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LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Vocabulary

divine: having to do with God

Original Sin: the first sin committed by Adam and Eve. We inherit Original Sin from Adam and Eve, which means that we are conceived and born without grace.

grace: a free gift from God in which He shares His divine life and friendship with us

redeem: to save

Concepts of Faith

Who is Jesus?

The second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who became man.

Why did God the Son become man?

God the Son became man to teach us who we are and to show us how we should act as images of God. He became man to return God the Father's love and to help us return God's love.

Dig deeper with YOUCAT

Read more about why God became man by reading YOUCAT 7.

Who Is Jesus?

In the following Bible story, Jesus asks His disciples who they think He is.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesare'a Philp'pi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Eli'jah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:13–16)

Jesus Has a Divine Nature

Jesus is the Son of the living God. In other words, Jesus is God the Son. Jesus is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Because Jesus is God, He has a divine nature. Divine means anything to do with God. And, when we talk about someone's nature, we mean "what that person is and what that person can do".

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But Jesus is also the Son of Man. In other words, Jesus is also a man. Jesus has a human nature. Jesus is a human being, just as we are human beings. Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ was born in a stable in Bethlehem, and Mary of Nazareth was His Mother.

How do we know that Jesus is God the Son and has a divine nature? There are many ways. One of the ways is the witness given by God the Father at Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River. At Jesus' baptism, God the Father spoke from Heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). God the Father makes it clear that Jesus is God the Son.

We know that Jesus is God the Son and has a divine nature because He rose from the dead. No one else has ever died and then risen from the dead by his own power. Jesus is the only one! The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead shows us that He is God the Son and has power beyond that of a human being.



Jesus Has a Human Nature

How do we know that Jesus is a human being and has a human nature? Jesus experienced many of the same things that we experience. Jesus was a baby as we were. He needed to learn to walk, to talk, to read, and to write. Jesus grew up in a family and learned many things from His parents. Mary, His Mother, and Joseph, His father on earth, taught Him to pray and to worship God the Father. Joseph taught Jesus to be a carpenter. Jesus had chores to do at home for His Mother. He liked to be with His friends.

Jesus also had feelings and emotions like us. He laughed, cried, worried, got hurt, and was tempted. Like us, Jesus could think and choose. He was like us in every way but sin. Jesus never sinned.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Why Did God Become Man?

Jesus is God the Son, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. As God, Jesus has a divine nature. But Jesus is also a man, and as a man, He has a human nature. So Jesus is both God and man. He is both divine and human.

But why did God become man? To answer this question we must discuss the story of Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve were the first human beings created by God. They were created with sound minds and strong wills. There was no conflict between their minds and wills and their bodies. They had grace and were friends with God.

But Adam and Eve sinned by choosing to accept the devil's lies and by turning away from God's love. This first sin was called Original Sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, they hurt God.

Imagine if someone offered you everything you wanted, on the condition that you would leave your parents and live with that person. Imagine that the person was lying to you. If your parents knew that the person was lying to you, and if you chose to leave your parents anyway, they would probably be hurt and sad.

In a similar way, God was hurt when Adam and Eve did not return His love and turned away from Him.

Grace

When they sinned, Adam and Eve also lost grace. They lost their friendship and close relationship with God for themselves and for us. We inherit Original Sin from Adam and Eve. This means that we are conceived and born without grace, which is God's life in us. Without grace, we cannot love God here on earth or live with Him in Heaven.

Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, our minds are darkened and our wills are weakened. Furthermore, because of the sin of our first parents, there is a conflict between our minds and wills and our bodies. Our minds tell us what we should choose, but our bodies seem to tell us to choose something else.

For example, you might feel like having a piece of candy. If it is close to dinnertime, you know that you are not supposed to eat candy before dinner. You also know that candy can cause cavities, and you know that you had two cavities last month when you went for a dental checkup. You also learned last week in school that candy is not the most nutritious food. But, in spite of all of this, you want the candy, and your stomach is growling. If you choose to eat the candy, you have made a wrong choice. Sometimes we make wrong choices because our bodies' appetites influence us, and we do not choose to do what we should do.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

We have discussed Adam and Eve and their failure to return God's love. We have said that God was hurt by the sin of Adam and Eve. But despite being offended, God did not turn away from Adam and Eve and their descendants (us). God continued to love them.

