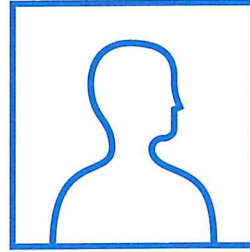


## Question 22

# Why must the Redeemer be truly human?



## Answer

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin.

### Big Idea

The substitute sacrificed for our redemption had to be human.

### Aim

To help the children recognize that only a fully human Redeemer could fully satisfy God's just demands.

### Bible Passage

Hebrews 2:5–18

### Memory Verse

“Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” (Heb. 2:17)

Virtue  
Love





## Notes

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### Leader's Notes

Children generally have little problem understanding the humanity of Jesus. They may be comfortable with the fact that Jesus is a historical figure and that he once lived on the earth. But they may still struggle with the concept of Jesus being fully human and fully God. This catechism question, in connection with Question 23, will further enable the children to explore the fact that Jesus is one person with two natures. This lesson will specifically focus on why it was essential for the Redeemer to be fully human, aiming to provide the children with a robust understanding of why Jesus came to earth and took on human nature.

### Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- The children will still be trying to comprehend the fact that Jesus is one person with two natures.
- Be careful to maintain some reverence when speaking about Jesus's humanity.
- 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.

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### Leader's Prayer

Father God, thank you for sending your Son to live as a perfect man so that I might be redeemed from sin and death. I praise you for your great love. Grant understanding

to the children who will hear this lesson. May they be deeply moved by the great love shown by the Lord Jesus and amazed at your plan of redemption. In Jesus's name. Amen.

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### Leader's Tool Kit

- Q22 Catechism Recap (DL)
- Clear tape
- Jenga blocks
- Sticky notes
- Markers
- Q22 Body Bingo Grid (RB), one copy for each child
- A picture of Maximilian Kolbe
- Large sheets of paper



## 10 Catechism Recap

*Print out and cut up Q22 Catechism Recap (DL). Tape the questions to Jenga blocks and build the Jenga tower. (Not every block needs a question.)*

Divide the children into teams. Invite individual children from each team to take turns approaching the Jenga tower and attempt to remove a block (don't continue to build the tower, just place the blocks to

the side once they have been removed from the tower). If the block a child removes has a question on it, the child can either answer the question or pass the question back to his or her team. If the team fails to correctly answer the question, another team can jump in and answer it. If they answer it correctly, they get to keep the block. The team with the most blocks whenever the tower falls wins.

## 5 Introduction to Question 22

Ask the children how they came into the world.

- They were born.

Ask the children how they grew from a little baby into a child.

- They were cared for by parents or guardians who fed them and nurtured them.

Ask the children what they do when they're really sad.

- They cry.

Ask the children what they feel when they haven't had any food for a while.

- They feel hungry.

Ask the children how they anticipate their lives ending.

- They will die.

Explain to the children that these are all experiences that are common to human beings. Remind the children that Jesus was fully human as well as fully God. Jesus was born and had parents who nurtured and fed him. Jesus cried when he was sad and felt hungry when he hadn't eaten for a while. Jesus's earthly life ended when he died. Introduce the children to Question 22: "Why must the Redeemer be truly human?" Tell the children that there was a reason that Jesus the Redeemer had to be fully human in order to bring other humans back into relationship with God. Explain that this catechism question will help them to understand why.

## Notes

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## 10 Activity



*Print out a Q22 Body Bingo Grid (RB) for each child and give everyone a marker.*

Ask each child to fill out his or her grid with sixteen body parts in the sixteen squares on the grid. Encourage them not to look at each other's grid. For this game to work, each grid needs to have different parts in different squares.

Read out the body part list below, one at a time. Tell the children that when they hear a body part they have on their bingo sheet, they should cross it off. The first child to get four in a row wins. If a child thinks he has won, tell him to shout, "Body Bingo!"

