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The Image of God Series

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LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

LESSON FOCUS

Emphasis

Jesus is God the Son, Jesus is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Because Jesus is God, He has a divine nature. Jesus is also a man. So Jesus also has a human nature. Jesus showed in many ways that He was both divine and human—both God and man.

Jesus, God the Son, became man to take away Original Sin in us and to give us grace. In other words, Jesus came to return God the Father's love (the love rejected by Adam and Eve) and to help us return God's love. Jesus returned God the Father's love and helps us to return God's love through His death on the Cross. Jesus, God the Son, also became man to teach us who we are (images of God) and to show us how to act (as images of God).

Correspondence to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Baptism of Jesus: CCC 535-37, 565

Christ: at the heart of catechesis: CCC 426-29

Consequences of Original Sin: CCC 55-58, 399-400, 402-9, 416-19

Fall of man: CCC 385-90, 413

Good news: God has sent His son: CCC 422-29

Grace: CCC 1996-2005, 2021-24

Jesus: the only Son of God: CCC 441-45, 454

Jesus as true God and true man: CCC 464-70, 480-83

Jesus' human nature: CCC 470-78, 482

Jesus' mission of Salvation: CCC 456-60

John: forerunner, prophet, and baptizer: CCC 523, 717-20

Mercy and sin: CCC 1846-48

Original Sin: CCC 388-90, 396-401, 415

Promise of a Redeemer: CCC 410-12, 420-21

Why the Son of God became Flesh: CCC 456-60

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.

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

Dig deeper with YOUCAT

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

LESSON PRESENTATION

Preparation

Create a sacred space for students to gather for prayer. Pray together by sharing words and phrases that describe Jesus—God the Son, Messiah, Savior, both God and man, etc. The materials needed for this lesson are Bibles and religion journals.

Proclamation

Jesus is true God and true man.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Vocabulary

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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 reach us who we are and to show us how we should act as 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 Caesarea's Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and still others say 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

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

LESSON EXPLANATION

Read and discuss the vocabulary words and the Concepts of Faith with the students.

Begin the lesson by having the students read pp. 41–42 in the textbook and look at the pictures of Jesus on p. 42.

Journal Entry

Write the following question on the board: “Who is Jesus?”

Have the students open their religion journals. Give them three minutes to make a list of words or phrases that answer the question.

List the students’ answers on the board.

Have the students read and discuss the “Who Is Jesus?” section on p. 41 in the textbook.

Have the students read and discuss the “Jesus Has a Divine Nature” section on pp. 41–42 in the textbook.

Ask: What are other examples from Jesus’ life that show that He is God the Son and has a divine nature? *Jesus multiplied loaves and fish to feed five thousand people; Jesus walked on the water; Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead; etc.*

Have the students read and discuss the “Jesus Has a Human Nature” section on p. 42 of the textbook.

Ask: What are examples from Jesus’ life that show that He is a human being and has a human nature? *Jesus suffered and died; He wept over His friend’s death; Jesus slept; He was thirsty on the Cross; He was tired; etc.*

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

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 by looking at the words that Jesus spoke. One day Jesus spoke to His Father and said, “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 eat, and to sleep. Jesus had a Mother, Mary, and a Father, God the Father. Joseph taught Jesus to be a carpenter. Jesus had chosen 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.

Have the students read and discuss the "Why Did God Become Man?" section on p. 43 in the textbook.

Ask: Why did God the Son become man? To teach us who we are and to show us how we should act as images of God, to return God the Father's love, and to help us return God's love.

How did Jesus teach/show us how to act as images of God? By what He taught His Apostles and by how He treated other people.

How did Jesus return God the Father's love? By doing the Father's will and dying on the Cross.

How do we return God's love? By following the Commandments, by making the right choices, by praying, etc.

What would happen to a friendship if one friend was being mean to the other friend and refused to love the other friend? The friendship would be broken.

In the same way, Adam and Eve chose not to love God, and they broke their friendship with Him.

Have the students read and discuss the "Grace" section on pp. 43-44.

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 something you wanted, but the condition was you would leave your parents and live with that person. Imagine that the person was lying to you. If your parents know 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, 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. 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. You are tempted to eat the candy because your body's appetite influences us, and we do not choose to do what we should do.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Have the students read and discuss the "God Sent a Redeemer" section on p. 44.

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 disappointed in Adam and Eve. He said, "I 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 in us. He wanted to give us a chance to return His love to Him. He wanted 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. We wanted to restore His love and enlighten our minds and strengthen our wills. His grace and help would be able 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 a Redeemer to earth. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth, 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 lost. He came to earth to give us grace and to take away Original Sin. So, he is our human God, the one who gave us grace and helped us to return God's love through His suffering and death on the Cross.

Jesus also became man to teach us when 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.



Have the students complete the Review Questions on p. 45 in the textbook.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Review Questions

1. What are Jesus' two natures?
Jesus has a divine nature and human nature.
2. How did Jesus show us that He was divine?
He performed miracles. He rose from the dead. He walked on water, etc.
3. How is Jesus like us?
He experienced all of the things we do, except sin. Jesus needed to learn the things we do. He felt many of the emotions we do. He can think and choose, etc.
4. Why did God the Son become man?
To teach us who we are, to show us how to act, to return God the Father's love, and to help us to return God's love.
5. What is Original Sin in us?
Original Sin in us means that we are conceived and born without grace.
6. In addition to inheriting Original Sin, what are the effects that we suffer because of Adam and Eve's sin?
Without grace we cannot love God and live with God in Heaven; we have darkened minds and weakened wills; and there is a conflict between our minds and wills and our bodies.
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?
He wanted to because of His strong and merciful love for us.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

Have the students read and complete the "Jesus' Human Nature Bible Activity" on pp. 46-47 in the textbook.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Jesus' Human Nature Bible Activity

We know that Jesus had 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 actions. 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 Gethsemane, 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 Zebedee, he began to go a little farther, and 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 why do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when he was baptized, he went up out of 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).

Discuss their answers in class. Accept all reasonable answers.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Have the students read and complete the "Coupon of Love Activity" on p. 49 in the textbook.

LESSON 7: GOD THE SON BECAME MAN

Coupon of Love

God the Father showed us His great and merciful love when He sent His Son to become man to rid us of our sins and to give us eternal life. One way we return God's love is by loving others, because they are made in His image. Telling or showing people we love them is very important.

Directions: Write a message in the coupon below telling someone you love and why. Write its name and date you fill it out for them (person you love). Give the coupon to the person in need.

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CELEBRATION

Prayer

Read Mark 10:13–16 to the students. Then have the students pray silently or offer a petition for someone they love.

Prayer for a child who is sick
God, our Father, I pray for _____.
Please help _____ get better.
I pray for _____.
Please help _____ get better.
I pray for _____.
Please help _____ get better.
I pray for _____.
Please help _____ get better.
I pray for _____.
Please help _____ get better.