

Jesus the Messiah

LESSON 6

Suggested Grade Levels

- › Upper middle school
- › High school

Learning Goals

- › In the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, God marks each of us with a permanent spiritual mark on our souls that sets us apart as belonging to Him, points us toward heaven, and gives us a share in Christ's mission, which is the salvation of all souls.
- › Jesus is the Anointed One of God, the Messiah and Christ prophesied in the Old Testament, who came to save the world from sin and death.
- › We believe that Jesus is one Person with two distinct natures (God and man or divine and human). He is 100% God and 100% man.
- › The Incarnation is the central mystery of our Faith that God became man in the Person of Jesus Christ.
- › God became man in the Incarnation for four reasons: to save us from sin, to reveal God's love, to be our model of holiness, and to make us sharers in God's divine nature.



Connection to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- › CCC 62
- › CCC 436-451
- › CCC 461-464
- › CCC 522
- › CCC 702
- › CCC 1830-1832



Vocabulary

- › Messiah
- › Christ
- › Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- › Divine Nature
- › Human Nature
- › Incarnation

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

MATTHEW 16:15-17

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

LUKE 4:18-21

Lesson Plan

Materials

- ▶ Handout A: Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Handout B: Jesus' Two Natures: God and Man Crossword Puzzle
- ▶ Handout C: Bible Verse Sort
- ▶ Handout D: *The Transfiguration*
- ▶ Handout E: The Incarnation
- ▶ Teacher Resource: Crossword Puzzle Scripture Passages

DAY ONE

Warm-Up

- A. Show your students the short video from *Toy Story 2* found at [YouTube.com/watch?v=3Cr-mU6yBJM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Cr-mU6yBJM). In this clip, the real Buzz Lightyear confronts an imposter Buzz Lightyear.
- B. After showing the video, ask your students the following questions:
 - ▶ Why did the real Buzz Lightyear show his friends his foot? *To show that he was marked as belonging to Andy.*
 - ▶ How do you mark things at home that belong to you or to your family? *Answers will vary.*
 - ▶ To whom do you belong? *Students may not automatically know how to answer this question, or they may say no. Some students might suggest their parents or their family. Accept reasoned answers, but help your students come to the conclusion that they belong to God.*
 - ▶ What did Andy do to “mark” Buzz? *He wrote his name on Buzz’s foot.*
 - ▶ What does God do to mark you? *Students may not be able to answer this question right away. The correct answer is with an indelible mark in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.*
- C. Explain to your students that we mark things as belonging to us all the time. Farmers mark their livestock by branding them, pet owners mark their pets with collars and tags, and adults mark their property with labels, licenses, codes, and symbols. An animal or a piece of property is marked as special to a person for a specific purpose and for a limited time here on earth. In the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, God marks each of us with a permanent spiritual mark on our souls. This mark sets us apart as belonging to God, points us toward heaven, and gives us a share in Christ’s mission, which is the salvation of all souls. We are sent out to be His witnesses to the world.

Activity

- A. Write the word *Messiah* on the board. Ask your students where they have heard this word before. *It is used to describe Jesus. Jesus is the Messiah.*
- B. Next, write the word *Christ* on the board. Ask your students where they have heard this word before. *It is also used as a title for Jesus. Jesus is “the Christ.” We often refer to Jesus as Jesus Christ. Rather than being His last name (which it is not), “Christ” is the Greek word for “Messiah.” This means that when Jesus is called “the Christ,” or we call Him Jesus Christ, we are simply calling Him the Messiah.*

