

Lesson 2

Jesus Christ, True Man

Bible Lesson: Luke 2:39-41, 51-52; John 4:3-29

Memory Verse: And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

Enrichment Memory Verse: But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. *Galatians 4:4-5*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The students will list some feelings Jesus had that show He was really human.
- ✦ The student will know that Jesus understands all our needs and problems and can help us. Because He was true Man, Jesus could take our place and die for our sins.
- ✦ The students will trust in Jesus as their Savior and Friend and seek His help in all their needs.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Large map of New Testament Holy Land showing route of Jesus from Judea to Galilee and major cities including Sychar. (There is a map in the student lesson book.)
- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 2, have

the students add onto last week's message the following: "born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the humanity of Jesus Christ. Thank God that His Son was willing to become man and share the weaknesses of our human nature, so that He might also take on infirmities and sins to save us.
2. Pray for each of your students throughout the week. Pray that they might be drawn by God's Spirit to His Word, that they might remember to study and share the lesson, and learn the catechism and Bible verse. As they study, pray that God may prepare their hearts for this week's lesson.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

Faithful Christians have been careful to confess that Jesus was fully and truly man. If Jesus was not like us, a man, how could He die? How could He be our substitute? But He was truly a man; He took on flesh, becoming like us (Rom. 8:3) and He humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:7-8). He was born without sin and lived a sinless life as the spotless lamb who took away the sin of the world just as John the Baptist pronounced when he saw Him (John 1:29).

This is why Christmas is celebrated with such joy and excitement. The Messiah has come in the flesh, born of the Virgin Mary. He became a man to be our substitute. He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it (Mt.

5:17) through His active obedience and submission to suffering and even death. We who live today are often obsessed with time. Are we going to be late? Did we come too early? What time is it? When we consider the incarnation we are told clearly that Jesus Christ came in the flesh exactly at the right time. As it says in Galatians 4:4-5,

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

As a man, the temptations and sufferings that Jesus endured were real (Heb. 2:14-18).

From the temptation in the desert to the suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ suffered for us. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin." What great comfort this provides for each of us as we go through various struggles and times of suffering. Our Savior knows what it is like to suffer. He had a body that functioned as ours do now. We hear at different times the Savior being tired and sleeping (Matthew 8:24) and also eating and drinking as do each of us to strengthen and sustain our physical bodies. These things would not have happened if He had not taken on flesh but He endured these things in our place. As we will see later Christ is described both as the priest making the sacrifice and the actual sacrifice with His body. He became a man to be our atoning sacrifice (Romans 5:9, Col. 1:20).

He took on flesh in order to identify with all of Adam and Eve's descendents being a propitiation for the sins of the whole world (I John 2:1-2). We confess in the Creed that Jesus humbled Himself in order to raise us up. So God took on flesh as the memory verse (John 1:14) makes clear. And to this day the Savior has flesh. He is the God-Man Resurrected as the firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:20-23). As man Jesus is our brother and substitute; God is the redeemer. Indeed all has been done for us.

B. Creed Study

In the meaning to the second article of the creed, Luther says that Jesus Christ is "true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary." When talking about the one man, Jesus Christ, it is important to keep His two natures (God and man) in perspective. He is Son of God and Son of Man, fully God and fully man, not more one than the other, but two natures in one.

The Bible texts today reveal Jesus' human nature and qualities. It is important that Jesus is "just like us," but we should also know why and what it means for us.

Once again, the catechism puts these Bible truths in perspective. Question 155 asks, "Why must the Son of God become true man?" He must be true man "in order that He might suffer and die for us." And question 156 asks, "Why must our Savior be true God?" Answer: "In order that His death and His blood might have everlasting power to atone for sin." It was necessary that Jesus be both God and man in order to save us from sin.

The Bible tells us that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time" (I Timothy 2:4-6). Jesus Himself made that clear, saying, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

And the psalmist says, "No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him--for the redemption of his soul is costly." (Psalm 49:7,8)

