

Home Formation- Who is Jesus and Why is He Important

READ:

Jesus is what the entire Christian faith is based on. It's important to know about him and his life and it's also important to KNOW him.

Answer: What are some of the things that you know about Jesus? Who is Jesus? Why is he important?

Why did God become man? Why was Jesus born into this world?

- I) Reconcile us with the Father
 - a. After the fall our sin divides us from God
 - b. Jesus' life death and resurrection restores our relationship w God
- II) So we would know God loves us
 - a. Jesus came like you and me (even though he was God); humble, poor, normal
 - b. He sacrificed his 'throne in Heaven to show us how much God loves us
 - i. Example w/ developing country, how would you act that showed loved vs not?
- III) So we would have a model of holiness
 - a. Adam and Eve, through the fall forgot how to live as God wanted them to live
 - b. Jesus who was fully human came to show us how to love, how to know God, how to pray
- IV) Unite our human nature with God's divine nature
 - a. We cannot know God unless God reveals himself to us
 - b. We can know Jesus and through Jesus we can know God
 - c. One way we can continue to know Jesus is through the Sacraments-

Right now we are going to examine Jesus' life- who is Jesus? Who was Jesus as a man? What did his life look like? We use scripture to get to know what kind of person he was, that helps us know him personally through our prayer.

Look up the scripture, read the reflection and answer the questions on a separate piece of paper.

- 1) Read: Luke 2: 4-7

Jesus came into the world the same way that we did. His mother gave birth to him and he was raised by people who loved him. While he was fully and completely human, he was also fully and completely God.

Question: what do you think Mary & Joseph thought about Jesus? Do you think they knew that he was God?

- 2) Mark 1: 9-11

Jesus grows up. He lives a completely normal, ordinary life for 30 years! 30 years! During this time he was learning, he was developing a relationship w/ God his Father and he was living a human life.

After learning of his cousin John's ministry he went to him to be baptized. It was here at this moment that the Father spoke from the heavens and identified Jesus as His son.

Question: what do you think John the Baptist thought when he heard God speak about Jesus? What do you think Jesus thought?

3) Luke4: 14-15

After Jesus was baptized he went into the desert, he basically had an extended period of time for prayer. The devil tempted him in many ways but it was during this time that God the Father was preparing Jesus for his ministry and his mission on earth. After he finished his time in the dessert, his mission began and he started to teach and preach about God the father.

Question: when in the dessert Jesus was tempted. What do you think God the Father might have been saying to Jesus during that difficult time to prepare him for his upcoming ministry?

4) Mk 14: 22-24

Jesus performs his most significant miracle of all time for the first time in this passage. In this "Last Supper" Jesus takes ordinary bread and wine, he gives thanks to God the Father and through the power of the Holy Spirit, transforms the bread and wine into his own body and blood. This is not something the Apostles understood but they ate and drank his body and blood, thus partaking in the first Mass.

Question: why do you think we receive Jesus' body and blood at Mass?

5) John 19: 16-19

Jesus' ministry continued for 3 years. Just three years. During that 3 yrs he obtained numerous followers and friends. He also created many enemies. Jesus told it how it was. He did not condone sinful behavior. He taught love and forgiveness and challenged the people to do the same. This created many enemies. People did not want to change their lifestyle. The only way they could make Jesus stop, was to end his life. So they did.

Question: when have you ever been wrongly accused for something you didn't do? or persecuted for doing what was right? How did that make you feel?

6) Luke23: 44-46

God the Son existed since the beginning of time. All was created through him. He became human as Jesus Christ. He lived a sinless life. He showed us how we are called to live. He loved us more than we are capable of knowing. He loved us so much that he allowed himself to be brutally tortured and killed. For our sake.

Question: How do you think God the Father felt watching his son die?

7) Mt 28: 1-9

Let's be honest- Batman has nothing on Jesus. After dying, after being tortured and killed. He went down into the depths of hell and defeated death. He rose and took all those who had died before him

with him into Heaven. He restored our relationship with God, the relationship that was broken by Adam and Eve in original sin. Jesus destroyed death!

Question: what do you think happened during the time between when Jesus died and when he rose?

Answer the Following:

- 1) Who is Jesus to you? How would you describe him? (make a list)
- 2) Do you attend Mass weekly? Is that important to you?
- 3) How can you get to know Jesus more on a personal level?
- 4) What was most surprising to you about the scripture passages you read?