

6th & 7th Grade Homestudy Lesson #5

JESUS CHRIST

GOAL

The goal of this lesson is to help you understand the meaning of Jesus Christ as "begotten not made." This night will also explain the oneness of the Trinity, specifically the relationship between Jesus Christ and God the Father as distinct persons but both fully God.

Begin the lesson by carefully praying the Nicene Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was
buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Lectio Divina

Read John 1:14

What does it mean to you that the "Word became flesh"?

Read John 1:14 again

KEY WORD DEFINITIONS

Begotten - the only one of its kind; unique in its relationship; to come from

Consubstantial - of the same substance, essence, and nature

TEACHING

THE CREED

The words of the Creed are there to help us not only proclaim our Faith, which is believed by all Catholics, but it also helps us to understand more about what we believe. In regards to Jesus the words of the Creed say, "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, consubstantial with the Father."

Consubstantial with the Father

Jesus Christ has a unique relationship with God the Father. As the second person of the Trinity He is referred to as the Son of God. The words "father" and "son" are really just to help us understand their relationship with each other, but their relationship is also so much more than a relationship that you or I have with our own fathers.

In the Creed we proclaim that Jesus Christ is "begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father." What do these words mean? **Begotten** reveals that Jesus Christ came from God the Father and that He is His Son. This word reveals that Jesus' relationship with God the Father is very unique and He is the only one who will forever be the Son of God. You and I are sons and daughters of God through Baptism, but that is a relationship more like an adoption, where as Jesus is the only

Son of God. The word **consubstantial** means that Jesus is one with God, they are of the same essence and nature. This means that they are both fully God, even though they are two different persons as Father and Son.

FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN

So why is it important that we understand that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is of the same substance as God? Well, it reveals to us something that is central to our Faith: That Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man.

This concept may be something you have heard before and just accepted that Jesus is God but He was also a man who lived 2,000 years ago. But this teaching is a treasure of the Faith that was threatened by many people in the very beginning of the Church. There were certain people who did not believe that Jesus was fully God and fully man. If that were to have been true, that would completely change so many things about our Faith and what we believe.

In the year 325 AD at the Council of Nicaea the truth that we have just learned — that Jesus was of the same substance of God even though He was also fully man — was confirmed in writing and held to be a part of the Faith. At the end of this council the bishops gave to the faithful the Nicene Creed (named after the council) that clarified the truths of the Faith so that no one would be misled.

JESUS IN YOUR LIFE

So why should it matter to you that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father and that He is fully God and fully man? It matters because this teaching is at the core of our Faith.

Think about how our Faith and our lives would be different if Jesus were just a man. Everything He said about being God would have been a lie: His death on the cross would have meant nothing, there would have been no resurrection, and Jesus would probably just be another good guy of history we only learn about in school. We also would have no example of how to live our lives and a very different concept of who God is.

Now what if Jesus were just God and never became man? We would all still be Jewish or some other religion, no one would know very much about God, we would probably still do animal sacrifices, we would not have been saved from our sins, and the gates of heaven would not have been open to us. We would not know God in the same way, and we would not know as well of His great love for us.

It is a pretty big deal that Jesus was both God and man. That is why we proclaim it every Sunday in the Creed and why it is a central part of our Faith. God loved us so

much that He sent His Son, who is also fully God, to become a man and to die for our sins so that we could be with Him forever in heaven.

QUESTIONS

1. What do the words "begotten" and "consubstantial" mean? What do these words reveal to us about Jesus Christ and his relationship with God the Father?

2. Fill in the blanks: Jesus is both fully _____ and
fully _____.

3. Why is Jesus nature (as divine and human) so important to our faith?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close the lesson by praying the "Glory Be"