

Jesus Will Keep Us With Him Forever

FOR THE TEACHER:

This week's lesson is designed to help kids learn one of the most important lessons of Christmas: Jesus is fully God and fully human. Jesus never stops being human ("flesh and bone" Jesus says in Luke 24:39 or "flesh and blood" it says in Hebrews 2:14). Jesus' humanity is now glorified and resurrected but he is still a human being. At the same time, Jesus never stops being the Son of God. Jesus will keep us with him forever by living forever as our flesh and blood brother and living forever as God the Son.

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

FIRST ACTIVITY: Picture Day. Bring in a picture of yourself when you were a child and also a current picture. Try to have the kids guess who the baby is. Share some of the things you liked when you were little and how you changed. Have the kids share their favorite things they can remember when they were smaller and some things they like now. Explain how even though we don't look the same or like the same things when we were a baby, we are still the same person.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Hebrews 2:10-15. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

10In bringing many children to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. What does it mean to be holy? (To love and take care of others the way the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit love and take care of each other).

So Jesus is not ashamed to call us his brothers. 12He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." 13And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

These words come from the Old Testament. * *What does the Old Testament tell us about?* (The story of how the Father called the people of Israel to be a place where Jesus could be born).

What makes two people brother and sister? (Same father, or mother, or both) Who is Jesus' Father? (God the Father) So if Jesus is our brother, who is our Father? (God the Father)

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

*Which person of God became the man Jesus? (The Son) *Was there ever a time when the Son did not exist? (No) *Was there ever a time when Jesus did not exist? (Yes) *When did Jesus come into existence? (When the Son became the man Jesus) *When did the Son become the man Jesus? (When the Holy Spirit made him a flesh and blood baby inside the Virgin Mary.) *What is this event called? (The incarnation) *Does Jesus live forever? (Yes) *Will he ever stop being human like us? (No) *Will he ever stop being God like the Father and the Holy Spirit? (No)

Because Jesus lives forever as our flesh and blood brother, and lives forever as God the Son, it means that Jesus will keep us with him forever.

PRIMARY LESSON: Jesus will keep us with him forever by living forever as our flesh and blood brother and living forever as God the Son.

SECOND ACTIVITY: The Sandwich. To do this activity you will need 2 slices of bread and 1 slice of American cheese for each child. Start by giving each child two pieces of bread. Tell them to put the two pieces of bread together. Ask the kids if this is a sandwich or just two pieces of bread (It's just two pieces of bread). Now hold up the cheese: is this a sandwich? (No) Now pass out the cheese and ask the kids to assemble a cheese sandwich with bread and cheese. What makes it a sandwich? Bread AND Cheese. What makes Jesus? God AND Man - if he's not God or he's not human then he's not Jesus. For Jesus to be Jesus he has to have both natures - his nature as God the Son and his nature as a human being.

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, Jesus, for being willing to be flesh and blood like us and the Son of God forever. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that we are included forever in your life with the Father and Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.