

St. Raymond Church RCIA

Jesus 101: The Basics

1. Before watching the video teaching, take time to reflect...
 - a. *Who first told you about Jesus? What did they say to you (as best you can recall)?*
 - b. *If some asked YOU, "Who is Jesus?", what would you say?*
 - c. *What questions do YOU have about Jesus' life and mission?*
2. Is Jesus God? YES!
 - a. Mark 2, 28 Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath
 - b. Mark 2, 1-12 Jesus has the power to forgive sin
 - c. John 8, 58 Jesus identifies himself as I AM
 - d. Luke 1, 11 Elizabeth refers to Mary as "Mother of my Lord"
 - e. Colossians 2, 9 Paul writes: In Christ the fullness of deity resides...
3. Did Jesus always exist?
 - a. YES
 - b. As one of the three person's of the Blessed Trinity Jesus is eternal
 - c. Jesus always was and always will be
 - d. Jesus as a man had a definite beginning
4. Why did "become man"?
 - a. To save sinners by his dying on the Cross
 - b. The Father desired the reunion of humanity with Himself. God had to become one of us in order to save us (since sin entered the world through a man Adam, salvation would also come through a man, Jesus)
 - c. Jesus' mission is the draw us to the Father.
5. How did he "become man"?
 - a. Jesus humbled himself to come among us.
 - b. Through the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon Mary.
 - c. Mary freely said yes and she conceived (first in her heart and then in her womb)
6. How is this really possible?
 - a. We are talking about God who made everything out of nothing!
 - b. God can make an egg split on its own and allow conception to take place in a different way.
7. Is he God or is he a man?
 - a. BOTH
 - b. Jesus is truly God and truly man. He is ONE person with TWO natures.
 - c. Jesus has a DIVINE intellect (knowledge) and will.
 - d. Jesus has a HUMAN intellect (knowledge) and will. He experienced our human limitations, emotions, sufferings and pain – he was truly one of us!

Questions to guide your conversation among Faith Partners...

1. Did the teaching offer you something "new" about Jesus? What?
2. As you think about Jesus (who is always God) becoming human like us in all things, does this amazing reality blow your mind? Why is it important for you?
3. Knowing we will be learning about Jesus for another few weeks, what questions about our Lord Jesus are still in your heart and mind?

One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis