 8: THE SACRAMENTS

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 309–346**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 472–530

1. What is a sacrament?
2. What are the four elements of a sacrament?
3. What happens in Holy Baptism? What do the three signs of the cross made on the forehead with water symbolize? What does the water symbolize? (CNAC 8.1.4, 8.1.6)
4. Review the supporting article, **Original sin or inherited sin?** Discuss the differences between original and inherited sin. What does Holy Baptism wash away?
5. Read Exodus 12 together. Discuss the references to Jesus Christ and Holy Communion. How is Jesus Christ like the Passover Lamb? How does the Passover meal foreshadow Holy Communion?
6. Review the supporting article, **The Lord's bountiful table.** Discuss each phrase that describes Holy Communion from Scripture. Did you gain any new perspectives from this article? How can you focus on each of these elements every time you celebrate Holy Communion?
7. How is Holy Communion a meal of:
 - a. **Remembrance?** *In every divine service do you visualize the suffering and death of Christ? When we celebrate this sacrament, it is as if we are standing at the foot of the cross during Christ's sacrifice and witnessing His death first-hand. This moment of experiencing Christ's sacrifice and death is emphasized by the words we hear in the consecration, the once brought, eternally valid sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and that we proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. In the celebration of Holy Communion, we are visualizing the past and bringing it into the present. In faith, each Christian is a contemporary of Jesus. In faith, there is no difference between us and those who walked and talked with Him.*

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Christ's crucifixion is not just in the past – it's here and now. Standing in front of the altar, as if we are standing around the cross, allows us to proclaim His sacrifice with conviction (Taken from a theology workshop). How can we prepare ourselves for this moment - to stand at the foot of the cross in communion? What emotions do you feel when you think of this?

- b. **Profession?** Are you completely aware of and do you fully embrace this public commitment of faith when you partake of the bread and wine?
- c. **Fellowship?** Read the following quote from Chief Apostle Schneider (Calgary, January 2022) and discuss how he further enhances our understanding of communion as a meal of fellowship: *When Jesus established Holy Communion with His Apostles He gave them some bread. Then He took a cup of wine and gave it to the first one and said, "Drink out of it all of you." There was one cup so that the first one had to give the cup to the second one, the second to the third, and this cup was circulating in the circle of the disciples. Jesus said, "This is My blood, the blood of the new covenant given for many for the remission of sins." That is a nice image. This cup with the wine, the blood of Jesus, circulating in the circle of the disciples like the blood is circulating in the body. That is the deep meaning of it. The cup circulates with the wine as the blood circulates in the body. One blood, one body. When we celebrate Holy Communion this blood of Jesus circulates into the congregation. That means that we are aware that all of us need to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood needs to circulate into the whole congregation. All of us need to be cleansed. We need to be purified by the blood of the Son. Every part of the body is dependent on the blood circulation. All of us are fully dependent on the blood of Jesus Christ.*
- d. **The future?** How can you make each celebration of communion transformational in preparation for His coming? How can you strive to become new each time you celebrate communion?

(CNAC 8.2.8, 8.2.9, 8.2.10, 8.2.11)

8. Read Ephesians 1:11-14 together. Then review the supporting document, ***Pentecost: And they continued...*** What do we receive in Holy Sealing? (See also CNAC 8.3.9)
9. Discuss the differences between the *Person of the Holy Spirit*, the *gift of the Holy Spirit* (dispensed during Holy Sealing), *spiritual gifts*, and the *fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23).
10. Read Ezekiel 36:23-28. How do these verses from the Old Testament hint at or foreshadow the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing?
11. How would you explain our three sacraments to a friend?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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PART 9: LIFE AFTER DEATH

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 349–357**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 531–548

1. What is a human made up of? Which parts are immortal? Which are transitory? (CNAC 9.1)
2. What is the beyond? (CNAC 9.4)
3. When we go into the beyond, do we retain anything of ourselves? If yes, what do we keep?
4. Read the following verses. What do they reveal about what the writers thought about the beyond?
 - a. Job 10:21-22
 - b. Isaiah 14:15
 - c. Psalm 88:10-12
 - d. Psalm 23:4
 - e. Psalm 49:15
 - f. Luke 16:19-31
 - g. What words would you use to describe the beyond?
5. Is it possible for those who have died to still change? How could this be a comfort?
6. What does the New Apostolic Church believe about sacraments for the departed? Review the supporting articles, ***Not only here, but also in the beyond*** and ***The rise of Christ's descent into hell*** (CNAC 9.6.1). What can we do in preparation for the Service for the Departed?
7. The Chief Apostle mentioned that "there is surely great spiritual distress and great pain in the beyond." He gave seven examples. Discuss each listed below.

