

## ***An Activity for Preteens : Jesus Christ as Both God and Man (Divine and Human)***

For the Teacher: To help preteens understand that Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, was also truly human, here's an activity which traces both His humanity and His divinity through several passages from the Gospel of Saint Luke. This is a good activity for the period of the Feast of the Nativity, as we celebrate His Incarnation—the divine Son of God coming in the flesh.

Materials to prep before class: 24 slips of paper, pen or marker, small basket or other container to hold the slips, enough Bibles to share. (All passages are from the Gospel of Saint Luke.)

### **Copy out these passages showing Jesus Christ's humanity on 12 separate slips:**

- And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger (2:7)
- They brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (2: 22)
- Then he went down with them to Nazareth, and was obedient to them (2: 51)
- Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work (3: 23)
- One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table (7: 36)
- Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God (8: 1)
- After this the Lord appointed seventy others (10: 1)
- Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home (10: 38)
- Jesus went through one village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem (13: 22)
- Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him (15: 1)
- As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it (19: 41)
- When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him (22: 14)

### **Copy out these passages showing Jesus Christ's divinity on 12 separate slips:**

- "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High" (1: 32)
- And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased" (3: 22)
- "For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and out they come!" (4: 36)
- But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (5: 8-9)

- Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do choose. Be made clean.” Immediately the leprosy left him (5: 13)
- And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, “Child, get up!” Her spirit returned and she got up at once (8: 54-55)
- And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white (9:29)
- Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed (11: 14)
- She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God (13: 11b, 13)
- Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me” (22: 34)
- “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (24: 5b)
- While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven (24: 51)

1. In class, first ask: *In what ways does the Bible show us Jesus Christ as a true human being?* (He sleeps, eats, visits friends, experiences emotion.)
  2. Then ask: *How do we see Him in His divinity, the Son of God?* (He heals, forgives sins, works miracles, prophecies, is seen in glory.)
  3. Divide the class into two or three teams, with the same number on each team. (If you happen to have seven students, do the activity a few times, with one student playing first on one team and then on the other.)
  4. Have students stand together in teams, against one wall of the classroom. Put the slips of paper in a basket, and mix them around. Have a student from the first team draw and read a slip, then say whether the passage on the slip tells about Jesus’ humanity or His divinity. If correct, the reader crosses the room to the opposite wall.
  5. Do the same with a student from the next team. The winning team is the one that is first to get all its members across the room.
  6. After the activity, look up some of the Bible passages to see how they reflect Jesus’ humanity or divinity. For example, Jesus’ words to Peter in 22: 34 are a divine prophecy. Jesus’ obedience to his parents in 2: 51 is an example of his true humanity.
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