

Name: _____

Date Due: 11/30/2025 _____

SESSION #6: JESUS CHRIST



Please read the provided material and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Please turn your work into Matt Jennerson or Mark Vallone before the due date.

- 1** Using one of His titles, explain why Jesus is more than a great historical figure and name one practical way you should treat Him differently because of that.

- 2** Choose one title of Jesus and give a concrete example of how that title matters in everyday life.

- 3** In your own words, explain why only Jesus (true God and true man) can save us from sin, not just inspire us to be better.

- 4** If a friend says, "All religions are the same; any path saves," write a respectful 1-2 sentence reply that states the Christian belief from Acts 4:12.

- 5** List two specific Catholic practices (mass, prayer, confession, etc) and explain how each action shows belief that Jesus is Lord, not just a good example.

TEACHING GUIDE 15 min

Consider opening the Proclaim by playing the “One Solitary Life” video referenced in the Resources section.

Main Point 1:

Though Jesus taught about morality, spoke about God, and desired justice for all people, He is more than just a teacher, prophet, or good model He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- Throughout history, we have recognized greatness by what people do. Whether they are athletic superstars who amaze us with their talent, larger-than-life political or social figures who have shaped the course of history, or performers who captivate and inspire us — we often associate greatness with the activity of someone’s life and the impact they have.
- Sometimes people are tempted to lump Jesus in a category with all the other “greats” from history. They admire what He did with His life and the impact He had, but at the end of the day, He is not that different from other figures who altered the course of history.
- Is this a fair assessment of who Jesus was? Like other prophets from the Bible, He was concerned with how people lived and advocated for righteousness and loving one’s neighbor. Like other teachers, He taught about God’s law and plan for humanity. He cared for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized, often challenging the status quo. Is He just like other good men from history, or is there something different about Him? (**Going Deeper #1: “Peter’s Confession”**)

CATECHISM

Read the totality of **CCC 423**. Project a shortened version such as the following:

“We believe and confess that Jesus of Nazareth, born a Jew of a daughter of Israel...is the eternal Son of God made man. He ‘came from God’, ‘descended from heaven’, and ‘came in the flesh’...And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.”

- Jesus is God in the flesh. This belief separates Christianity from every other world religion. God came to earth and became man. Jesus is not just a great man; He is God Himself.

- When explaining who Jesus is and what makes Him unique, the Catechism looks at four titles of Jesus. Following the Catechism, let's break open the different titles of Jesus. **(CCC 430-455)**
- Jesus: The name Jesus means "God saves" in Hebrew. This title is an expression of Jesus' identity and His mission. He is God's salvation in the flesh. Through His life, Death, and Resurrection, God's work to save human beings from sin is accomplished. There is no salvation apart from the name of Jesus. **(CCC 430-435)**
- Christ: Christ is the Greek word used to translate the Hebrew title Messiah, which means "anointed one." In the Old Testament, God promised His people a Messiah who would come and bring restoration to His people. Anointed with the Holy Spirit and sent by God the Father, Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise. **(CCC 436-440)**
- Son of God: In the Old Testament, the title son of God was used for certain kings and angels. It denoted a special relationship to God which implied a sort of adoption by Him. In Jesus, this title takes on a new meaning. It unveils the unique and eternal relationship of Jesus to God the Father. He is God's only beloved Son and shares the same divine nature as God the Father. This belief was the center of the faith that the apostles proclaimed boldly to the world and continues to be the foundation of the Church's faith today. **(CCC 441-445)**
- Lord: The title Lord is used as a name for God in the Old Testament. By applying it to Jesus, the early disciples and the Church saw in Jesus the same sovereignty and power that made God the Lord. Jesus had power over nature, illness, sin, the devil, and even death. The power, honor, and glory due to God the Father are due also to Jesus. As our Lord, He deserves our respect, honor, trust, and fidelity. **(CCC 446-451)**

Main Point 2:
Jesus is true God and true man.
He is God's superabundant response to the Fall
and the only way we attain eternal life.

