

Jesus: Man and God

1. Jesus shared human life in every aspect except sin.
2. Christianity is unique in its teaching that the Son of God is both divine and human.

Key Concepts



Students will:

1. Name some ways in which Jesus Christ shared human life.
2. State that the unique teaching of Christianity is that Jesus Christ is God and became man.
3. Enumerate three things that *John 1:1-18* tells us about Jesus Christ as God.

Objectives



Background for Teacher



This session presents one of the basic teachings of Christianity: Jesus Christ is at the same time perfect God and perfect man. For teenagers, this truth has at least two important messages: first, Jesus Christ completely understands what it means to live a human life, because he did it, sparing himself none of its pain and hardship.

The second message is that we can be people of hope. Not only has our loving Lord shared our life and showed us how to live it perfectly. He has also, by his own death and resurrection, overcome the power of death. We are no longer forever in death's power.

Prepare for this session, as for each one, by being fully familiar with the student text and these pages for you. Plan the session, and try to achieve that delicate balance of preparedness and flexibility that is such an effective way of talking with teens.

Materials Needed



- ◆ Bibles
- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Chalkboard and markers

Procedure



1. Open the session with a prayer. Ask students to listen while you relate content of **Do You Really Understand?** Then review by pointing to important concepts in text.

(5 mins)

2. Have students do the exercise, **Jesus Christ Was a Real Person!** Go over the answers with them, and get their opinions about the experiences of Jesus Christ on earth as related to their own experiences of living.

Answers:

1. Weariness—h. *Mark 6:30-32*
2. Talked about behind your back— a. *Luke 7:33-34*
3. Lack of “success”—d. *Mark 6:1-6*
4. Enjoyment of food and wine with friends—g. *John 2:1-3*
5. Disappointment—e. *Mark 14:32-37*
6. Enjoying the company of children— b. *Luke 18:15-16*
7. Family responsibility—c. *John 19:26-27*
8. Betrayal by one who claimed to be a friend
—f. *Matthew 26:31-35 and 69-75*

What experiences of Jesus’ life can they identify with from events in their own lives? Discuss those events by starting with an example of your own.

Conclude by reminding students that they are not alone in their experiences; God himself has shared them in the person of Christ. Therefore, their experiences are never meaningless or worthless. This idea is a deep one and really can’t be “explained,” but it is worth offering to young people as something to consider, in their own way and in their own time. (15 mins)

3. Put the words GENESIS and EASTER on the chalkboard or chart. Ask students to write down (in their texts) descriptive words and phrases that come to mind when they think of these words. Then read with them **Your Thoughts, Please** in the student text and the passage *John 1:1-18*. Let them share what they write about the passage, and include these points in the discussion:

verse 1 tells us that Jesus Christ (called “the Word”) has always existed. He was not created at some point in time, as we were.

verse 2 says that he, along with his Father and the Holy Spirit, created all things.

verse 14 says that this Word became man and lived here on earth with us.

verse 17 tells us that the “grace and truth” of Christ build upon and surpass the law given through Moses.

Procedure



This saving work of Christ really is a new beginning (a “genesis”) for us because God himself has renewed our chance to be close to him—the chance we lost in the beginning when we disobeyed him and left his presence. No created person was able to restore that chance. Only God could, and he loved us enough to do it. He sent his Son who took our sins on himself, and took death upon himself. Through his death and resurrection our Easter, our new chance to live forever with God, came about. (10 mins)

4. Summarize introductory text of **A Unique Message** in the student text. Then have class read and discuss the differences between the statements from other religions and the teachings of the Christian faith.

Discussion Points: Note that one of the main reasons why the idea of God becoming man is so unpalatable to other religions is that it “lowers” God too much. But the Christian idea is totally different: that God’s immense love for us makes it necessary for him to do just that—to show the ultimate love that manifests itself by a real sharing. (You might talk about people who follow that example. Mother Teresa deliberately sought out the “poorest of the poor” to minister to, and likewise many of the saints and many modern-day Christians give up wealth and position to give help where it is needed most.) (10 mins)

5. Go on to a quiz, “What Do We Know About Jesus?” Put the title on the board, and divide the class into teams. Designate one corner of the room as A, and one as B. You’ll be reading questions, each of which has only two answers, A or B. The team as a *whole* must decide which answer is correct, and stand in that corner *together*. Keep score on the board. (Note: four or fewer on each team.)