C. Explain to your students that the word “messiah” (and “Christ”) means “anointed one.” In the Old Testament, Levitical priests, the kings descended from David, and some prophets were anointed by holy oil as a sign of their status as a priest, king, or prophet, and of the task given to them according to their position. All those who were anointed were messiahs. That means that the kings descended from David in the Jewish royal kingdom were messiahs because they were all anointed. This anointing gave the person an outpouring of God’s Spirit to empower them for the tasks given to them by God. The Jewish people were eventually conquered by foreign powers and exiled from their homeland. They spent many centuries in exile, ruled by foreign kings. The Jewish people began to wait for the time when God would restore His people and fulfill His promises made to Abraham long ago that they would possess the Promised Land and be a great nation, that they would have a dynasty of great kings, and that the world would be blessed through them. In other words, the Jewish people were waiting and expecting the coming of the Messiah. The Messiah would not just be a king or priest, but the king and priest who would save God’s people and restore them. Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, who came to redeem God’s people, although perhaps in a way different from what people expected. Jesus is not just an earthly king or priest. He is God Himself, King of the Universe, become man, and He is the High Priest, who offers Himself as sacrifice for the sins of all.

D. Project Luke 4:16-21, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

E. Ask your students the following questions:

- ▶ In this passage, which describes a moment at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, Jesus reads a prophecy about the coming of the Messiah from the book of Isaiah, written about 1,000 years before Jesus was born. What does this passage say has come upon this person and anointed him? *The Spirit of the Lord.*
- ▶ What will the Messiah do, according to Isaiah’s prophecy? *Bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*
- ▶ After Jesus reads the prophecy from Isaiah and rolls up the scroll, what does Jesus say about the prophecy of the Messiah? What does Jesus mean by this? *Jesus says, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus means that He is the Messiah Isaiah prophesied.*

F. Project Matthew 16:15-17, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.”

G. Ask your students the following questions:

- ▶ What question does Jesus ask His Apostles? *“Who do you say that I am?”*
- ▶ Who answers for the Apostles? *Simon Peter.*
- ▶ What is Peter’s answer? *“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*
- ▶ Why does Jesus tell Simon that he is blessed? *Because the Father has revealed to him that Jesus is the Messiah.*

H. Explain to your students that Jesus freely accepted the title Messiah. During His public ministry, as He accomplished all that Isaiah prophesied the Messiah would do, the people came to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, as professed by St. Peter.

Assessment

- A. Explain to your students that just as Jesus was anointed by God, and was the true Messiah and savior of the world, we too are marked by God at our Baptism and when we are confirmed. These Sacraments give us a share in the same mission of Christ and strengthen us to carry out that mission by giving us an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Distribute **Handout A: Gifts of the Holy Spirit (page 320)**. Arrange your students in pairs or trios. Assign each group of students one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and have them read the definition of the gift they were assigned. Then have each group rewrite the definition of their assigned gift in their own words and give three specific examples of how that gift of the Holy Spirit can help them announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to others.
- C. When your students have completed **Handout A**, call on groups to share their definitions and ways the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help us announce the Good News.

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

A. Project Matthew 16:15-17 again, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.”

- B. Point out to your students that they considered this passage on the first day of this lesson when they learned about what it means that Jesus is the Messiah. Ask your students:
- ▶ What question did Jesus ask? “*Who do you say that I am?*”
 - ▶ How did Simon Peter answer? “*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*”
 - ▶ Peter’s profession of who Jesus is was amazing for two reasons. The first is that Peter professed Jesus to be the Messiah, the long-awaited savior of God’s people. The second, and even more amazing profession was that Jesus is the Son of God. What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God? *Accept reasoned answers. Help your students understand that when we say that Jesus is the Son of God, we mean that Jesus is God Himself. All that the Father is, so is Jesus. They are the same substance. Most ancient Jews expected the Messiah to be a man, a great king even, but few understood that the Messiah would be God Himself in human form.*
- C. Explain to your students that the Church teaches that Jesus is one person with two distinct natures (divine and human). Jesus was 100% God and 100% human. He was not half God and half man (that would be something called a demi-god, like the Greek mythological hero Hercules). He was all that it means to be God and all that it means to be human, with the exception of sin.

Activity

Distribute **Handout B: Jesus’ Two Natures: God and Man Crossword Puzzle (page 75)** to your students. Have them look up the given Scripture passages and fill in the blank in each passage with the correct word. That word will then be used to complete the crossword puzzle. When your students have completed the puzzle, review and discuss the correct answers.

