

Welcome - 10 minutes

- Introduce yourself express how excited you are to be there and how it's going to be a great year and share some information about you. Family, work, what you like to do, what you are looking forward to being a chatechist. Anything!
- Take attendance and when each name is called as the kids to introduce them selves and Share:
 - School Name
 - Something about their family (brother's and sisters etc.),
 - Favorite subject
 - Extracurricular activities/way spend free time.
 - Something that made them smile that day
- The goal is to get them comfortable sharing with you and each other

Invite 15 Minutes

Page 5 in the kids book - have your leader book open and side by side with this document

Pray the Opening Prayer - You can ask a student to read or read it yourself.

Leader: Jesus, our brother, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You know our struggles and our joys. Be with us and guide us to know the Father's Love.

"Praise the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever"

Psalm 136:1

All: God help us become our best selves

Scripture practice: Philippians 2:5-8

This is the kids book but not in ours. There is background information about this reading in the leader book page 10.

Play Video: Philippians 2:5-11 by Chanh Lein

2 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NijnXWuQAlo>

Phillipians 2:5-8

"Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross."

Questions:

What does it mean to have the same attitude as Jesus Christ?

What do you think it means to not regard his equality with God?

Possible answer: Even though he was God, he still came to earth as a Man rather than as God.

Think about the phrase: In order to go up (ie. Go to Heaven), you first have to come down.

Possible answer: Jesus came down to heaven in order to rise again.

People must humble themselves to live like Jesus and go to heaven

How does this phrase relate to Jesus's experience?

How can it relate to your life?

Possible answers: Be humble, serve others, don't place yourself above others

True God, True Man 15 minutes

Watch Video :

Who is Jesus? Catholic Central

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOIMrXlM6u4>

6 minutes 55 seconds

Here is the text from the kids book. Read it out loud to the kids pausing occasionally to discuss what you read.

How is Jesus like all of us? At one time or another, everyone wants to excel-to maximize his or her abilities to the fullest. People often say that it's human nature to want to be the best at something. Is that what it means to be "fully human"? But if you fail, is it ok to just remind yourself "After all, I am only human?"

Jesus is "true man and true God," fully human and also fully Divine. He is God. And he is also a man who walked on Earth, like all of us. He lived the fully human life we are made to live: coming from God and growing toward God. So what does that mean for us as his followers?

(Pause to discuss this question. Ideas: He lived as a human so knows what we experience; he lived as an example of what we should strive to be)

Sometimes it's hard for us to grasp that Jesus actually lived a human life. Can you picture Jesus as a small child learning to put on his sandals? On sunny days he might have wanted to go outside and play instead of finishing his chores. Maybe he got tired from too much studying.

Yes, these kinds of things probably happened to. How do we know? They are the kinds of things that happen to all human beings – and in all families. We all face new challenges, and feel tired, and become confused. After all, we're human!

Questions for discussion:

What are some examples from Jesus' life that show he was fully human.

Examples: felt love for his parents ; had friendships; felt fear, felt doubt, ate, drank, slept....

Son of God "In the Flesh" Page 6 in kid's book – 15 minutes

Read out loud to the kids.

Jesus is true God, like his heavenly Father. He is also true man, like us in all things except sin. Jesus has two natures:

- He has a Divine nature. Jesus is the Son of God, the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity.
- He has a human nature. He was born of a human mother, and He had to be fed, kept warm, and loved like all other human babies.

We call this truth the INCARNATION. The Son of God took on a human nature and became man. The Son of God chose to become a man in order to bring us back to his Father and to show us how to live as God intended.

Jesus not only brings us closer to the Father, but he also makes it possible for us to become more like him and the Father. God's Son became human to share his divinity with us. Because of that, we can become united with God the Father. When the Son of God became the Son of Man, we also became God's sons and daughters.

QUESTION: Why do you think he did this?

Share this as the reason after the kids give some ideas:

He shared fully in our humanity so that we could share fully in His life with God.

**Show: The Significance of the Incarnation by That Theology Teacher
6 minutes 6 seconds**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YIKXJxcDU0>

Time Check...Should be 6:50-7:00

Jesus is the Way to God - 15 minutes

Read out loud to the kids

How does Jesus show us the way?

Before they were called “Christians” the disciples who followed Jesus were called followers of “The Way.” Jesus showed them the way to God. He also showed them a new way to live, a way based on truth and love. The Apostles and disciples of Jesus learned about God in two ways. Jesus **talked** about God, letting them know that God is Father. Jesus **showed** them God the Father through his life, the life of the Son. Jesus used words to describe what God his Father was like, and he used his actions to show others what his Father was like.

Jesus was able to give us a better picture of God – a picture of a loving, gentle, and affectionate Father – a God who takes care of us and gives us what we need, including expectations and rules to keep us safe and help us grow. He is the eternal Father and source of all life. Jesus told us “for everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds...” (Luke 11:10) Jesus’ words and actions still show us the way today.

Questions for discussion:

What made Jesus a good teacher? Do you have good teachers in your life? (ideas: he talked AND showed people how act; He was patient and kind; he was nice to everyone just people that agreed with him)

What do Jesus’ words and actions teach us about God?

What is the main point of the Incarnation?

Answer: Jesus became like us, so that we may become like Him.

Page 9 Activity

Create two lists:

What Jesus Expects

What Jesus Doesn’t Expect

Ask kids to write some things down and then share with the group.

Ideas: Be kind to others; help and serve others; do not sin; be honest; serve God.

The Way to Live - 20 minutes

What did Jesus want to show us?

Read this portion to the kids.

Jesus gave his followers many examples of how they could become more like him. When you follow his example you are acting like he did. The more you do so, the more you can discover the person God intends you to be and live the best life possible. Jesus didn't come to show us the way to play perfect chess or piano, swim, pant, or get straight A's. Striving to use the gifts and talents God has given us is a good thing. He's interested in how we pray, how we care for people we don't know, and how we forgive our enemies. Sometimes these things are a lot harder than doing laps in the pool or practicing scales on the keyboard. Of all the good that God wants for you, he most wants you to live in his love, to know his happiness, and to become like him. You do all of these things when you follow in Jesus' footsteps. He wants you to become his disciple.

Discipleship is accepting Jesus' invitation to believe in and follow him by studying his ways and putting them into practice. Discipleship is really what living fully, or being fully alive is all about. It isn't easy. But we don't follow the path of discipleship alone. God gives us the Church and his grace to be the people he has called us to be.

Play Video: Why Should I follow Jesus? By Geoffrey Vande Kuyt

4 minutes 52 seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0eppMB7a7w>

Ask the kids to share examples of how they have intentionally followed Jesus in the last few weeks.

Share your own examples – could include becoming a catechist

Ideas for the kids: praying, have a good relationship with parents, relying on friends and supporting friends, listening to others, taking care of others, forgiving your enemies, saying no to temptation, standing up for others

Final activity if there is time, if go straight to closing. If you need to cut the song short, that's fine.

Ask the kids to write down ways that they would like to follow Jesus more. This can be private, nothing they need to share. Play the song below while they write some things down.

Song:

Only Jesus Casting Crowns Official Lyric Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXIBP2BdYR8>

Closing

Close by saying thank you to the kids for participating. Let them know you are excited to work with them this year and look forward to everyone getting to know each other and feel more comfortable to together.

Pray the Our Father.