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How can we remember and pray for those in the beyond that are experiencing each of these feelings? Can you think of any other situations?

- a. **Fear of punishment:** "If I had to come before God now to be judged - good versus bad - what have I done in my life?"
 - b. **Disappointment:** "Many think that when they die and have led a good life they will enter paradise. But then they find themselves somewhere completely different..."
 - c. **Reproaches:** "When you look at the fate of some people you realize that their life was anything but beautiful - it was nothing but misfortune, suffering, hardship, illness, and worries."
 - d. **Feeling unloved:** "Some souls enter the beyond in great spiritual distress. They have never felt love."
 - e. **Remorse:** "There are people in the beyond who are aware that they have done wrong. They have caused a great deal of suffering and have hurt many. And they have no possibility of making amends."
 - f. **Separation:** "A pain we all know and can relate to is the pain of separation."
 - g. **Ignorance:** "There are so many people who have never heard of Jesus Christ."
8. How do our beliefs regarding the departed speak to God's universal desire for all men to be saved?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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PART 10: THE DOCTRINE OF FUTURE THINGS

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QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 361–372**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 549–581

1. Read the following Bible verses together. What do they tell you about the return of Jesus Christ? What aspects can you pull from these verses? (CNAC 10.1.1 and 10.1.2)
 - a. John 14:3
 - b. Acts 1:11
 - c. Matthew 24:40-44
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
 - e. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
 - f. Philippians 3:20-21
2. We believe that we are preparing to go with Jesus in the rapture; the next time He comes to the earth. This is what we call ***being firstlings*** – simply, going first. Why do you want to be a firstling? What will be the role of the firstlings in the kingdom of peace? How can you prepare for this now?
3. Discuss the imagery used in Revelation 14:1-5 and 19:6-9. What does each image symbolize? What ideas is the author trying to express? (CNAC 10.1.3 and 10.2)
 - a. *The Lamb*
 - b. *Mount Zion*
 - c. *144,000*
 - d. *His Father's name on their foreheads*
 - e. *Voice like thunder, voice of a great multitude*
 - f. *Virgins, bride, wife*
 - g. *Marriage*

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- h. *Fine linen, without fault*
 - i. *First fruits*
4. At the beginning of the video is mentioned that much of the language regarding the end times and the doctrine of the future is figurative or symbolic. The international Church has also recently noted that we should not try to arrange these events into a specific timeline. Is it possible for us to know how these events will unfold exactly? What is more important than the timing of what will happen?
 5. **All will be judged.** In the past, perhaps, we heard that there will be some who might not need to experience judgment. We must understand that this is not true. Paul makes it clear that all human beings will be judged by Christ, whether at His return, the rapture (which is itself a judgment), or at the Last Judgment (1 Corinthians 5:6-10). The term "judge" often has negative connotations.
 - a. What do you think of when you hear the word "judge"?
 - b. The profound truth that God is love is most clearly revealed through Jesus Christ, and this will be experienced even at His judgment seat. Consider the following hymn lyrics – *Come, ye weary, heavy laden, to the throne of grace now hasten, where the Judge doth kindly speak, "Contrite souls to help I seek."* What does it reveal about Jesus Christ, the Judge? What kind of judge do you think Jesus will be?
 - c. In the end, Christ will be the one who makes any decision related to salvation. The Father has given this responsibility to Him (John 5:22). As both God and man, Jesus is the perfect Judge. His love for the Father and His knowledge of the law will be balanced with His empathy towards sinners. In light of this, we should never be fearful of this "judge."
 - d. What characteristics of Christ make Him the perfect judge (besides what is mentioned above)?
 6. Read together the beautiful promises in 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:3, and 1 Corinthians 15:28. What words would you use to describe this new heaven and earth? What do you think it will be like to live in a place where

righteousness dwells? Where God is all in all? How can we start, already today, living as citizens in this kingdom?

7. Review the supporting article, **Winter 2019 – DA introduction letter.**
 - a. How do you deal with feelings of uncertainty? Consider Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46-49.
 - b. What do you do when it seems like God's plans aren't what you expected or wanted?
 - c. What opportunities has God opened in the past year for you to grow and become closer to Him?
8. Review the supporting article, **VISION and MISSION: Building blocks of our future.**
 - a. How do our mission and vision statements provide direction for our future, as a church? As individual members?
 - b. How can creating a healthy congregation prepare us for living in God's kingdom? How does being part of an assembly of Christians help you prepare for your future with Christ?
 - c. Discuss what it means to *create a church where people feel at home.*
 - d. What does the phrase "personal responsibility" mean to you in conjunction with preparing for Christ's return?
 - e. What is the difference between the vision statement and the mission statement?
 - f. How can we, personally, *reach out to all people*? Give some specific examples.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Think about the main points of this chapter. Summarize the chapter into one or two belief statements in your own words.