*Note: If you do not have enough Bibles in your classroom, the Scripture passages have been included on **Teacher Resource: Crossword Puzzle Scripture Passages (page 72 in this guide)**. Also note that all Scripture for this activity was taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition. Other translations may not provide the same exact wording to complete the puzzle correctly.*

Assessment

- A. Distribute **Handout C: Bible Verse Sort (page 77)** to your students and have them, working individually or with a partner, reread the Bible verses from the crossword puzzle and decide whether each verse tells us something about Jesus’ humanity or Jesus’ divinity. Then have students list each Scripture reference under the correct column on the chart and write a brief summary of what the passage tells us about Jesus’ humanity or divinity. The first two have been done as an example. Lastly, have students answer the reflection questions in complete sentences.
- B. When your students have completed **Handout C**, review and discuss the correct answers.

DAY THREE**Warm-Up**

- A. Distribute **Handout D: The Transfiguration (page 79)** by Fra Angelico. Give students as much time as possible to view the painting in silence.
- B. Once several minutes have passed, ask your students the following questions:
- ▶ Whom do you see in this fresco? Which Luminous Mystery of the Rosary is depicted? *Jesus; the Apostles Peter, James, and John; Moses; Elijah; the Virgin Mary; St. Dominic. The fresco depicts the Transfiguration.*
 - ▶ How do the colors, light, and other aspects of the painting make you feel? *Accept reasoned answers.*
 - ▶ What are some words you would use to describe how Jesus looks in this painting? What is He standing on? *Some words to describe this painting may include glorified, triumphant, beautiful, illuminated, bright, and so forth. Jesus is standing on a rock or a mountaintop.*
 - ▶ What is happening in this picture? *This painting is of the Transfiguration, when Jesus was revealed in His divinity to Peter, James, and John. Matthew's Gospel tells us that when Jesus was transfigured, "His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light." Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on the mountaintop and they spoke together. And the voice of God came from the heavens and said "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." This scene frightened the disciples, who fell prostrate in worship. But Jesus touched them and told them to "not be afraid."*
 - ▶ The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Dominic were not present at the Transfiguration. Why might the artist have included them in this painting? *Accept reasoned answers, telling your students, if necessary, that the artist was not aiming for a historical representation of the Transfiguration, but rather a depiction that would be spiritually meaningful.*
 - ▶ How does Jesus' message, "Do not be afraid," come through to everyone who sees this fresco? Why is it such an important message for all Christians? *The fresco reminds us that Jesus has already won the Kingdom for us. We will have struggles in this world, but He has overcome death. As His body was transfigured and glorified, He will give us our bodies, resurrected and glorified, on the Last Day.*
- C. Explain to your students that in the past few lessons, we have been learning about Jesus' humanity and His divinity, that Jesus is both God and man. We call this central mystery of our Faith the Incarnation, God become man in the Person of Jesus Christ. The Son of God became man in order to accomplish our salvation in our human nature.

Activity

Distribute **Handout E: The Incarnation (page 80)** to your students. Have them work individually to read about the Incarnation according to St. Augustine and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and then answer the questions in complete sentences. When your students have completed the activity, review and discuss the correct answers.

Assessment

- A. Point out to your students that, as we have learned in today's lesson, one of the main reasons that God became man in the Person of Jesus Christ (the Incarnation) was to be a model of holiness for us. Jesus lived His life in such a way that we can follow His example in the way we treat others and serve.
- B. Have your students, on their own paper, create a list of seven to ten ways to show God's love. Have them be sure to include ways to show God's love to their family (including siblings), to their friends, at school, and in their community.
- C. When they have completed their lists, call on students to share ideas of ways they can show God's love.