<i>Foot</i>	<i>Brain</i>	<i>Tongue</i>	<i>Skull</i>	<i>Ankle</i>	<i>Veins</i>
<i>Hand</i>	<i>Lung</i>	<i>Hair</i>	<i>Teeth</i>	<i>Nose</i>	<i>Wrist</i>
<i>Ear</i>	<i>Bone</i>	<i>Skin</i>	<i>Fingernail</i>	<i>Heel</i>	<i>Stomach</i>
<i>Heart</i>	<i>Nose</i>	<i>Knee</i>	<i>Belly button</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Shoulder</i>
<i>Eye</i>	<i>Elbow</i>	<i>Lip</i>	<i>Eyebrow</i>	<i>Thumb</i>	<i>Neck</i>

Conclude this activity by remarking on the beauty and diversity of the human body. Remind the children that this lesson is about

the Redeemer's humanity; explain that Jesus, in his human body, had all the body parts identified just the same as they do.

## 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.

Mention to the children that there is one big difference between Jesus and every other member of the human race that has lived, is living, or will live. Ask the children if they can identify what the big difference is.

The difference, of course, is that Jesus is the only person who has lived a sinless life. Jesus was the perfect human. Explain to the children that this is a crucial thing to understand as they consider why the Redeemer must be truly human.

**Read Hebrews 2:5–18.** Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.



## Notes

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Explain to the children that these fourteen verses in the book of Hebrews describe clearly why Jesus had to become fully human.

To help the children understand the significance of Jesus's humanity, bring them back to Genesis and ask them to identify who the first man was. Then ask the children:

- Who has every person on earth descended from?
- Who introduced sin into the human race?

The answer to both questions is Adam. Remind the children that Adam was originally created with the ability to perfectly keep God's law, but he rebelled against God, and so sin and death entered the world.

Tell the children that Jesus, the Redeemer, is sometimes called the second Adam. Briefly compare Adam and Jesus for the children:

1. Adam was created sinless; Jesus is sinless.
2. Adam gave life to all people; Jesus gives eternal life to those he redeems.
3. Adam was given the authority to rule over creation; Jesus is Lord over all.
4. Adam brought spiritual and physical death into the world; Jesus brings eternal life to those who repent of their sins and follow him.

In order for Jesus to be the Redeemer, the second Adam, it was crucial that he was fully human. Ask the children to look back to Hebrews 2:5–18 and see if they can identify from the passage any reasons why Jesus's humanity was so important.

Explain to the children that the writer of Hebrews begins in verses 5–9 by describing how things were meant to be! Humans were made to rule over everything, but because of sin, that had not happened. The earth had not been filled and subdued as God intended. It was messy and out of control. Jesus had to enter this messy world as a man. He left the splendor of heaven to come to earth as man who was intimately involved in the mess that humans had created.

Explain to the children that verse 10 describes how Jesus, the man, became humanity's ultimate champion and deliverer. Tell the children that, in the ancient world, it was quite normal for one man to be chosen to go out and fight another man, each man representing his respective army. The examples of David and Goliath could be used to illustrate this or the fight between the Greek Achilles and the Roman Hector as recorded in Homer's *Iliad*. Tell the children that the way Jesus is described in Hebrews 2 is as the one who has been sent on behalf of humans to fight and overcome sin, the resulting death, and the Devil. Jesus fights to redeem those who have been trapped and enslaved by sin and who face the devastation of death.

**Notes**

Explain to the children that when Jesus became fully human, with flesh and blood, he became just like those he would count as brothers and sisters after he redeemed them. Ask them if they can identify where it says this in the passage.

Tell the children that Jesus's humanity allowed him to fully understand what life is like in every way. Hebrews especially mentions the struggle of temptation; Jesus was tempted in every way, and yet he was without sin. Explain to the children that Jesus understands what it's like to be tempted to disobey God and tempted to love things other than God. Ask the children if it is helpful and encouraging to know that Jesus understands everything about human life because he lived a life on earth as a human, and still lives as a (glorified) human now.