God Sent a Redeemer

God the Father's love for us is so strong and merciful that He promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Redeemer for them and their descendants. God wanted to take away Original Sin in us. He wanted to take away some of the effects of Adam and Eve's sin for all human beings. God wanted to restore the friendship between Himself and human beings. God the Father loved us and wanted our love. He wanted to give us His grace so that we could share His life now on earth and someday in Heaven. He wanted to restore His grace to enlighten our minds and strengthen our wills. His grace would help us to overcome the conflict between our minds and wills and our bodies.

To take away Original Sin in us and to give us grace, God the Father sent God the Son into the world to redeem us. God the Son became man, and by His death on the Cross He took away Original Sin in us and gave us grace. In other words, God the Son became man to return God the Father's love, the love that Adam and Eve had refused to return. In addition, by giving us grace, Jesus, God the Son, helps us to return God's love. Jesus returned the Father's love and helps us to return God's love through His suffering and death on the Cross.

Jesus also became man to teach us who we are and to show us how to act. Jesus teaches us who we are and shows us how to act through His three offices of prophet, priest, and king. We will read about Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King in Lesson 8.



LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Review Questions

1. What are Jesus' two natures?

2. How did Jesus show us that He was divine?

3. How is Jesus like us?

4. Why did God the Son become man?

5. What is Original Sin in us?

6. In addition to inheriting Original Sin, what are the effects that we suffer because of Adam and Eve's sin?

7. Why did God the Father want to take away some of the effects of the sin of Adam and Eve for all human beings?

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Jesus' Human Nature Bible Activity

We know that Jesus has both a divine nature and a human nature. As a human being, Jesus experienced many of the same things that we do.

Directions: Listed below are some verses from the Bible that tell us about Jesus' human feelings and emotions. On the line following the Bible verse, write the feeling or emotion Jesus might have had at the time.

1. "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:35–36).

2. "Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsem'ane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I go over there and pray.' And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zeb'edee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.' And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt'" (Matthew 26:36–39).

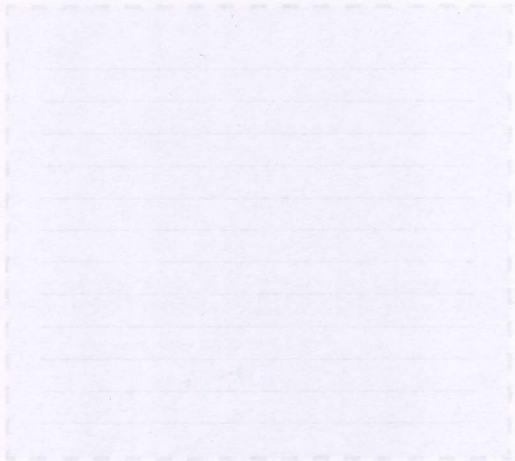
3. "And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them" (Mark 10:13–16).

4. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and behold, a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:13–17).

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5. "Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'" (John 11:32–36).

Directions: Write a message in the space below telling someone you love them and why. Write in some words that you will do for that person you love. Use the course of the pattern to help you.



LESSON 8: JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

Vocabulary

love: choosing freely to give ourselves to God and others

God's merciful love: a strong, unselfish love that brings good out of evil

prophet: someone who, through words and actions, gives witness to the truth about God

Concepts of Faith

How does Jesus teach us who we are and how we should act?

By acting as prophet, priest, and king.

What does Jesus as Prophet teach us?

Jesus as Prophet teaches us who we are—images of God.

What does Jesus as Priest show us?

Jesus as Priest shows us that we should offer sacrifices to God to show love for God, ourselves, and others.

What does Jesus as King show us?

Jesus as King shows us that we should exercise self-control and use the things of creation for the benefit of others.