Crossword Puzzle Scripture Passages

- Matthew 2:2:** Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.
- Matthew 4:1:** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
- Mark 1:1:** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ [the Son of God].
- Mark 15:39:** When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
- Luke 2:52:** And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.
- Luke 24:39:** Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.
- John 9:35-36:** When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"
- John 10:28:** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.
- John 17:1:** When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you."
- John 20:28:** Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
- John 21:17:** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." [Jesus] said to him, "Feed my sheep."
- Acts 7:59:** As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
- Romans 5:8:** But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
- Colossians 2:9-10:** For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power.
- 1 Peter 2:22:** He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Directions: Read about your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit, then answer the questions that follow.

Wisdom	Wisdom allows us to know the purpose and plan of God and value it above all else. God's wisdom is His truth. God gives us a share in His Wisdom to allow us to recognize the truth and see things from His point of view.
Understanding	Understanding empowers human intelligence to know and comprehend the truths of the Catholic Faith that go beyond simple human abilities. It allows us to discover God's will in everything through prayer, reading Scripture, and receiving the Sacraments.
Counsel	Counsel helps us to know right from wrong and to avoid sin. It allows us to make the right decisions in the face of temptation and evil, to live a moral life, and to attain salvation.
Fortitude	Fortitude emboldens us to stand up for and defend the Catholic Faith in the face of persecution, even to the point of physical harm or death. This gift strengthens us to do God's will, and helps us overcome fear.
Knowledge	Knowledge allows us to be aware of God's plan in our lives and to apply it and take action upon it. Knowledge sheds light on our weaknesses, sins, and failures and helps us strive to overcome them with the grace of God.
Piety	Piety moves us to serve God in humility and love. It allows us to worship God rightly, not because we feel a responsibility or duty, but because we love Him and desire to worship Him.
Fear of the Lord	Fear of the Lord allows to recognize that God is God and we are not. By this gift, we rightly know our relationship to God and His glory and greatness. We fear displeasing God by our sin and desire to be close to Him.

What is your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit?

Rewrite the definition of your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit in your own words.

Give three specific examples of how your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit can help you announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. (For example, how can the gift of knowledge help you tell others about Jesus, salvation, and the Church?)

1.

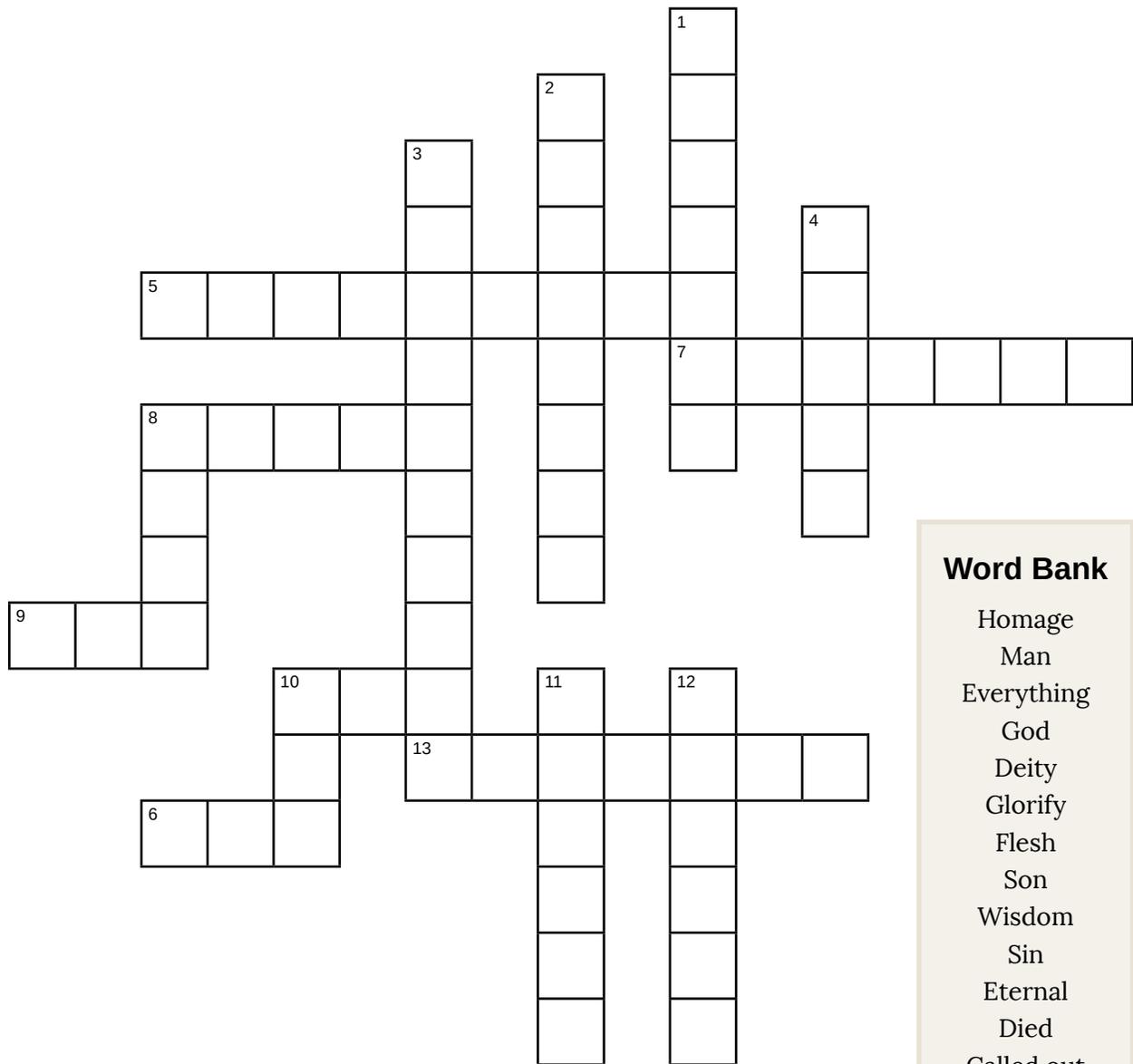
2.