True Man--in Saving

While Jesus was true man and like us, He was also true God, and therefore different from us. For one thing, Jesus had no sin (John 8:46; I John 3:5). Adam and Eve sinned and brought sin into the world, and since then all have sinned (Romans 3:23; 5:12). Jesus was the "second Adam," the new and perfect man who did not sin. Whereas Adam disobeyed God and became a sinner, Jesus obeyed God and became our savior (Romans 5:19). Jesus became the perfect man that God intended Adam to be, and which we can now be "in Christ" (II Corinthians 5:17). Because Jesus was son of God and son of Man, He was in perfect communion with His Father in heaven. Jesus delighted in doing His Father's will; it was His food (John 4:32,34). His obedience shows us another difference between Jesus and sinful men. We are sinners, and we are born with rebellion in our hearts against God. Jesus was born without sin and there was no rebellion against God in Him. He was perfectly obedient, even unto death (Philippians 2:8). Another meaning for "true man" is "sinless man." A born-again child of God is "sinless" because he is "in Christ." That is justification--"the gracious act of God whereby He for Christ's sake acquits a repentant and believing sinner of his sin and guilt, and looks upon him, in Christ, as though he had never sinned." (catechism, #218) In Christ, true God and true man, we become what

God wanted us to be from the beginning. It was as a man that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried." Even though Jesus had done no wrong, committed no crime, and there was no sin in Him, He was also made the most guilty person that ever walked on earth. God made Him to be sin for us (II Corinthians 5:21). The guilt and punishment of all sin of all time was laid on Him (Isaiah 53:4-6). All the wrath of God against sin was thrown at Jesus on the cross, and He bore it all for us. So Jesus the man suffered and died. But because He was God, His death and His blood have power to atone for our sins.

True Man--in Living

The Bible texts give some details of the human experiences of Jesus. Luke describes the early childhood years, beginning with His circumcision and presentation in the temple (Luke 2:21ff). Jesus began life on earth as a helpless baby who had to be clothed and fed and watched by His parents, just like any other infant. The Scriptures give us only one brief glimpse into the early years of Jesus, when He goes with His parents to Jerusalem at age twelve (2:41-51). But in one brief verse (2:52) Luke summarizes what a "true man" ought to be. Jesus grew "mentally" (in wisdom). Jesus went to school just like any other child had to do. His early years were spent at home, but at age six he began his elementary education in the local synagogue where the rabbis taught the Jewish law and traditions. At age ten the male child would begin preparation for his "bar-mitzvah" at age 13, when he became a "son of the law." At that time he would have adult standing in home and community. Jesus had to study and develop His mind like any other child, and as we see in Scripture, God does not think much of ignorance, or laziness in learning. Jesus, as God, was all-knowing, but He laid aside those privileges when He became man (Philippians 2:7).

When Jesus visited Jerusalem at age 12 He had been a good student of the word of God. It isn't necessary to be the smartest person, but God wants us to use the minds He has given us to receive wisdom from Him and to grow and mature mentally.

Jesus grew "physically" (in stature). Stature means age, but that also takes into account physical growth. He worked with Joseph in the carpenter shop, learning a trade and developing His body as well as His mind. A Christian's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19-20) and he ought to care for that body in respect for God. It is not good to ruin our bodies with late hours, lack of sleep, poor diet, bad habits, impure appetites or desires. The condition of the body affects the mind. We care for our body, and respect it, as we do all of God's gifts. Jesus grew "socially" (in favor with man). Luke tells us how Jesus obeyed His parents (2:51). Getting along with people begins at home where we learn to interact with family and obey authority. If we don't learn those skills there, we won't respect authority outside the home, and won't get along with people elsewhere. Because Jesus respected His parents, He knew how to behave in the temple, and to interact with the teachers there.

From His ministry, we know people were drawn to Him; He was a friend and had many friends. Jesus grew "spiritually" (favor with God). This is the key to a well-rounded life, to being a true man. Children should not "grow out of" Sunday School or church. They should "grow up in" the Lord, and mature in the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). Only there every man is "complete" (Colossians 1:28). We must avoid the impression that "religion" is for women and children, and that it is not for men and boys. A true man is a truly spiritual man, complete in Christ, well-developed and well-rounded in the social and spiritual qualities that make for success in life. Many of our perceptions of Jesus are too weak. He grew into a strong, impressive figure of a man. He was forceful, yet humble, gentle and meek. But meekness is merely strength under control.

True Man--in Serving

As we follow Jesus in His three years of ministry, we find it hard to keep up with Him. This was a tiring and grueling time of His life, while at the same time giving Him great joy. In John 4 we see Jesus in one of His many encounters in the course of His travels around the country. Now on His way through Samaria, He comes to Jacob's well near Sychar. It is noon, and He is hungry, tired and thirsty. The disciples go into town to buy food while Jesus waits at the well. Here is a man, tired and weary, with physical needs like any one of us. Some physical and emotional needs of Jesus are often mentioned: hunger (Matthew 4:2; John 4:8); thirst (John 4:7, 19:28); sleep (Mark 4:38); sorrow (John 11:35); temptation (Matthew 4:1ff; Hebrews 4:14-16). Again, He had a different "food" that satisfied Him (John 4:32-34).

