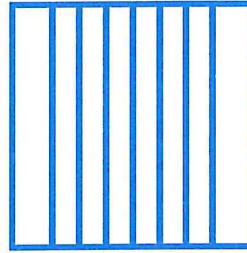


## Question 23

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# Why must the Redeemer be truly God?



## Answer

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That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective.

### Big Idea

Only God himself is capable of redeeming humanity.

### Aim

To help the children understand that only a Redeemer who is fully God could save them.

### Bible Passage

Acts 2:22–41

### Memory Verse

“God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” (Acts 2:24)

### Virtue

Humility



## Leader's Notes

Children will understand that Jesus was fully human a little easier than the truth that Jesus was fully God. This lesson will once again focus on the fact that Jesus was one person with two natures. The aim is to help the children further understand that Jesus is fully God and why it was necessary for the Redeemer to be fully God. Given the pluralistic air that surrounds children in everyday life, it will be useful to once again point out that this is where Christianity differs from every other religion that recognizes Jesus. Only Christians believe that Jesus was fully God. This lesson should give children confidence in understanding the divinity of Jesus and the significance of the incarnation for them individually.

### Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- This is a hard concept for some children to understand. Reassure them that this lesson should further their understanding.
- Be careful not to be overly critical of other religions, but rather point out the differences clearly.
- 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

Almighty God, thank you that in your great mercy you graciously brought me into a saving relationship with yourself. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for humbling yourself, leaving the glory of heaven to come to earth. Thank you that through your substitutionary death I can know life. Grant understanding to

the children who will listen to this lesson. May they fully grasp that Jesus is one person with two natures, and may they be awed by the fact that you came to earth in all your fullness to redeem them. In Jesus's name. Amen.

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## Leader's Tool Kit

- Q23 Catechism Recap Wheel (RB) printed on cardstock
- Brass paper fastener/brad
- Scissors
- Paper
- Christmas wrapping paper



Notes

10 Catechism Recap

Print onto cardstock the Q23 Catechism Recap Wheel (RB) disc and spinning arm. Cut them out and attach the arrow to the disc with the fastener loosely enough that it can spin. Write the numbers one through twenty-two on slips of paper, and put them in a bowl.

Invite the children to take turns drawing a catechism question or number out of the bowl. After they have their number, let them spin the arrow to see what their assignment is. If they don't know the answer, their classmates can help them. Give as many children a chance to take a turn as your time will allow.

5 Introduction to Question 23

Briefly tell the children the story of The Prince and the Pauper, in which a prince trades lives with a poor boy who happens to look like him. On the subject of royalty, ask the children if they have seen Aladdin, and if they remember when Jasmine ran away from her father's palace.

consider leaving their homes? It is unlikely that they would want to leave!

Ask the children if they lived in the most beautiful place in the world, with perfect relationships and with everything that they could possibly need, would they ever

Ask the children if they've ever heard of anyone who left such a beautiful and perfect place to live among their subjects. God left the splendor of heaven to live among his creation when he became man. Introduce the children to Question 23: "Why must the Redeemer be truly God?" Explain to the children that this question will help them to consider more carefully why the one who came to redeem had to be fully God.

10 Activity



Print or write out the four verses below, which speak of Jesus's divinity. Wrap each verse up as if it were a Christmas present.

his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 20:28: "Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'"

Colossians 2:9: "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen

Ask the children what we celebrate at Christmas in the Christian church. It's the

birth of the baby Jesus! Remind the children that Question 22 helped them to think about the humanity of Jesus, and tell them that this question will help them to learn more about the deity of Jesus—the fact that Jesus was fully God. Help the children consider that when Jesus was born, he was fully human and fully God, one person with two natures.

Ask the children to pick a number between one and twenty. Choose the four students who pick numbers closest to the number five. Give each a package to unwrap, then ask them to read the verse inside. Ask the children what the verses teach about Jesus (you may need to add a little context). The verses clearly indicate that Jesus was God the Son and that he existed eternally before he came to live on earth as a 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.