3.

Jesus' Two Natures: God and Man

Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle using your Bible. Find and read each verse, then fill in the missing word. The words are found in the Word bank.



Word Bank

- Homage
- Man
- Everything
- God
- Deity
- Glorify
- Flesh
- Son
- Wisdom
- Sin
- Eternal
- Died
- Called out
- Tempted
- Son of Man

Down

1. **Matthew 4:1:** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be _____ by the devil.
2. **John 9:35-36:** When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the _____ _____ _____ ?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”
3. **John 21:17:** He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know _____; you know that I love you.” [Jesus] said to him, “Feed my sheep.”
4. **Luke 24:39:** Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have _____ and bones as you can see I have.
8. **Romans 5:8:** But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ _____ for us.
10. **Mark 1:1:** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ [the _____ of God].
11. **Matthew 2:2:** Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him _____.
12. **Luke 2:52:** And Jesus advanced [in] _____ and age and favor before God and man.

Across

5. **Acts 7:59:** As they were stoning Stephen, he _____ _____, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
6. **Mark 15:39:** When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, “Truly this _____ was the Son of God!”
7. **John 10:28:** I give them _____ life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.
8. **Colossians 2:9-10:** For in him dwells the whole fullness of the _____ bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power.
9. **John 20:28:** Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my _____!”
10. **1 Peter 2:22:** He committed no _____, and no deceit was found in his mouth.
13. **John 17:1:** When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may _____ you.”

Bible Verse Sort

Directions: Reread each Bible verse from the crossword puzzle and decide whether it tells us something about Jesus’ humanity or Jesus’ divinity. Then list the Scripture reference under the correct column on the chart and write a brief summary of what the passage tells us about Jesus’ humanity or divinity. The first two have been completed for you. Lastly, answer the reflection questions.

The Son of God/ Jesus is man	God the Son/ Jesus is God
John 17:1: Jesus worshiped the Father.	Matthew 2:2: Jesus is worshiped.