Dig deeper with YOUCAT

Read more about what Jesus shows us through His kingly office by reading YOUCAT 436.

The Three “Offices” of Jesus

As we have learned, the reason Jesus came into the world included four parts: to teach us who we are, to show us how to act, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love. Jesus accomplished His mission to return God the Father's love and help us return God's love by dying on the Cross. Jesus teaches us who we are and shows us how to act by acting as prophet, priest, and king. Jesus holds the “offices” of prophet, priest, and king. By “office” we do not mean a room in an office building. Rather, we mean a position of responsibility. In the United States, for example, the president holds the highest public office. In the Church, the Pope holds the highest office of leadership. To hold an office is to have certain responsibilities.

LESSON 8: JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

Because He holds the offices of prophet, priest, and king, Jesus has certain responsibilities. In His prophetic office, Jesus teaches us who we are. In His priestly and kingly offices, He teaches us how to act. Through His priestly office, Jesus shows us how to love God, ourselves, and others by offering sacrifices to His Father. In His kingly office, He shows us how to exercise self-discipline in our lives and how to use material things for the good of others.

1. Jesus as Prophet

Jesus, God the Son, was sent by God the Father to teach the whole human race. By His teaching, Jesus exercises His office of prophet. Jesus came into the world to teach us who we are. Because Jesus is God the Son, what He teaches is true. What He teaches us about who God is and who we are must therefore be true. By learning who God is, we can know who we are, because we are images of God. So we need to listen to Jesus and believe Him if we are to discover who we are and what it means to be made in God's image.

Why did God the Father send Jesus to teach us the truth? At the beginning of the human race, Adam and Eve sinned by accepting the temptations of the devil; they accepted lies about God and about themselves from Satan. They chose not to trust in God. They turned away from Him and His truth.

When Adam and Eve accepted Satan's lies about God, they hurt themselves. Their minds were "darkened", and they found it difficult to know what is true and what is not true. The descendants of Adam and Eve have inherited darkened minds. As God's messenger, Jesus came into the world to teach human beings the truth and teach them that Satan had lied about God. Jesus came to lead human beings back to God, who is the Truth, and to help them see who they really are. Jesus enlightens our darkened minds.

When the devil tempted Adam and Eve, he told them three lies. When the devil tempted Jesus in the desert, he told Jesus three similar lies. Adam and Eve accepted the devil's lies, but Jesus rejected Satan's lies. By comparing Adam and Eve's responses to the temptations of the devil with Jesus' responses, we can better see the truth that Jesus teaches us about God and ourselves.

The first lie that the devil told Adam and Eve was that no harm would come to them if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had told them that they would surely die if they ate the fruit of this tree. In effect, the devil was telling Adam and Eve that God had lied to them about the tree,



LESSON 8: JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

and that no harm would come to them if they ate its fruit. Adam and Eve chose to believe the devil instead of God.

Similarly, in Matthew 4:5–6, we read how the devil tempted Jesus to put God the Father to a test, to see if He had been telling the truth.

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you’, and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” (Matthew 4:5–7)

The devil was saying: “Will God the Father really send His angels to protect You if You jump—or will You fall to Your death? Is God the Father lying to You?”

Would you jump off a roof because somebody told you you would not get hurt? No. Jesus didn’t jump either, but not because He feared that God the Father wouldn’t protect Him. Jesus knew that God the Father would protect Him. But more important was the fact that Jesus knew that God should not be put to a test. God should not be tested, because He does not lie. To test God would imply that sometimes God does lie. But Jesus teaches us the truth! God always tells the truth, and we should believe Him, not test Him.

The second lie that Satan told Adam and Eve was that God had lied to them and that they should not worship Him. Satan wanted them to worship him instead of worshipping God. He wanted them to be his followers, not God’s. They chose to believe the devil rather than God.

