

Lesson 4: Jesus Christ

Curriculum Goals:

- A greater awareness of the person of Jesus and His teachings as found in Scripture.
- Embracing the teaching that Jesus Christ is true God and true man. Through Him we approach the Father. The candidate needs to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, knowing Him as Lord, Savior, and friend with whom one journeys throughout life. Jesus models for us the virtues of love, forgiveness, justice, and compassion.
- Assenting to the truth that participation in the Eucharist is essential to the life of a Catholic. It is the way in which we participate in the very life of Christ Himself. Therefore, much time should be devoted to teaching the structure of the Most Holy Eucharist, the liturgical year, and ways in which one can take part in the Most Holy Eucharist through various ministries. The Most Holy Eucharist is the real presence of Christ, body, blood, soul, and divinity.
- Understanding of the structure of the Mass and the manner for participating in it.

Editor's note:

This is a **big topic. In creating your lesson, consider your particular group of students and what has already been covered in your class to decide which elements of Jesus' life would be most useful to study.*

Lesson Plan Overview:

1. Intro and Prayer (3 mins)
2. Reflection Activity I: Do You Know Jesus? (10 mins)
3. Confirmation Video Series Ep 4: The Life of Jesus and the Paschal Mystery (14 mins)
4. Discussion Questions and/or Worksheet Activity: The Life of Jesus and the Paschal Mystery Word Search (10-20 mins)
5. Activity II: The Best of Both Worlds (20 mins)
6. Teacher Presentation III: Do we have to Go to Mass!?, No, we GET to Go to the Mass! (15 mins)
7. Closing Prayer: (2 mins)

1) Introduction and Prayer

2) Reflection Activity: Do You Know Jesus?

Develop a bellringer activity that encourages students to recall as much as they can about what they have already learned about the Gospel story of Jesus. No matter how this activity is constructed, the students should be reminded that the story of the life of Jesus is impossible to summarize in so short a time (so there is no one right thing that they should write!). Rather, the point of this activity is to help reveal what key details from the life of Jesus the students find most memorable. You can then use this information to help "fill in the gaps" during the following presentations.

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3) Confirmation Video Series Ep 4: The Life of Jesus and the Paschal Mystery

(These are the Key Points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church that are covered in the video. They are provided here in their entirety as a reference to aid your interaction with students should they have any questions after viewing the video.)

- CCC 461 Taking up St. John's expression, "The Word became flesh", The Church calls "Incarnation" the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. In a hymn cited by St. Paul, the Church sings the mystery of the Incarnation:
Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. and being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
- CCC 462 The Letter to the Hebrews refers to the same mystery:
Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Lo, I have come to do your will, O God."
- CCC 463 Belief in the true Incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God." Such is the joyous conviction of the Church from her beginning whenever she sings "the mystery of our religion": "He was manifested in the flesh."
- CCC 464 The unique and altogether singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God does not mean that Jesus Christ is part God and part man, nor does it imply that he is the result of a confused mixture of the divine and the human. He became truly man while remaining truly God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man.
During the first centuries, the Church had to defend and clarify this truth of faith against the heresies that falsified it.
- 469 The Church thus confesses that Jesus is inseparably true God and true man. He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our

brother: "What he was, he remained and what he was not, he assumed", sings the Roman Liturgy. and the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom proclaims and sings: "O only-begotten Son and Word of God, immortal being, you who deigned for our salvation to become incarnate of the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, you who without change became man and were crucified, O Christ our God, you who by your death have crushed death, you who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!"

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4) Discussion Questions and/or Worksheet Activity: The Life of Jesus and the Paschal Mystery Word Search

Lead the group in the discussion questions from the video and/or distribute the worksheets for Confirmation Series Episode 4 and have the students complete them. Feel free to help those students that are struggling.

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5) Reflection Activity II: The Best of Both Worlds

Ask the students to create a hypothetical scenario in which someone could be two things at the same time. Ex: a superhero with an alter ego, a "Hannah Montana" situation where a celebrity tries to keep a low profile or a super spy trying to lead a normal life. This could be done as a skit or as a comic book or simply as a reflection activity. Ask the students to describe what they think

would be “the best of both worlds.” The point of this activity is to set up the discussion of Jesus as the ultimate superhero, who has truly human but also truly God!

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6) Teacher Presentation: Do we have to go to Mass!? No, we GET to Go to Mass!, Key Notes

- CCC 1324 The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch."
- CCC 1325 "The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit."
- CCC 1326 Finally, by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all.
- CCC 1341 The command of Jesus to repeat his actions and words "until he comes" does not only ask us to remember Jesus and what he did. It is directed at the liturgical celebration, by the apostles and their successors, of the memorial of Christ, of his life, of his death, of his Resurrection, and of his intercession in the presence of the Father.
- CCC 1342 From the beginning the Church has been faithful to the Lord's command. of the Church of Jerusalem it is written:
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.... Day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts.
- CCC 1343 It was above all on "the first day of the week," Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection, that the Christians met "to break bread." From that time on down to our own day the celebration of the Eucharist has been continued so that today we encounter it everywhere in the Church with the same fundamental structure. It remains the center of the Church's life.
- CCC 1344 Thus from celebration to celebration, as they proclaim the Paschal mystery of Jesus "until he comes," the pilgrim People of God advances, "following the narrow way

of the cross," toward the heavenly banquet, when all the elect will be seated at the table of the kingdom

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7) Closing Prayer

Additional Lesson Suggestions: A useful discussion in the question of “Who Jesus Is” is the “Liar, Lunatic, Lord” argument. The argument essentially says Jesus can only be one of three things: someone who is lying about who he is, someone who is crazy, or truly who he claims to be. The popular notion that Jesus is a good person or simply a moral teacher doesn’t hold up, and this argument is helpful in demonstrating that point.