- Jesus' titles help us understand who He is. He is not just another great person from history. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- In the Fall, human beings chose to disobey God. By transgressing His command and turning away from Him, we turned away from our greatest good. Wounded by sin and subject to death, we have no capacity to save ourselves.
- Jesus shows us that God's response to the Fall was not to abandon us, but to draw closer to us. He didn't cast us off as sinners, but He chose to come near and dwell among us.
- God desires to restore our relationship with Him, and He did this by doing what we could not do for ourselves. By becoming human, Jesus lived a perfect human life and offered Himself as a sacrifice for

our sins. By the grace and merits of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, He opened for us the path to a relationship with God and life with Him forever in heaven. **(CCC 602-603)**

- This is only possible because Jesus is God in the flesh. When we say that he was just a good teacher, a prophet, or someone who cared for the poor, we greatly undervalue who Jesus is and what he did for us. All of those things are beautiful and true, but they pale in comparison to His identity as God.
- One of the early Church Fathers summarized Jesus' mission with a simple but profound phrase, "God became man so that man might become God." This is what God desires for us. He wants us to share His very life with us. He wants us to experience deeply His goodness, holiness, and love. **(CCC 460)**
- Jesus came to us as God, and He is the only way that we can make it back to God.

SCRIPTURE

Project and read **Acts 4:12** or invite a leadership teen to read it.

- When preaching to the crowds after the Resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, St. Peter assured them that Jesus was the only source of salvation. Apart from Him, there is no other way. **(Going Deeper #2: "What About Other Religions?")**
- Jesus alone fulfills God's promise of redemption. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised His people that He would save and restore them and that He would send a savior and Messiah who would right what was made wrong by sin. Jesus fulfills those prophecies and promises beyond all expectations. God's people expected Him to fulfill His promise; they never anticipated that He would do it by becoming one of them. **(CCC 422)**

Main Point 3:

**By clinging to Jesus and the Church He established,
we can experience the salvation and redemption He won for us.**

- If Jesus is different from all the other "greats" of history, that means we have to respond to Him differently. We can't just passively accept the Church's claims about His identity. If He is God in the flesh, it changes everything.
- Through the Church, Jesus invites us to be His disciples. To be a disciple means that we allow Him to be our master and teacher, we listen to His word, follow His commands, and try to model our lives after His own.

- The titles of Jesus help unpack His identity. They also help us understand who He desires to be for us. When we live as His disciples, we experience the truth that Jesus desires to save us from our sins and grant us salvation. In His name, we have the power to overcome temptation and live in freedom as children of God. What does this salvation and redemption look like on a practical level? **(CCC 1708-1709)**
- It means that I can find peace in the Lord of the Universe who gave His life for me. Whatever is going on in my life, whether it's an overwhelming school schedule, navigating a broken family life, or just the weight of responsibility I feel every day, God is in it with me and His hand guides me always.
- It means that my deepest identity is as a son or daughter of God. My accomplishments, relationships, passions, and failures do not ultimately define who I am. I am God's child. Nothing can change that, and nothing else can satisfy in the same way. As life changes and I take on new roles and relationships, that reality remains a constant rock on which I build my life.
- It means that Jesus desires to save me from my sins. Whatever I am struggling with — pornography, impatience, pride, vanity, self-hate — there is salvation in Jesus' name. Though I may still struggle, I can call upon Jesus and trust that His grace and mercy are always available to me. I am never alone and never trapped forever. Through the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I can experience His mercy and grace powerfully.
- It means that the evil and injustice in the world will one day be abolished because God's Messiah will right what is wrong and mend what is broken. In Him and through His Spirit, I have the courage to face any situation and can live in the power of His victory.
- Knowing who Jesus is is a prerequisite to knowing what He wants to be for us. Jesus isn't just interested in teaching about God or telling us how to live. He wants to make us like Himself and invite us to share in His divine life. Anything less than that is an insult.
- Imagine that the best baker in the world wants to make you a decadent chocolate cake. They spend hours refining every element, ensuring it is baked perfectly and the flavors are all on point, and decorating it with precision. Then, when they give you the cake, you say you want a single Walmart off-brand chocolate chip instead. How insulting!
- This is similar to what we do to Jesus when we believe He is just another historical figure who can be a good example for us. We greatly undervalue what He is offering us.
- Jesus shows us the path to true fulfillment. He unveils who we are to ourselves. He promises us eternal life with God. He gives us Himself entirely in the Eucharist. He offers redemption from sin and a life lived in the light of God's presence. Don't settle for anything less than that by lumping Him in with all the other impactful people from history.
- In response to who He is, let's strive to live as His disciples. Let's give Him everything we have. Let's worship Him for who He is — the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.