

Jesus is the Son of God

FOR THE TEACHER:

This week's lesson is to help the kids understand that Jesus is the Son of God living with us as a man. Jesus is the good news of God that we are sharing with kids. This is Jesus' identity: He is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, living in permanent union with all of humanity and all of creation.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Birthday Party.

Talk about one of your favorite birthdays and what you did that made it fun. Then let the kids talk about a birthday they've already had or one coming up. Ask - What do you do on a birthday? (eat cake, play games). We are going to have our own party and play Pin the Ornament on the Tree. Before class pre-cut a large evergreen type tree and tape it up on the wall. Pre-cut different colored ornaments to put on the tree. One at a time, blindfold each child and have them try to put the ornaments on the tree. Today we are going to talk about Jesus' birthday and what happened on the day he was born.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Luke 1:26-38. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

26In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

What is a virgin? For ages 4-8: someone who's not married. For ages 9+: someone who's not married and hasn't had sex.

29Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

*How many gods are there? (One) *How many persons does God have? (Three) *Who are the three persons of God? (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

34"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[c] the Son of God. 36Even

Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37For nothing is impossible with God."

38"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

*Which person of God became the man Jesus? (The Son) *When did the Son become the man Jesus? (When the Holy Spirit made him a baby inside the Virgin Mary.) *What is this event called? (The incarnation) *When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (Every Sunday and especially on Christmas Day)

PRIMARY LESSON: Jesus is the Son of God living with us as a man.

- **SECOND ACTIVITY: Family Tree.** Give each child a piece of paper to draw a simple family tree. For younger kids, have them draw each member of their family plus their parents. For older kids, have them write their names. Have each one talk about their family. Ask- Do you know how you got your name? Are you named after anyone in your family? When were you given your name (When I was inside my mom; When I was born). When did Jesus get his name? (When he was a baby inside his mom). Who was there to celebrate when you were born? (My parents, my sister). Who was there to celebrate when Jesus was born? (Joseph, Angel, Shepherds).

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending your Son to become the man Jesus so that we can live with you forever. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for making the Son into the baby Jesus in the Virgin Mary. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into our world and our lives and becoming our brother. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that our Father loves us very, very much and that you and Jesus and the Father will always be with us forever. In Jesus name, Amen.