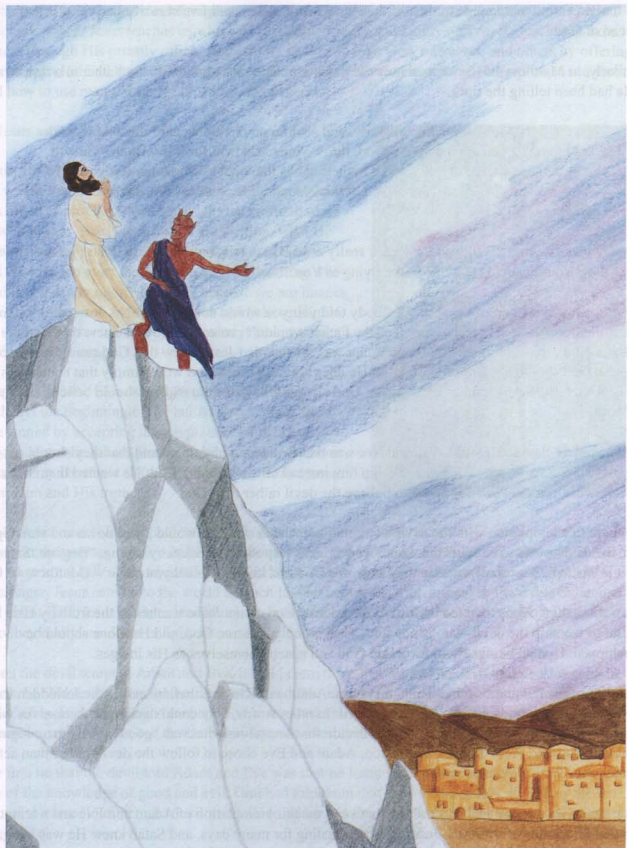
Compare that temptation with the devil’s temptation of Jesus: if Jesus would kneel down and worship him, the devil would give Jesus the whole world. Jesus responded to Satan by saying, “Begone, Satan! for it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” (Matthew 4:10).

Satan was asking Jesus to give him the worship due to God alone. Jesus teaches us the truth by His refusal to worship the devil, who is not God. There is only one true God, and He alone should be worshipped. Human beings should worship God and accept themselves as His images.

The third of the temptations that Satan put before Adam and Eve was that, by eating the forbidden fruit, they would be like gods, knowing good and evil. In other words, they could decide for themselves what was right and what was wrong. They could decide for themselves what was “good” for them and ignore what God had told them. For this reason too, Adam and Eve chose to follow the devil, rather than act as images of God.

Once again, we can see a close similarity between the third temptation of Adam and Eve and a temptation that Satan put before Jesus. Jesus had been fasting for many days, and Satan knew He was hungry.

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So he suggested that Jesus turn some stones into bread. But Jesus knew that God the Father made stones to be stones and not bread. The devil wanted Jesus to reject the way God the Father made things. The devil tempted Jesus to choose to change things to satisfy Himself. The devil wanted Jesus to choose for Himself what things are right and what things are wrong. But Jesus met this temptation in the same way as the others, by stating the truth: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Jesus refused to turn stones into bread. Jesus accepted God and the way that God made things. Jesus teaches us that only God defines what is right and wrong. As images of God, we should accept the way God has defined right and wrong and not try to change them.

By rejecting Satan’s temptations, Jesus exercises His prophetic office and teaches us that God is truthful and that we should believe God, worship God, and accept God. Through His prophetic office, Jesus always teaches us the truth about God and about ourselves as images of God.

2. Jesus as Priest

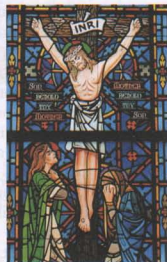
Jesus was a priest, but not exactly the same as the ordained priests that we know. Through His priestly office, Jesus, God the Son, shows us how to act by loving God the Father and us. Jesus offered sacrifices to God to show love for God and us. In imitation of Jesus, we should offer sacrifices to show love for God, ourselves, and others. Love means that we choose freely to give ourselves to God and others.

The love that Jesus showed was a merciful love. Merciful love brings good out of evil. It is a very unselfish, self-sacrificing, and strong love. The best example of merciful love is the love that Jesus showed us when He chose to die on the Cross to save us. Jesus loves us in a merciful way by bringing the good of our Salvation out of the evil of His death on the Cross.