We must keep the two natures of Christ in perspective so that the humanness of Jesus does not overshadow His deity. Jesus asked the woman for a drink (4:7). No doubt He was thirsty but He was leading her to spiritual truth, to living water. As man, Jesus understood her needs; as God, He knew she needed a savior. He tells the woman He can give her living water that will bring eternal life (4:13,14). This "man" is able to give eternal life to "men." Jesus shows us here that there is more to life than our physical needs. Hunger, thirst, food and

clothing are things that worry us most. Jesus said we shouldn't worry about these things (Matthew 6:25-34). Beneath those needs lies the basic need of the soul of man--a rebirth and reconciliation to God. There is a hunger and thirst in the soul of the sinner that only Jesus can satisfy. Jesus, true man, can sympathize with us. But Jesus, true God, can breathe into our dead souls once again the "breath of life." We are to receive that word that saves our souls (James 1:21) and then grow in it (I Peter 2:2). Then God brings into our parched and hungry and dead souls the living water of the Holy Spirit, and new life.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Talk with students as they arrive. Ask about special things that have happened during the week. Enlist their help in readying the room for class.

Open with Prayer

As the students arrive, greet them and talk with individual students. (This is one of the best ways to learn to know your students and to discover their concerns and personal needs.)

Ask the students for ideas of things to thank God for, and for one or two things to pray for.

Encourage participation in sentence prayers.

Pray for open hearts to hear and believe God's Word in today's lesson.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: 1 John 4:9

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,...

Review

Discuss the following questions:

What did last week's catechism teach us about who Jesus is? (*the only Son of God, who is truly God, just as His Father is.*) Recite the first part of the Second Article. What things could Jesus do that no ordinary man could? (*heal the sick, bring dead people to life, still storms, and many other miracles*) What special thing did Jesus do in last week's lesson that showed His power and authority? (*He said, "Your servant will be healed," and the servant, who was in another place, became well.*) Who had a special faith in Jesus' power as God's Son? (*a Roman soldier*) What can Jesus do for us if we trust Him as Savior? (*forgive our sins, take us to heaven, help us to obey our parents, to love other people and be kind*)

Introduce Wall Words

Historical—
historians—
public—
witness—
Samaritan—
Messiah—
Christ—
astonishing—

Introduce the Lesson

Bring to class objects or pictures that will remind the class of problems that Fourth graders might experience. (eg., a failed school test; picture of a child sitting alone; picture of a child in a hospital bed; pictures of starving children; etc.) **ASK** do you remember a time when you were afraid or very lonely because nobody wanted to be your friend? How did you feel? (Allow students to share briefly.) Did you want someone to talk to then? Someone who knew just how you felt? The Bible tells us that Jesus knows just how we feel, no matter what has happened to us. Jesus was a real person like you and me, with the same feelings as we have. He can be the Friend we need. Today's lesson will tell us about it.

Teach the Lesson

SAY Open your books to Lesson 2 and read the lesson title. What name does the title give to Jesus Christ? (*True Man*) That may seem like an unusual name to you—the Son of Man. It is a name Jesus liked to call Himself. It shows that He was glad to become a real human being like you and me. Read the third paragraph and be ready to tell us some things about Jesus' childhood. (Allow the students to read independently and share some ideas from the paragraph. He grew up the same as ordinary boys do; lived in Nazareth with mother, Mary and Joseph, His earthly father. He probably went to school, but he also learned a carpenter's work.) **SAY** The fourth paragraph tells us how Jesus was like us, and how He was different. Read the paragraph to find out. (Students read.) **ASK** Who can read three sentences that tell how Jesus was like

