

Jesus, Part 14

Truly God, Truly Man

Checklist:

- Whiteboard/newsprint and marker for Evidence from the Bible section.

A Christmas Story

Say: Here is a story someone once told during a sermon...

A group of first graders got together and decided to write their own version of the Nativity. It was more modern than the traditional drama. Oh, there were the familiar members of the cast: Joseph, the shepherds, the three wise men, the star and an angel propped up in the background. But Mary was nowhere to be seen. Suddenly from behind some bales of hay could be heard some soft moans and groans. Evidently Mary was in labor.

Soon a doctor arrived dressed in a white coat with a stethoscope around his neck. Joseph, with a look of relief on his face takes the doctor straight to Mary, then starts pacing back and forth. After a few moments the “doctor” emerges with a big smile on his face. “Congratulations, Joseph,” he says, “It’s a God!”*

*From *Congratulations, Joseph, It’s a God!* Sermon (reference below)

Ask: Why would the kids have the doctor say “It’s a God”?

A Central Belief

Say:

- A central belief among Christians is that Jesus is truly God and truly man.
- For instance, many churches may have a statement of faith along these lines...
“We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel’s promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.” (*Evangelical Free Church of America Statement of Faith about Jesus Christ, 2008.*)

Ask: Do you know why Christians believe that Jesus is God and man?

Evidence from the Bible

Say: Let’s look at several verses from the Bible to see what they say about who Jesus was, specifically focusing on how they point to Him as God and man...

Do:

On a whiteboard or newsprint, draw a line down the middle and put “God” at the top of one side and “Man” at the top of the other.

With the group, read through and dig into each of the passages below, one at a time. For each passage, have kids draw out what the passage says that points toward Jesus being God and/or man and write the point in the appropriate section of the whiteboard. Have kids keep their Bibles open at the passage as each one is explored, so they can look at it to help contribute to the exploration and discussion. Be sure the points included below each passage are mentioned during the discussion.

1. Luke 1:30-35

- God:
 - Son of the Most High
 - Holy Spirit would come on her, therefore the child would be called Son of God
 - Man:
 - conceive in your womb
 - bear a son
 - child to be born
 - David was his father (ancestor)
- Also mention: “Son of God” in the Bible isn’t only used to describe Jesus or to denote deity. For instance, Israel is referred to as the son of God and Christians are called sons of God. So, people calling Jesus Son of God wouldn’t necessarily need to point to Jesus as being divine. But, here the reason given is because the Holy Spirit would come on Mary so the child would be called the Son of God.
- In Jesus’ virgin birth we see that He was born of a woman and born of God (not through sexual relations, but supernaturally by the Holy Spirit).

2. Luke 2:40, 52

- Man:
 - child grew
 - became strong
 - grew in wisdom
 - grew in stature

3. John 1:1-3, 14

- God:
 - in the beginning
 - with God and was God
 - made all things (points to Him not being made)
 - Man:
 - became flesh
- Also mention: Here we see the Word of God being in the beginning and being God as well as becoming a man, Jesus.

4. John 19:33-34

- Man:
 - He was dead
 - blood and water flowed
- Also mention we know from Scripture Jesus didn't stay dead but He also rose again.

5. John 20:28-29

- God:
 - He is addressed by Peter as his God, which Jesus doesn't correct.

Ask: Can you think of any other key verses or things about Jesus that show He is God and man?

Note: If someone mentions Jesus' miracles as showing He is God, you can point out that Jesus was not the only one in the Bible to perform miracles. They may help show Him to be God. They definitely show the power of God at work in Jesus and show that He was approved by God, like Acts 2:22 says.

Be sure to mention these ideas, if students don't:

- Hebrews 1 talks about Jesus being God's Son and not being an angel, but superior, and the one who God created the world through.
- In John 8:58, Jesus talked about Himself pre-existing His time on earth and being around at least before Abraham, when he says, "Before Abraham was, I am."
- "I am" statements of Jesus, like this one, are another evidence many use to point to Jesus being God, as "I am" was the personal name God gave for Himself in the Old Testament.