Go over the answers after each question.

1. Christ's baptism took place
 - a. when he went to the temple at the age of 12.
 - b. in the Jordan by John when Jesus was about 30.
2. Christ's first miracle took place
 - a. at the wedding feast in Cana.
 - b. at Jerusalem, when he healed the blind and crippled.
3. In the creed, we proclaim that Jesus Christ is
 - a. the greatest man that ever lived.
 - b. truly God and truly man.
4. When Christ was transfigured on Mt. Tabor, the following apostles were with him:
 - a. Peter, Matthew and Thomas.
 - b. Peter, James and John.
5. At the Last Supper, Christ
 - a. instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion.
 - b. was anointed with oil by Mary Magdalene.
6. The stories Christ often used to explain the Kingdom of God are called
 - a. fables.
 - b. parables.
7. The chief person responsible for the burial of Jesus after his crucifixion was
 - a. Joseph of Arimathea.
 - b. the apostle John.
8. After his baptism, Christ
 - a. retreated into the desert for forty days.
 - b. went to the temple in Jerusalem to preach.
9. When Christ appeared to Mary Magdalene after his resurrection,
 - a. she immediately recognized him and rejoiced.
 - b. she mistakenly thought he was the gardener.
10. The night before Christ died, he prayed in the garden also known as
 - a. Eden.
 - b. Gethsemane.

Procedure



11. Which of the following events took place 40 days after Christ's resurrection?
 - a. The Holy Spirit was sent upon the apostles.
 - b. Christ ascended to heaven.
12. When the Jewish authorities questioned Jesus about his authority in *Mark 11:27-33*,
 - a. Jesus refused to answer them.
 - b. he told Peter to respond for him.
13. When King Herod heard of Christ from the Wise Men, he ordered
 - a. Christ to be brought to the palace.
 - b. all male babies under the age of two to be killed.
14. After Christ healed the ten lepers,
 - a. only one returned to praise God.
 - b. he fed those who had watched with loaves of bread and fish.
15. The word "Messiah" means:
 - a. son.
 - b. anointed one.

Quiz Answers

1. b. After thirty years of obscurity, Christ is baptized by John in the River Jordan. This event is recorded in *Matthew 3:13-17*, *Mark 1:9-11*, and *Luke 3:21-22*.
2. a. Jesus, having learned from Mary that there was no more wine at the wedding feast they were attending, performed his first miracle by changing water into wine. Only St. John records this event in his gospel, *2:1-12*.
3. b. God and Man, as expressed in the Nicene Creed.
4. b. Peter, James, John.
5. a. Instituted the sacrament (Mary was not present).
6. b. Parables.
7. a. Joseph of Arimathea was responsible for asking Pilate for Christ's body, after which he supervised its burial. For the full account of this incident, see

Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, and John 19:38-42.

8. a. *Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-13* record the fact that Christ retreated into the desert after his baptism. There he fasted, prayed and resisted temptations from the devil for 40 days.
9. b. Perhaps overwhelmed by his resurrection, Mary Magdalene initially did not recognize Christ but took him to be the gardener. The appearance of Christ to Mary Magdalene is recorded in *Matthew 28:9-10, Mark 16:9-11, and John 20:11-18.*
10. b. *Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, and Luke 22:39-46* record Christ's praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.
11. b. Christ's ascension into heaven took place 40 days after his resurrection, an event we liturgically commemorate on the 40th day after Easter. *Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:9-11* all record this incident.
12. a. Knowing that the authorities were intent on tricking him, Jesus refused to give them a straight answer on the origin of his authority.
13. b. Afraid of the Messiah, King Herod ordered that all male babies under the age of two be put to death, in an effort to kill Jesus, as recorded in *Matthew 2:16-18.*
14. a. *Luke 17:11-19* records the fact that only one leper, a Samaritan, returned to glorify God after Christ healed the ten.
15. b. It means "anointed one."

Use as much of the extra information provided in the answers as you think will interest the group. (15 mins)

6. Read **Good News!** in the student text with the class.

Briefly discuss ways they might proclaim the gospel. (Wearing a cross, mentioning events at church, being willing to discuss faith issues, etc.).

Close with a prayer for God's guidance in making the Good News known. (5 mins)