PART 11: THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

Start your discussion by watching the relevant video, then discuss the corresponding questions. The videos can be found on our **NAC USA app** or by going to **ndi.nac-usa.org**, *RESOURCES*, then *SMALL GROUPS*, then *Small Group Curriculum* on the right-side menu and finally, click on *Our Catechism*. You might find it helpful to have either the NAC Catechism or Catechism Q&A handy in print or on your phone. Just search for **naccatechism** or **nacfaq** where you download apps.

QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 375-386**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 582-612

1. Why is it important to know your history; as an individual?
As a family? As a church?
2. How does discussing the history of the church open your eyes to the activity of the Holy Spirit?
3. How did these various events lead to the growth and development of the church? (CNAC 11)
 - a. Jesus giving the apostles the Great Commission
 - b. Jesus' ascension
 - c. Pentecost
 - d. Peter's vision (Acts 10 and 11)
 - e. Paul's conversion
 - f. Emperor Constantine proclaiming freedom of religion for Christians (313 AD)
 - g. Church councils and the development of Creeds
 - h. Christianity becoming the state religion of the Roman Empire (381 AD)
 - i. East-West Schism (1054 AD)
 - j. The Reformation (1500+ AD)
 - k. The Enlightenment
 - l. Pietism and revivalist movements
 - m. Missionary efforts
 - n. Reoccupation of the apostle ministry
 - o. The split from the Catholic Apostolic Church

[illegible]

p. The first Chief Apostle (Krebs)

q. The creation of our Catechism

4. How was the New Apostolic Church formed?

5. How does learning about our history point to the necessity of change and evolution in the Church? How did the various events, that you discussed earlier, change the church?

6. Watch our history video (<https://www.nac-usa.org/about-us/our-history>). Did you learn anything new? What struck you about the video? How are you a part of the history of the church?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Think about the main points of this chapter. Summarize the chapter into one or two belief statements in your own words.

PART 12: DIVINE SERVICES, BLESSING, PASTORAL CARE

Start your discussion by watching the relevant video, then discuss the corresponding questions. The videos can be found on our **NAC USA app** or by going to **ndi.nac-usa.org**, **RESOURCES**, then **SMALL GROUPS**, then *Small Group Curriculum* on the right-side menu and finally, click on ***Our Catechism***. You might find it helpful to have either the NAC Catechism or Catechism Q&A handy in print or on your phone. Just search for **naccatechism** or **nacfaq** where you download apps.

QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 389-444**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 613-714

1. What do you experience in a divine service?
2. How do aspects of Old Testament temple worship correspond to aspects of our divine service experience? (See CNAC 12.1.2 or Genesis 28:19, Exodus 20:24, 20:8, Numbers 6:22-27, 1 Chronicles 25:6)
3. How did the aspects of the divine service evolve with the early Christians? (CNAC 12.1.3 and 12.1.4) How are the four elements of the early church expressed in Acts 2:42 still evident in our divine services today? (CNAC 12.1.5.1, 12.1.5.2, 12.1.5.3, 12.1.5.4)
4. Discuss the following aspects of a divine service. What is the purpose of each? Why is each necessary? How can you approach each to make them meaningful to you?
 - a. Worship and singing (CNAC 12.1.14)
 - b. The invocation – *In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...* (CNAC 12.1.5)
 - c. The sermon (CNAC 12.1.6)
 - d. The Lord's Prayer (CNAC 12.1.7)
 - e. Amen (See supporting article, **Amen**, for further information)
 - f. The benediction – *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! Amen.*
5. Read Paul's sermon in Acts 17, verses 22-31. How does it answer the following questions?
 - a. *Who is God?*
 - b. *Who is man?*

[illegible]

- c. *Who is Christ?*
- d. *How should we respond?*
- e. The basic message of the gospel also answers these questions. If a friend asked you, how would you answer these questions, in a simple way, based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ?

6. What blessings are given in our church? (CNAC 12.2)

7. Jesus is our example in pastoral care. *He listened, helped, comforted, counseled, admonished, strengthened, prayed, and taught* (CNAC 12.4). What are some examples of Jesus providing pastoral care from the Bible?

8. Review the supporting article, ***Walk with me***. What do 1 Peter 5:2-3 and Matthew 25:35-36 tell us about pastoral care?

