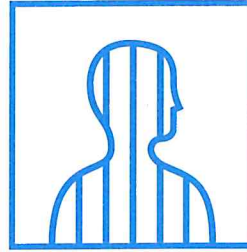


Question 21

What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?



Answer

One who is truly human and also truly God.

Big Idea

A Redeemer who was fully God and fully human was needed to reconcile man to God.

Aim

To help the children understand that God planned to send a Redeemer who was both fully God and also fully man.

Bible Passage

Isaiah 9:1–7

Memory Verse

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isa. 9:6)

Virtue

Forgiveness





Leader's Notes

Children are growing up in a world that is diverse and at times confusing. There are a myriad of different religions in the world, and they all have different truth claims. It can be a daunting task for children to try to understand the difference between all the different religions. One of the most important things for children to comprehend is how different world religions understand the nature and status of Jesus. Christians believe that Jesus is fully God and fully man; he is both human and divine. No other faith tradition believes that God left the glory of heaven to be incarnated as the man Jesus. This lesson aims to help the children understand the uniqueness of Jesus the Redeemer and to help them understand that God planned and promised to send a Redeemer who was fully God and fully man to save his people.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Some children will be familiar with the concept of the incarnation but may not have considered just how amazing it is. Help the children to reflect on the uniqueness of the Redeemer.
- The fact that Jesus is fully human and fully God is hard to understand. Reassure those children who find the idea of one person having two natures conceptually challenging.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Redeeming God, I praise you for the wonder of the incarnation. Please continue to help me to understand the significance of both the humanity and divinity of Jesus.

Grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson. May they find great joy in understanding more about you. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- A piece of cardboard or a tray
- Tape
- Twenty plastic cups
- Tissue paper
- Rubber bands
- Candy or small prizes
- Q21 Illustrations of World Religions (RB)



- Q21 Human and Divine (RB), one copy for each child
- A copy of the Nicene Creed
- Duplo or Mega Bloks
- Sticky notes
- Paper

10 Catechism Recap

Stick twenty plastic cups to a piece of cardboard or a tray. Print out and cut up Q21 Catechism Recap (DL). Put one slip in each cup. Once the slips of paper are inside the cups, cover them with tissue paper and secure with a rubber band.

Place the tray at the front of the classroom and explain to the children that they will have an opportunity to win some prizes! Tell the children that some of the cups

contain catechism questions that they need to answer. Explain to them that they will get a prize if they answer the question correctly. Also explain that some of the cups do not contain questions—but they do contain prizes to be won. Invite the children up individually to punch a cup and win a prize. If a child doesn't know the answer to one of the catechism questions, invite someone else to answer in his or her place.

5 Introduction to Question 21

You will need Q21 Illustrations of World Religions (RB).

Explain to the children that different world religions believe different things about Jesus. Very briefly describe what Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism believe about Jesus.

Islam

- Jesus was the son of Mary.
- Jesus was a prophet and wise man.
- ! Muslims do not believe that Jesus is God.

Judaism

- Jesus was the son of Mary.
- Jesus was a respected and popular teacher.

- Jesus was a miracle worker.
- Jesus had supernatural power.
- ! Jews do not believe that Jesus is God.

Hinduism

- Jesus was a holy man.
- Jesus was a wise teacher.
- Some Hindus believe that Jesus is a “god” among all the other gods they worship.
- ! Hindus do not believe that Jesus is God.

Buddhism

- Jesus was a holy man.
- Jesus was an enlightened man.



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- Jesus was a wise teacher.

! Buddhists do not believe that Jesus is God.

Introduce the children to Question 21:

“What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?” Explain that a very special kind of Redeemer was required to reconcile humans to God. Highlight for the children that lots of world religions teach that Jesus

was human, but they don't teach that Jesus is God. Explain to the children that the claim Christianity makes is that Jesus is both fully human and fully God, and that this kind of Redeemer is the only kind capable of restoring God's relationship with humanity. Acknowledge to the children that this is a difficult concept to understand because Jesus is unique, but that this lesson will help them to understand a little more.

Activity



You will need to prepare a sticky note for each child in the class. On each sticky note you will need to write the name of a character and what it is in essence. Below are some examples, but you may need to adapt them to your class's age and interests.

- Olaf (the snowman)
- Winnie the Pooh (the bear)
- Woody (the cowboy)
- Mr. Tumnus (the faun)
- E. T. (the extraterrestrial)
- Frodo (the Hobbit)
- Ariel (the mermaid)
- Chewbacca (the Wookiee)
- WALL-E (the robot)
- Charlotte (the spider)
- Abraham Lincoln (the human)

Explain to the children that, for this activity, everybody will have a sticky note stuck to their forehead. Tell them that each sticky note will have written on it the name of a famous character and also what the character is. Mention that they won't know what is written on their own sticky note. Explain that we call “what something is” its essence or its nature. It would be appropriate to provide an example for the children. Tell the children that they have to figure out who they are by asking other children questions. The questions may only be answered by saying yes or no. Once the children have correctly identified their characters, they can individually try to figure out what their essence is.

This activity should help to identify for the children the concept of what a being's essence is. This question will seek to help the children understand that in essence Jesus is both fully God and fully man.



15 Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

To begin, ask the children what they are in their essence or nature. Confirm that they are human! Remind the children that Christians believe that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine; clarify that he's not part human or part divine, but that he is one person with two natures.

