

Jesus: man or Immanuel?

Introduction:

The aim of this session explores the young people’s understanding of the ministry of Jesus Christ and how significant his life, death and resurrection is to the Christian faith.

Aims & objectives:

- To explore the person and characteristics of Jesus.
- To deepen the young people’s understanding of Jesus’ life and ministry.
- To consider some of the key characteristics Jesus displayed throughout his ministry.
- To unpack what love is and connect love with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus..



Materials: Laptop/equipment to play a You Tube clip.



Activity...

Who is Jesus?

To introduce the session, watch the film clip ‘Who is Jesus? NYC survey’ and then ask the young people for their observations, thoughts and anything they agree or disagree with about the clip:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=johNLhZ5y48

Conclude by explaining that Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God and that his life and ministry expressed God’s



Activity...

Who is Jesus?



Engage...

What do you know?



Explore...

Character building



Going deeper...

Willing to follow



Pause...

Jesus is...



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Engage...

What do you know?

Materials: 'Engage' worksheet, pens and post-its (four different colours are needed that match those on the worksheet).

The purpose of this activity enables the session leader(s) to understand the young people's knowledge of Jesus' life and ministry and the opportunity to clarify any confusion or misunderstandings early on in the course.

Divide the young people into four groups and give them one of the four colours of 'post-its'. Each group has two minutes to write down anything they know on the 'post-its' about Jesus relating to the four categories below. Repeat the activity four times so that each group has time to say something for each category below:

- One 'thing' that Jesus taught (on yellow post-its)
- One 'miracle' that Jesus performed (on pink post-its)
- One 'fact' about Jesus's life (on green post-its)
- One 'person' that Jesus met (on blue post-its)

Invite the groups to stick their 'post-its' onto the corresponding colours on the 'Engage' worksheet. Key things to listen out for are well known stories, actions, words as well as confused facts and any unusual comments. After several minutes use the post-its and worksheet(s) to clarify and correct anything that the young people know (or don't know) about Jesus to introduce the next activity that explores the character of Jesus.



Explore...

Character building

Materials: Copies of the 'Explore' worksheet (board game and Gospel readings).

Explain to the group that during his life and ministry Jesus displayed many characteristics - four easily identifiable ones are teacher, healer, friend, saviour. For the next activity, divide the young people into threes and give each group a copy of the 'Explore' board game and the sixteen Gospel readings cut out that accompany the activity. Each group has to decide which characteristic Jesus is portraying in the verses and place them on the appropriate square. Some are obvious and some are not - the groups will have fun deciding!

The answers will be given during the next activity



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Going deeper...

Willing to follow..

Materials: Copies of the 'Going deeper' worksheet.

Invite the groups to share their answers to the previous activity, explaining where they have placed each one and why? Conclude by revealing the answers (below) and reassuring the young people that Jesus often showed a number of characteristics to the various people he encountered. See if the young people can suggest any other stories where this happens. To help move the discussion further ask the following questions:

- 1) What is the most important characteristic and why? Teacher, healer, saviour, friend?
- 2) What do the scriptures tell us about Jesus' words and actions?
- 3) Why do you think Jesus acted the way he did in particular situations?
- 4) Why do you think people listened and responded to Jesus?

Answers for the 'Explore' activity:

Teacher:

Mark 10:14-15
Luke 11:2-4
Matthew 5:43-44
Matthew 5:10-12

Healer:

Mark 5:27-29
Luke 4:18
Matthew 9:2
Luke 9:11

Saviour:

Luke 15:4
John 3:16
John 4:13-14
Luke 19:9-10

Friend:

John 11:1-7
Luke 7:34
Matthew 11:28
John 15:15



Pause...

Jesus is...

Materials: Laptop/equipment to play a You Tube clip.

Explain to the group that Jesus challenged his disciples asking them, 'Who do you say I am?' (Matthew 16:13-20).

Watch the clip 'Jesus is || Spoken word' - www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kLwWZ-DG6s

After the clip, invite the young people to think about or share their response to the question: Who do you say I am? Teacher? Healer? Saviour? Friend? After a few moments conclude with the following prayer.

Lord Jesus,
Thank you for who you are.
We pray that as we leave this place
you will continue to reveal yourself more.
Helping us to grasp who you really are.
In your name we pray. Am.

