

This midweek study will explore the biblical teaching of Jesus' humanity. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Jesus' Humanity

In addition to being fully divine, the Bible also affirms that Jesus is fully human. Not only does the Old Testament affirm that the Promised One (Messiah) would be a man (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Mic. 5:3), but the New Testament also affirms that Jesus' earthly life bore all the marks of being a human. He experienced the circumstances common to living as a human being, such as hunger (Matt. 4:2), thirst (John 19:28), weariness (Matt. 8:24), sorrow (John 11:35), and pain (the crucifixion).

1 Jesus' humanity enables him to be the last Adam and thus fulfill God's plan for mankind (Rom. 5:15, 19).

Read Ephesians 2:1-3.

- ▶ When God first created Adam, what was His plan for humanity? Did Adam fulfill that plan?
- ▶ When Adam fell, how did God's plan change? Did God's long-term goal change?
- ▶ Why do you think Jesus is sometimes called the last Adam?

Read Romans 5:15,19.

- ▶ According to Romans 5:15 and 19, what came about as the result of Adam's sin?
- ▶ In the same verses, what parallel did Paul draw between the consequences of Adam's sin and the consequences of Jesus' obedience?
- ▶ In verse 15, how did Paul describe Jesus? What did Paul call Him? Why do you think Paul called Him "the one man, Jesus Christ"?
- ▶ What will be the long-term, ultimate result of Jesus' obedience?
- ▶ If Adam had remained perfect in His obedience, what would have happened to the earth? Because of Jesus' perfect obedience, what will happen to the earth? How are these two answers parallel? How is Jesus the last Adam?
- ▶ So why was it necessary for Jesus to be fully human, just like Adam was fully human?

2 Jesus' humanity enables Him to be our sympathetic high priest (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15).

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

- ▶ When you are in pain, suffering, or having a bad day, what are some things you would like and appreciate?
- ▶ Have you ever heard someone tell another person, "I don't really want you to solve my problem. I just want you to empathize with me." If yes, what does that speaker mean?
- ▶ How do people view others differently when they have "walked a mile in their shoes?"

Read Hebrews 4:15.

- ▶ What are some of the temptations that Jesus would have experienced?
- ▶ Think of some temptations and suffering you experience. How did Jesus experience the same temptations and sufferings? How can Jesus sympathize with you in such weakness?
- ▶ How does Jesus' humanity comfort those who might say that they just want someone to empathize with them?

3 Jesus' humanity enabled Him to die for us and be our atonement (John 19:34; Heb. 2:9).

- ▶ Is there anything that a human being can do that God cannot? Can God sin? Can God get tired? Can God get a stomach-ache? Can God die?

Read John 20:34.

- ▶ Why do you think John emphasized that water and blood came from Jesus' wound?
- ▶ Why was it necessary for Jesus to become a human being in order to save us? What did He have to do in His humanity that He could not do in His divinity? (Answer: die).

Read Hebrews 2:9.

- ▶ According to the verse, for whom did Jesus taste death?
- ▶ So in what sense is Jesus the ultimate sympathizer? What ultimate pain does He not only share with us, but bear for us?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How can Jesus' humanity make us feel His closeness all the more this week? How does the fact that He experienced everything there is about being human make Him more comforting and more precious?