We should show merciful love toward others, too. We probably won’t have to die for someone, but our love should be unselfish, self-sacrificing, and giving. We should try to love mercifully by bringing good out of evil.

For example, when we forgive someone who has hurt us, we are loving mercifully. We are bringing the good of forgiveness out of the evil of the hurt.

Jesus also showed us through His death on the Cross how we should love God the Father. Adam and Eve refused to return God’s love, and they offended God. But, on the Cross, Jesus returned the Father’s love and made up for the hurt caused by Adam and Eve. From the evil of Adam and Eve’s sin, Jesus brings good. By giving His life to the Father on the Cross, Jesus returns God’s love and makes up for the hurt caused by Adam and Eve’s sin.



LESSON 8: JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

We should love God, too. We show our love for God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we sin, we hurt God. However, when we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and promise to sin no more, we, with Jesus' help, make up for the hurt we have caused God. Out of the evil of sin, we, with the help of Jesus, bring good: we make up for the hurt we have caused God.

Through His priestly office, Jesus shows us how to love. Jesus offered sacrifices to God to show love for God and us. He loves God the Father and others in a merciful way. We should offer sacrifices to God to show love for God, ourselves, and others. We should love God and love others in a merciful way, too.

3. Jesus as King

Jesus is a king. Through His kingly office, Jesus shows us how to act. He shows us how to govern our emotions, appetites, and feelings. In other words, Jesus shows us how to exercise self-discipline. There are many times when Jesus showed us kingly self-discipline. For example, when Jesus stood before Pilate, Jesus was in a fearful situation. He knew that if He told Pilate the truth, Pilate would have Him crucified. Yet He told the truth and did not give in to fear. Also, after fasting for forty days, Jesus was tempted by the devil to change stones into bread to satisfy His hunger. However because of His kingly self-discipline, He did not change stones into bread. Finally, Jesus was tempted to free Himself from the pain He was feeling on the Cross. But, because of His kingly self-discipline, He did not. Jesus, God the Son, used self-discipline in His life on earth and shows us how to use self-discipline in our lives. For example, we may be afraid to tell the truth about something. But we should think about how Jesus acted and choose to do as He did and tell the truth. We may want to give up doing our math assignment because it is taking too much time, and we want to play. If we think how Jesus used His self-discipline and didn't give up, we will know how to act and not give up.

Self-discipline is difficult, and sometimes we fail to discipline ourselves, and we do not act as images of God. Because self-discipline is hard, and because we sometimes fail to exercise self-discipline, some people think we are no good and that our bodies, along with our emotions, appetites, and feelings, are no good. But God the Son became man to show us that we are good and that our bodies are good, despite the fact that we must exercise self-discipline.

Here are two stories from the New Testament that can show us something about the goodness of the human body.

A man named Simon (not Simon Peter, the Apostle) invited Jesus to dine with him. When Jesus arrived, He took His place at the table. A sinful woman in the city had learned that Jesus was at Simon's house for dinner. Bringing a jar of ointment with her, she went into Simon's house and stood by Jesus. Weeping, she washed His feet with her tears. Then she dried them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

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You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many are forgiven; hence, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” (Based on Luke 7:36–47.)

Clearly, Jesus approved of this woman’s actions, and of the custom of providing for the needs of guests. One thing this incident from the life of Jesus teaches us is that the human body is good and worthy of respect. Another example of this teaching can be seen in the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Lazarus lived with his sisters, Martha and Mary, in the small village of Bethany, in Judea. Lazarus, Martha, and Mary were friends of Jesus. One day, Lazarus fell sick. His sisters feared he would die, so they sent word to Jesus, asking Him to come to Lazarus: “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” When He received the message, Jesus said to His disciples, “This illness is not unto death; but it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it.” After two days had passed, Jesus said, “Let us go into Judea again.”