- a. Read Luke 24:13-35 together. What are the five simple aspects that Jesus uses in “visiting” with these two disciples?
- b. In what ways or scenarios can we provide pastoral care to others?
- c. How, as a small group, can we provide pastoral care for each other?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Think about the main points of this chapter. Summarize the chapter into one or two belief statements in your own words.

PART 13: OUR LIFE OF FAITH

Start your discussion by watching the relevant video, then discuss the corresponding questions. The videos can be found on our **NAC USA app** or by going to **ndi.nac-usa.org**, **RESOURCES**, then **SMALL GROUPS**, then *Small Group Curriculum* on the right-side menu and finally, click on ***Our Catechism***. You might find it helpful to have either the NAC Catechism or Catechism Q&A handy in print or on your phone. Just search for **naccatechism** or **nacfaq** where you download apps.

QUESTIONS

IN THE FULL CATECHISM: **PAGES 445-468**

IN THE CATECHISM Q&A: QUESTIONS 715-750

1. Discuss the following quotes about prayer (all quotes were taken from our *Reflections on Prayer* book). What does each teach you about prayer? Circle or highlight a phrase that really speaks to you to ponder over the next week each time you pray.
 - a. *Prayer is a treasure, a power, and a grace...* (Apostle R. Kainz)
 - b. *Anything that moves and stirs within a human being's heart – including our own needs and wishes, as well as the needs and wishes of others – is part of prayer. Prayer incorporates fears and joys, health and sickness, life on the threshold of death, the magnificence of nature, and the beauty of humanity in fellowship and being there for one another, but also that which is unfathomable, such as the destruction that man inflicts on nature and other human beings.* (Chief Apostle Schneider)
 - c. *Prayer is an approach to the living God. It is access to the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity. It is detailing in the ear of Divine sympathy every sorrow. It is consulting with Divine wisdom on every difficulty. It is asking from Divine resources the supply of every want. And this not once in a lifetime, or for a few moments on a stated day of each year, but at any moment, at every time of need. Whatever be the day of your distress, it is a day when prayer is allowable...available. It needs no saint, no proficient in piety, no adept in eloquent language, no dignitary of earthly rank. This access to God in every place, at every moment, without any price or any personal merit, is it not an amazing privilege?* (James Hamilton)
 - d. *I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me at all times – waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God – it changes me.* (C.S. Lewis)

[illegible]

- e. *Intercessions arise from the believer's awareness that he does not practice his faith on his own, but rather in the fellowship of other believers.* (Chief Apostle Schneider)
 - f. *A Christian kneels down to pray. She wants to communicate with God, the Father. But she also knows that what is prompting her to pray is God: God, the Holy Spirit, inside her. However, she also remembers that all her knowledge of God comes through God, the Son and that Christ is standing beside her, helping her to pray, giving her the words to pray. You see what is happening. God is the goal she is trying to reach, the Person to whom she is praying. God is also insider her, pushing her on as the motive power. God is also the way or bridge along which she is being pushed to that goal. So that the whole Trinity or threefold Person of God is active, working, and present in that little room where a simple Christian is praying.* (Based off a quote by C.S. Lewis)
2. Why is prayer important? (CNAC 13.1)
 3. What offerings and sacrifices are expected of a Christian? Read the following verses. What sacrifices are encouraged? What do you take from these verses that can be applied to your own life?
 - a. Romans 12:1
 - b. Philippians 2:3-4
 - c. Hebrews 13:16
 - d. Galatians 6:10
 - e. Matthew 25:34-40
 - f. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
 4. Read the supporting article, **Gratuitous**. Answer the questions laid out in the article. Discuss the Bible verses and quotes in the article. What does it mean to "freely give"? For further discussion, review the supporting article, **Stewardship**.
 5. In what ways does your family help you to live and express your faith?

6. As Christians, we have a responsibility to society. What does that responsibility involve? (CNAC 13.4, 13.5, 13.5.2, 13.5.3)
7. In what practical ways is your life reflecting your faith and love for God and your neighbor?
8. Review the supporting article, **What will you look back on?** In the article the District Apostle gave five focus areas for growth, specifically during the pandemic in 2020. Read through each one. Can you give an example of where you have grown in one of these areas since 2020? Where do you still have room for further growth? What practical steps can you take to give each more focus in the coming year? Discuss the idea of setting a "growth area" in your Christian life to focus on for this year.
9. **You made it through the whole Catechism!**
 - a. Are there any key insights or reflections that you would like to share after this exploration of what we believe as a church?
 - b. Would you feel comfortable discussing what you believe with a friend? How could you become more confident in sharing what you believe?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Think about the main points of this chapter. Summarize the chapter into one or two belief statements in your own words.