us? (Call on a student to read three sentences.) How was Jesus like us? (*He became hungry and thirsty and tired, knew about pain and suffering, and was tempted to sin.*) What do you think some other feelings were? (loneliness, hurt, etc.) How was Jesus different from us? (*He never sinned, kept all God's commandments perfectly*) How could He be so perfect? (He was a human being, but a sinless human being; He didn't have a sinful heart as you and I have; He was God's Son) **SAY** The next paragraph tells us about Jesus' ministry. **ASK** What is a ministry? (*A special job, a life's work God gave Him to do*) **ASK** Where did Jesus go on His ministry? (*Over rocky roads, to many towns*) What did He do in His ministry? (*He preached to people and healed them*) That was Jesus' life's work, preaching and healing. At the end He would die for everyone's sins. **SAY** Read on and see if you can find the name of a city where Jesus stopped, and what He did there. (*He stopped at Sychar and sat down by the city well*) **ASK** Who can find Sychar on the map? Who was traveling with Jesus? (*His disciples*) What did they do while He sat by the well? (*Went to buy some food*) **SAY** Something interesting happened while Jesus sat by the well. Read to find out. **ASK** Who came to the well to draw out water? (*A Samaritan woman*) What did Jesus say that surprised the woman? (*Will you give me a drink?*) Why did that surprise the woman? (*Jews wouldn't usually talk to Samaritans*) Jesus was a Jew, one of God's people who worshiped in the way God had taught them, at the temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans didn't worship in Jerusalem. They weren't true to God's word, and so the Jewish people didn't like them. But Jesus loved them and wanted to bring them back to God's ways. **ASK** Who will read what Jesus said to the woman when He told her what He wanted to give her? Call on a student to read. **SAY** When we're really thirsty as Jesus was and the woman was, water is better than anything else to drink. We can't live very long without water. But Jesus had something to give the woman which would be more important to her than water. What would that be? (*Eternal Life*) **SAY** Follow along while I read the next paragraph. **READ SAY** This paragraph tells us that Jesus

wanted to help this woman. Why did He want to help her so much that He forgot He was thirsty and hungry? (*He knew all her problems and cared about her. He cared about her even though He knew about all her sins*) **ASK** Who can find two names in this paragraph that mean "the one God promised to send to save His people?" (*Messiah; Christ*) **SAY** Let's read the next paragraph together. **READ ASK** What did Jesus tell the woman about Himself? (*I am the Christ*) Jesus meant that He was the promised Savior who came to save her from her sins. **ASK** Did the woman believe Jesus was the Messiah? (*Yes*) Then what did she do? (*She went and told other people to come and see and hear Jesus.*) What did the crowd say after hearing Jesus speak? (*We have heard for ourselves and know this man is indeed the Savior of the world.*)

ASK What is the most important thing Jesus wants for you? (*To know that He is the promised Redeemer, to believe He is your Savior. He wants you to confess your sins and believe He died to be your Savior.*) **SAY** Some of you are trusting in Jesus as your Savior. You confess your sins every day and thank Him for dying on the cross to save you. **ASK** What does Jesus understand about us? (*He knows all about us. He knows our sins. He knows when we are lonely and afraid*) **SAY** Jesus cares about you, He will be with you and help you. Note to the Teacher... See the paragraphs inside the front cover of the book to help your students to assurance of salvation. Some may need to be helped to confess their sins and to trust Him as Savior for the first time. You will want to be sensitive to the spiritual needs of your students and to lead them. **SAY** The last paragraph says that Jesus had a special reason for becoming a man, living perfectly, and suffering on the cross. Let's read it aloud together. **READ** These sentences may be a little hard to understand. Because Jesus was a real human being like us, He could take our place and die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. And because He didn't have any sins of His own, His suffering and death on the cross could pay for everyone's sins, and bring us back into a right relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CATECHISM—**READ**

...born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;...

Explain that born of the Virgin Mary means that a pure young woman was the mother of God's Son when He became a man. Suffered under Pontius Pilate means that a Roman governor named Pontius Pilate caused Jesus' suffering and death. Under

Pilate's authority and orders, Jesus was whipped and sent to a hill outside Jerusalem to be killed by being nailed to the cross.

Activity Pages

Activity 1—It's Greek to Me!

ANSWERS

Word = Jesus
flesh = human
dwelt = lived
saw = beheld
glory = majesty
begotten = Son

Activity 2—Who Is Jesus?

ANSWERS

Z Y F X X F I Y
T Z I F B B T Y
Y R I Z X R F X
Z B U Y U I B F
Z F X E Z X B I
I B G X M Z B B
F O X I Z A Z F
D Y Y F X I N Z
Z I F X Z B X I

Jesus is **TRUE GOD**, and **TRUE MAN**.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to become a real Person like us, so He could know all about us and take our place and die for our sins. We confess that we are sinful. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Thank you also that Jesus cares for us because He became a Person like us. Amen.

Assignment

1. Remind students to take activity pages home and complete any yet unfinished activity.
2. Remind students to share the lesson with family and friends, to share how Jesus cares for them and died to be their Savior.
3. Remind students to complete memorization of second portion of the Second Article and of John 1:14.