Explain to the children that God told his people that the penalty for sin is death, but he established a pattern of sacrifice in the Old Testament that allowed people to temporarily atone for their sins. An animal had to be sacrificed and blood had to be shed

in order to receive forgiveness. However, an animal sacrifice was not enough; the Bible says that human blood is required to pay the permanent penalty for sin. If there is going to be a substitute, it needs to be sufficiently qualified. Only a human can die in the place of other humans and truly satisfy the penalty. If the Redeemer was not fully human, then he would not have been able to fulfill God's requirements. He is the ultimate mediator between God and humans because he can represent all those who believe and repent. Through his sacrifice, humans find forgiveness for their sins and have a relationship with God. Explain to the children that Jesus in his perfect humanity was able to turn God's anger away from sinful people by taking the full force of the anger and punishment on his own body.

**Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 22 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.)*

**10 Activity**

*You will need some large sheets of paper and some markers. Write the words below (which are all related to Jesus's earthly life) on slips of paper.*

Sleep	Cry	Tired	Walk	Eat	Sad
Baby	Mother	Death	Man	Drink	Love

**Notes**

Divide the children into small teams and give each team some paper and markers.

Explain to the children that each team must send a volunteer to the front of the room to look at a word. The volunteer must then return to his or her team and try to help the

team guess the word by drawing pictures.

No spoken words or sounds may be used!

Once teams have correctly guessed the word, another volunteer should race to the front to read another word and return to draw it for his or her team. The team that is first to guess all their words wins.

**5 Discussion and Question Time**

Some questions that might arise include:

**? If Jesus was fully human, doesn't that mean that he was a sinner?**

Remind the children that God created Adam and Eve without sin. That was what it was to be truly human. They chose to sin, and every human born since has been a sinner. Jesus did not have an earthly father; he had a heavenly Father. This meant he didn't inherit Adam's sinful nature.

**? Did Jesus become less God when he lived on earth?**

Explain to the children that Jesus did not become less God, but that he did choose to lay aside his heavenly glory

when he came to earth, and that he submitted himself fully to the will of God the Father.

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

- Ask the children what it means to know that Jesus fully understands what it is to be human.
- Ask the children if they are struck by Jesus's humility and love, knowing that he willingly left heaven to redeem them.
- Ask the children to sum up why Jesus needed to be fully human.

**10 Virtue Vision**

**Love**

*You will need a picture of Maximilian Kolbe.*

Tell the children the story of Maximilian Kolbe, a monk who was arrested in Poland in February 1941 and was eventually sent

to Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration camp.

While he was at the concentration camp, a prisoner escaped, and in retaliation the guards chose ten men to punish by starvation and death. One of the chosen men, Franciszek Gajowniczek (pronounced





## Notes

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Fran-sis-ek Ga-jown-izek), was deeply distressed at the thought of dying and leaving his family. Maximilian Kolbe offered to take Franciszek's place. After weeks of starvation, Maximilian was eventually murdered instead of Franciszek. He had taken another man's place and had willingly suffered death to save his friend's life. Maximilian Kolbe was motivated by the great humility and love that he saw in Jesus, who left the glory of heaven to come to earth and die so that he might save people from their sins. Maximilian showed the same humility and love when he died for his friend.

Ask the children what feelings they have in response to this story. What feelings might Franciszek have had? (Remind them that he was the man who was spared so that he could remain with his family.) Ask the children what motivated Maximilian, Franciszek's lifesaver.

Also ask: "How is love humble?" and "How might the humility and love of Jesus affect how you live your life and how you love others?"

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### 10 Memory Activity

Have the children write out the memory verse or catechism answer on the sticky notes, one word per note. Stick the notes up on the wall, out of order. Task the children with putting the words in order on the wall.

Read the memory verse or catechism answer through with the children several times and then begin to remove some of the sticky notes.

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### 5 Closing Prayer Time

Invite the children to praise God for his plan of salvation and praise Jesus for his willingness to come to earth as the Redeemer. They can thank him that he was

willing to be sleepy, hungry, and cold, as well as all the other things humans endure, to be their Redeemer.