

# Jesus Christ: True God and True Man

This session covers pages 56–63 of *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*. For further exploration, check out paragraph numbers 422–483 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

## Session Summary

- The Catholic faith is centered on Jesus Christ. Everything we believe has been revealed in him or through him.
- The Gospels are the written accounts of Jesus' life that were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Reading them is an important way for us to personally meet Jesus and to understand his message and his life.
- God reveals in the Bible what we need to know for our salvation. Historical, geographical, or even scientific accuracy isn't necessary for our salvation.
- The Gospels are faith portraits of Jesus, not historical biographies. When they created the Gospels, the authors wrote their stories about Jesus in a way that emphasized the religious truths their communities had learned through the Holy Spirit. Because of this, we need all four Gospels to understand the whole truth about Jesus.
- When we consider the titles used for Jesus in the Bible, we are led to an inescapable conclusion: that the authors of the Gospels came to the conclusion that Jesus Christ was fully God.
- But he also had a divine intellect and will. "He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother" (Catechism, number 469).
- The mystery of the union of Jesus' divine and human natures in one person is called the Incarnation.
- Because in Jesus Christ the human and the divine are perfectly united, he is the perfect and only mediator between God and humanity.
- By believing in Jesus and in giving ourselves to him with all our whole heart, mind, and soul, the Holy Spirit will help us become more fully the image of God, which is our ultimate destiny.

(The quotation labeled *Catechism* is from the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for use in the United States of America,

number 469. Copyright © 1994 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.)

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, by Brian Singer-Towns et al. [Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2004], pages 56–61. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

## **Talk Points**

- Who do you say that Jesus is?
- Share a story about your favorite Advent and Christmas traditions. Which ones best express and celebrate the belief that Christians encounter God in Jesus?
- What does it mean to you that God chose to share in our humanity?
- When you hear the phrase "Jesus saves," what does it mean to you? How would you describe its meaning to someone who isn't a believer?
- What is your favorite story about Jesus from the Gospels? Why is that story meaningful to you?