Acknowledge for the children that it is difficult for humans to understand the concept of Jesus being one person with two natures, because the only point of reference that humans have is our own experience, and we have just one essence or nature.

Explain to the children that the Christian church has always understood that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Take a little time to look at the Nicene Creed with the children, and invite them to identify the parts that talk about Jesus's divinity (his God-ness) and his humanity.

Read Isaiah 9:1–7. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Remind the children that Isaiah was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born.

Explain that the book was written at a dark and difficult time in the history of God's people. They were rebelling against God. Throughout the book God warns them that

they will face judgment and punishment, but he also promises that he will not abandon his people.

Tell the children that the beginning of chapter 9 is striking because it speaks of a future time that contrasts with the dark and difficult times God's people were experiencing. Isaiah promises times filled with light, joy, and hope.

Explain to the children that those times would be brought about by the arrival of God's promised Savior and Redeemer.

Direct the children's attention to verse 6. Explain that this verse particularly reveals the type of Redeemer who would be sent to save God's people from judgment and punishment.

The beginning of verse 6 identifies that the Redeemer would be human. He would be born into the world as a baby. He would take on human flesh. Isaiah describes him as God's unique gift to the world by using the phrase "a son is given."

Explain to the children that the second part of the verses uses phrases to describe the Redeemer as God. Ask the children to identify the four different titles that are given in this verse to the Redeemer.

The titles used to describe the Redeemer are Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Tell the children that these titles are all titles used

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in other places in the book of Isaiah, and when they are used they all refer exclusively to God. God is described as wonderful in 25:1 and 28:29. God is described as mighty in 10:21. God is described as everlasting in 40:28. And God is the one who brings peace in 26:3 and 12.

Ask the children if they have figured out what this verse is highlighting about the promised Redeemer.

Help the children to see that the verse is clearly stating that the Redeemer will be both man and God. Remind them that Jesus was fully human and fully God. Explain to the children that everything about a human person and everything about God are found fully in Jesus.

Explain to the children that many people agree that Jesus was fully human; draw their attention back to the various things that world religions believe about Jesus. Tell them that people have a more difficult time believing that Jesus was fully God. Highlight for the children that Isaiah prophesied about the coming Redeemer who would be both man and God.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 21 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)

Activity

You will need a copy of Q21 Human and Divine (RB) for each child. Provide the children with Bibles.

Assign each verse reference to a child. Have the children take turns reading the passages aloud to identify whether they're describing Jesus's divinity or humanity. Invite them to put a *D*, *H*, or *DH* beside each reference.



John 1:14	Titus 2:13
1 Timothy 2:5	Matthew 28:18
John 11:35	John 1:1
Galatians 4:4	Luke 11:17
Hebrews 4:15	Luke 2:7
John 4:6	Matthew 4:2



5 Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? How can Jesus be fully human and fully God?

Acknowledge once again that it is a difficult concept for the human brain to understand, but that both the Bible and Christians throughout history agree that Jesus was fully God and fully man.

? Why is Jesus described as God the Son?

Remind the children that Question 3 of the catechism taught them that there are three persons in one God, and that they are each God. Explain to the children that it is God the Son who

leaves heaven and becomes incarnate, that he becomes fully man.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

- Ask the children if there was anything surprising about today's lesson.
- Ask the children if, in the past, they have thought of Jesus as fully God and fully man.
- Ask the children how they might explain that Jesus is one person with two natures to a person from the Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, or Buddhist faith.

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10 Virtue Vision

Forgiveness

The children have learned in this lesson just how unique Jesus the Redeemer is because he is truly God and truly man. Explain that you are going to spend a few moments talking about why Jesus being fully God and fully man is necessary for our forgiveness.

Tell the children to imagine that Johnny (you may substitute the name of a member of your class) walked up to you and slapped you in the face. While you were still in shock, Susie (substitute with the name of another member of your class) walked up to Johnny and said, "I forgive you." How would that make you feel? Can Susie forgive

Johnny for his sin against you? Agree with the children that it is the person who has been sinned against that has the ability to extend forgiveness.

We have all sinned against God because we've broken his holy law. We can't forgive each other for this, only God can. Because Jesus was truly God, he was able to bring forgiveness down to us. We have sinned against him, but he has chosen to forgive us and make us his own!

Ask the children how knowing that God forgives our sins against him will affect them when someone else sins against them. Should it make them more eager to forgive?



10 Memory Activity

Each week, the memory activity can be used to memorize the memory verse, or, if your class is not learning the memory verse, it can be used to reinforce the catechism question and answer.

You will need blocks, such as Duplo or Mega Bloks. Print out the memory verse, cut up the words individually, and stick a word to each block. If you are using the memory verse, you will need thirty-six blocks. If you're doing the catechism question and answer, you will need twenty-one blocks.

Give the children the pile of blocks and invite them to build them into a memory tower. The children will need to put the bricks into the right order and then construct the tower.

Once the tower has been constructed, read through the memory verse or catechism question and answer with the children several times. You can remove blocks to make the task harder.

5 Closing Prayer Time

Pray for the children that, to the extent that their minds will allow, they might grasp that the Redeemer is fully God and fully man. Pray that all who worship false religions will recognize that Jesus is the Son of God.