Before Jesus and His disciples arrived at Bethany, Lazarus died. And when they arrived, Martha came to Jesus and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” She and those with her began to weep, and Jesus was very upset to see them so sorrowful. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They took him to the tomb where the

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body of Lazarus was buried. When they arrived, Jesus also wept. Then he asked that the stone covering the entrance to the tomb be rolled aside. He raised his eyes to Heaven and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that you sent me." When he said this in a loud voice, he called, "Lazarus, come out." Lazarus came out of the tomb alive. Jesus restored life to Lazarus' body showing, among other things, that the body is good. (Based on John 11:1-44.)

When Jesus healed some people and raised others from the dead, He showed that the human body is good and worthy of respect. As images of God, we should have a similar respect for our own bodies and the bodies of others.

As king, Jesus shows us how to act by exercising self-discipline. As king, Jesus also shows us how to act by using material things for the benefit of others.

As God the Son, Jesus has full control over all the things of the earth, but He always uses them well, that is, for the good of human beings. We can see this in the following story.

One day Jesus was on the lake in a boat with His disciples. While in the boat, Jesus fell asleep. While Jesus was sleeping, a terrible storm blew in, and the disciples became frightened. Jesus awoke, and He found that the disciples were frightened, so He commanded the winds to be silent. (Based on Luke 8:22-25.)

Jesus used His power over nature to take away the fear of those He loved.

Jesus always uses things for the benefit of others. The best example of the use of things for our benefit was Jesus' use of bread and wine for the Eucharist, our Bread of Life. As images of God, we should follow Jesus' example and use things for the benefit of others.

Through His prophetic office, Jesus teaches us who we are. Through His priestly and kingly offices, He shows us how to act. Through His priestly office, Jesus shows us how to love. Through His kingly office, Jesus shows us how to exercise self-discipline in our lives and how to use material things for the good of others.



LESSON 8: JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

Review Questions

1. What mission did Jesus have on earth?

2. How did Jesus as Prophet help us to see that God is Truth?

3. What are some of the truths that Jesus showed us by rejecting the devil's lies?

4. As priest, Jesus shows us how to act by loving us with a strong, self-sacrificing, and unselfish love that brings good out of evil. What is this love?

5. Why was Jesus as King able to accept all things that happened to Him on earth without giving in to fear?

6. What does Jesus show us about our bodies in the Scripture stories about the woman who washed His feet with her tears and about raising Lazarus from the dead?

7. What is the best example of Jesus' use of things for the benefit of others?

LESSON 8: JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

Prophet, Priest, King

Jesus, God the Son, acts as a prophet, a priest, and a king. As images of God, we should act as prophets, priests, and kings, too. As you read the following story, find examples of how the boys acted as prophets, priests, and kings.

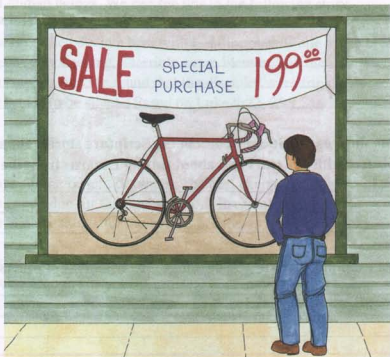
Story of Faith

Telling the Truth

Troy and Manuel were Steve's close friends. They often got together after school, did homework together, and talked about sports. Steve had seen a ten-speed bike in the window of a local store. He had told his friends that someday he would have that bike. He asked his parents if they could buy it for him as a birthday present. But the price was more than they could afford. They gave him some money for his birthday, but the rest he had to earn himself. He was disappointed, but instead of complaining, he got jobs mowing neighbors' lawns.

When he had enough money, Steve went to the store and bought the bike. Troy and Manuel knew that Steve had worked hard that summer to earn enough to pay for it. But when Steve rode the bike to school that fall, one of his classmates started the rumor that Steve had probably stolen the bike. "His family couldn't afford to buy him a bike like that", said the classmate.

When Troy and Manuel heard this rumor, they spoke up and told the truth. They said that Steve had worked hard that summer to earn the money for the bike.



LESSON 8: JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

Story Reflection Activity

Which of the people in this story acted as prophets, priests, or kings? (Give reasons for your answers.)