Remind the children that Jesus is one person with two natures. Jesus is fully God and fully human. Acknowledge once again that this is a hard concept to understand because it is unique. Remind the children that this is an area where Christianity differs greatly from other religions. Tell the children that the Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, do not believe that Jesus is God.

**Read Acts 2:22–41.** Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Tell the children that these verses are part of a speech that Jesus's disciple Peter gave at a time called Pentecost. Pentecost was when God sent the Holy Spirit to his church. Explain to the children that this speech was given to thousands of people in Jerusalem after Jesus's death and resurrection.

Tell the children that Peter clearly proclaims to the listening crowds that Jesus is God. Peter delivers a speech that essentially reminds the people who Jesus was and why he came:

- He was a man whom God the Father used greatly in many ways. Through all the signs and miracles Jesus performed, God the Father was confirming that Jesus was God the Son.
- He was a man destined to die on the cross because God the Father had determined that God the Son would be the Redeemer.
- He died but was raised again because death could not hold God the Son.
- He is now back in heaven at the right hand of God the Father.

Tell the children that Peter had no doubt that Jesus is fully God, and that Peter urged the listening crowd to seek redemption from Jesus.





## Notes

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Explain to the children that Jesus needed to be fully God to redeem humans because:

- Only the Creator God who gave life can recreate and give new life.
- Only God himself can bear the punishment for the sins of all those who trust in him. Jesus's humanity meant that he could be a qualified substitute; Jesus's divinity meant that he was an infinitely valuable substitute.
- If Jesus was not God, he would not have had the authority to pronounce their sins forgiven.

Ask the children to imagine how they'd feel in the following scenario: They stole a toy from a friend, and they were caught.

When they apologized to their friend and asked for forgiveness from the friend, the friend's brother said, "Yes, he forgives you." Explain to them that forgiveness needs to come from the one who has been wronged. Jesus is not a third party. He is God who has been sinned against, and only he has the right to redeem.

**Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 23 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



*For this activity, you will need a recording of the Christmas carol "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!"*

Tell the children that you are going to pretend it's Christmas for a few minutes. Ask them to sit down. Tell them that you are going to play a Christmas carol, and you want them to stand up every time they hear a line in the song that refers to Jesus as God. They should sit immediately back down so that they will be ready for the next line.

Highlighted below are the lyrics that most clearly refer to Jesus as divine, though the children may hear it in other lines.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

hail the incarnate Deity,  
 pleased as man with men to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Immanuel.  
 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
 “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,  
 risen with healing in his wings.  
 Mild, he lays his glory by,  
 born that man no more may die,  
 born to raise the sons of earth,  
 born to give us second birth.  
 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
 “Glory to the newborn King!”

### 5 Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

#### ? Why did Jesus not save himself if he was God?

Remind the children that Jesus, God the Son, was perfectly obedient to God the Father. He was fully God, but chose to do his Father’s will.

#### ? Why didn’t God redeem people another way?

Tell the children that this was the only way possible for humans to be freed from sin and brought into a relationship with God.

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

- How does understanding that Jesus is fully God affect their desire to worship him?
- How might they explain that Jesus is one person with two natures to someone who has never heard about Jesus before?

### 10 Virtue Vision

#### Humility

Ask the children what the opposite of being humble is. Tell them that the opposite of humility is pride.

Ask the children if they can recall a time when they acted proud. Ask if they feel tempted to boast or brag about their greatness when they do something well.

Ask the children if they believe there is a difference between confidence and pride.

Jesus had every reason to act proud—he is God himself! But instead, he humbled himself to become a little human baby in order to save us. Ask the children what it would look like for them to be humble instead of proud.





### 10 Memory Activity

*On individual pieces of paper write the following instructions:*

*Croak like a frog.*

*Squeak like a mouse.*

*Speak with an accent.*

*Whisper like the wind.*

Divide the children into four small groups and give each group a piece of paper with one of the instructions on it. Tell the children that their challenge is to say the memory verse or catechism answer in the way that their instructions require. After the children have each said the memory verse in one style get them to swap instructions and say it in another style.

### Notes

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### 5 Closing Prayer Time

Encourage the children to praise and thank Jesus for his willingness to leave heaven and his humility in coming to earth to redeem humans in desperate need of him.

