

FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH

SESSION 1:

WHO IS JESUS?

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Who is Jesus?

The Catholic faith is centered on Jesus Christ. Everything we believe has been revealed in him or through him. But how much do we really know about Jesus? This first session will cover the basic things that the Catholic Church teaches us about Jesus including some of the titles used to describe Jesus (and what they can teach us about him), his message and mission, and explore how Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Who do *you* say I am?

Who do you say *you* are?



Jesus said:

- “I am the light of the world”
- “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”
- “I am the vine, you are the branches”
- “The Father and I are one”
- “To have seen me is to have seen the Father”
- “I am the Good Shepherd”
- “I am the Bread of Life”
- “I am he”
- “No-one can come to the Father except through me.”

- “I am gentle and humble in heart”
- I am deeply sorrowful, even to the point of death
- “I am with you always, till the end of time”
- “I am” (the Messiah the Son of the Blessed One)
- “I am sending you out like lambs among wolves”
- “I come among you as one who serves”
- “I am from above”
- “I am not of this world”

- “Before Abraham was, I am”
- “I am God’s Son”
- “I am the resurrection and the life”
- “You call me teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am”
- “I am in the Father and the Father is in me”
- “I am not alone because the Father is with me”
- “I am thirsty”
- “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God”

- What are we to make of these claims?
- Does it really matter anyway?



Back to the Basics

- Jesus doesn't matter if he was wrong about himself But if he was/is right about himself, then no-one matters more than he does.



In the beginning Genesis

“God the creator”

When I see the heavens, the work of
your hands, The moon and the stars
which you arranged ...
(Ps 8:3)



God created humankind
in his image, in the image of God
he created them; male and female
he created them (Gen 1:27)

Jesus reveals the true face of God to us: God is a Trinity of love

Indeed it was very good.... but,

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden (Gen 3:7)



God made garments of skin ...

The eyes of both were opened,
and they knew that they were naked;
and they sewed fig leaves together
and made loincloths for themselves (gen 3:8)

The Lord God made garments of skins
for the man and for his wife,
and clothed them (gen 3:21)

*Our attempts to “save” ourselves from the consequences of our sin
are hopelessly inadequate. Only God can save us from ourselves.*

God calls Abraham ...

Now the LORD said to Abram,
"Go from your country and your kindred
and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.
I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you,
and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing (Gen 12:1-2)

*An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

*Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers*

*Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary,
of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah (Matt 1:1;16)*

God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son so that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life (Jn 3:16).



Jesus the Saviour

- We (human beings) need saving.
- We (human beings) can't save ourselves.
- Only God can save us.
- God saves us by becoming one of us, defeating the power of sin through his life of total fidelity to God even to the point of death and inviting us to unite our broken lives with his resurrection.
- One with him, we share in all that is his. We share in his defeat of sin and through the gift of oneness with him we also share in his life with the Father. This is our salvation.
- This is the gift he offers. This is the way to salvation. This is the choice which confronts us. This is the most exciting and most momentous decision we will ever make ... because it is our decision ... and it is one we will have to keep making.
- By God's design his gift is offered through the Church. A "yes" to Christ implies a "yes" to Christ's Church.

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Jesus Divine and Human

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father (Jn 1:1-5;9-14)

The Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfilment of the scriptures: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Fully human and fully divine – what can this possibly mean?

- For Jesus to be our saviour he must be fully divine because **only God can save us.**
- For Jesus to be our saviour he must be fully human because salvation must be a freely given and freely accepted gift – never imposed or forced. **Only a human being can represent us and say “yes” to the gift on our behalf.**
- His “yes” makes our “yes” a possibility.

Who is Jesus?

Friend

Rescuer

Healer

Self-giver

Forgiver

Strength

Companion

Shepherd



Fully human – one of us

Fully Divine – God among us

Drawing us into
communion
with him

So that one with
him in his humanity
we become one
with him in his
divinity.

We become children of God and inheritors of God's kingdom - we are saved.