Incarnation

Say:

- Jesus being God in flesh is called the "incarnation."
(write "incarnation" on the whiteboard)
- Theologian, RC Sproul, said this about how Christians have understood the incarnation:
"It's not as if Christ changed from deity into humanity. That's what I hear all the time. I hear that there was this great eternal God who suddenly stopped being God and became a man. That's not what the Bible teaches. The divine person took upon himself a human nature. We really can't understand the mystery of how this happened. But it is conceivable, certainly, that God, with his power, can add to himself a human nature and do it in such a way as to unite two natures in one person. The most important council about this in the history of the church, whose decision has stood for centuries as the model of Christian orthodoxy and is embraced by... virtually every branch of Christendom—is the Council of Chalcedon. It was held in the year 451, in which the church confessed its belief about Jesus in this way: They said that we believe that Jesus is *verus homus, verus Deus*—truly man, truly God. Then they went on to set boundaries for how we're to think about the way in which these two natures relate to each other. They said that these two natures are in perfect unity, without mixture, division, confusion, or separation." (RC Sproul answering a question - see reference below)

Ask: Any questions?

Application

Ask: Why is Jesus' being God and man important and how should it affect our lives?

Say any of these things that weren't mentioned:

- We can worship Him as our Creator and Master.
- Hebrews 2:17-18 says this, which relates to Him as man: "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." (ESV)

Say: If you have questions about Jesus or about being saved by Him to give you eternal life because of His death on the cross to pay for sin - or if you have trusted Him for the first time today - talk to me or another Christian today!

Closing Prayer

References:

- Jim Burns, "The Incarnation of God," *The Life of Christ Series Leader's Guide* (Eugene: Harvest House, 1989), pp13-14.
- FF Bruce, Commentary on John 10:29-36, *The Gospel & Epistles of John* (Grand Rapids: William B Eerdmans, 2002 printing).
- "Congratulations, Joseph, It's A God!" sermon related to John 1:1-18 (by unknown author)
- "Doctrine of Christ: Diety" lesson, *Youth Group Sessions, Vol 1, No 3* (Regular Baptist Press, 1995).
- Don Cousins and Judson Poling, "Jesus – The God-man," *The Incomparable Jesus*, Walking with God Series (Willow Creek Community Church / Zondervan, 1992).
- Louis H Evans, Jr, Commentary on Hebrews 1:2-14, *The Communicator's Commentary: Hebrews*, Gen Ed Lloyd J Ogilvie (Waco: Word Books, 1985).
- Doug Fields, "Jesus as God," *Creative Bible Lessons on Life of Christ, (Youth Specialties, 1994)*.
- John Gerstner, "The Diety of Christ" (parts 1-7), posted on ligonier.org, accessed 2/3/2017.
- Bradley C Hanson, *Introduction to Christian Theology* (Fortress Press, 1997), pp31-37, 141-154.
(While Hanson has some helpful thoughts to think about concerning the Trinity and Jesus, his thoughts seem to be somewhat liberal to me, and I do not appreciate him referring to God as "she.")
- "Heresies in the Early Church," *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Vol 3* (Rose Publishing, 2014), pp230-231.
- "How to Read John" Parts 1 and 2, by The Bible Project, via rightnowmedia.org, accessed 2/4/2017.
- "John, week 2, John 1:1-5" and John, week 5, John 1:14-18" lessons from John series in youthbiblelessons.org, as of 2/4/2017.
- John Piper, "Jesus the Son of God, the Son of Mary" sermon, Gospel Coalition Conference 2013, via rightnowmedia.org, accessed 2/4/2017.
- John Piper, "John 1:14", Parts 1 and 2, Look at the Book (Desiring God, 2014), via desiringgod.org, accessed 2/4/2017.
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- "The Trinity," *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps, & Timelines, Expanded Edition* (Rose Publishing, 2005).