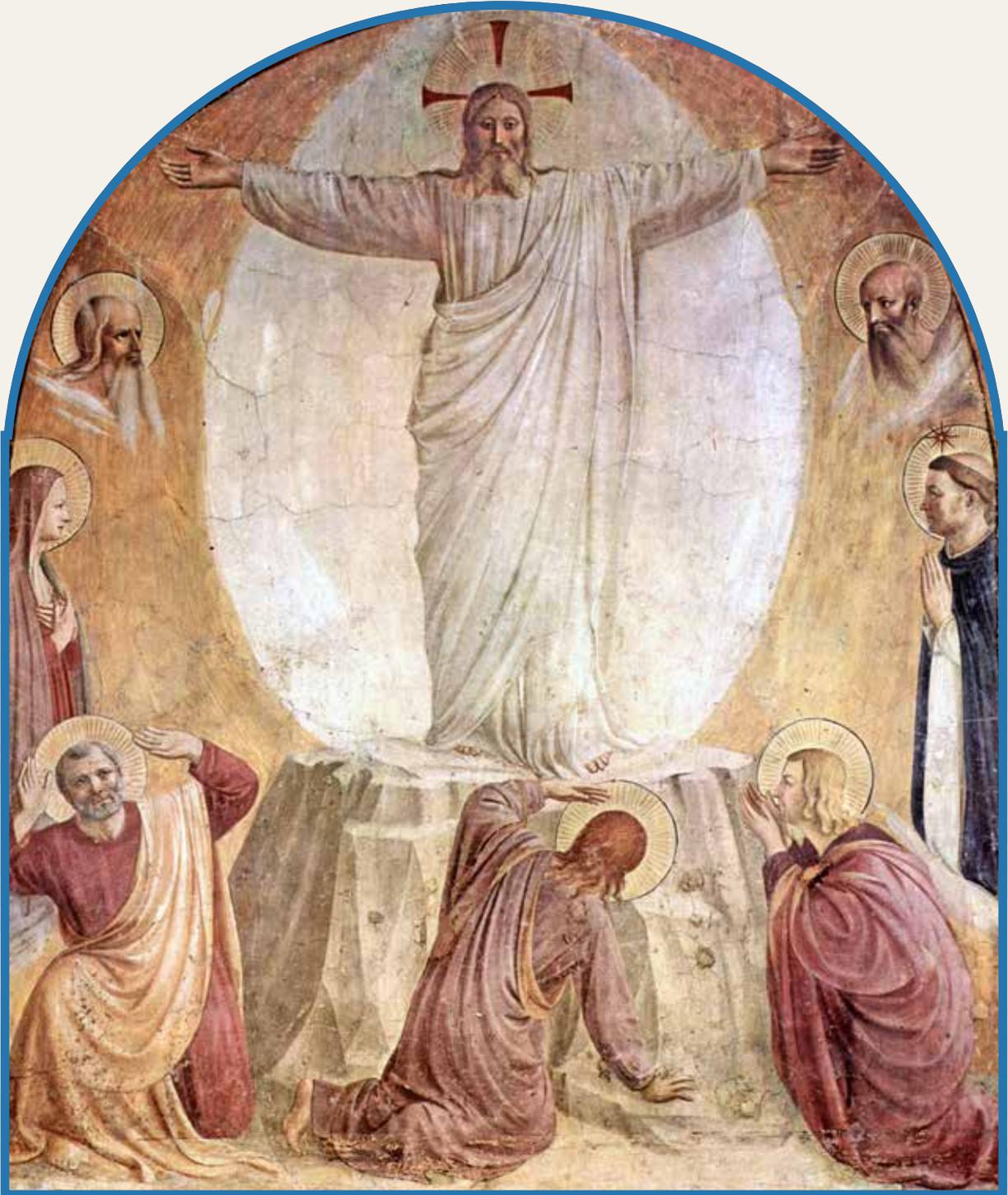
1. Describe in your own words what it means that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

2. We have special encounters with Jesus in all the Sacraments, and especially the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, Jesus is really present: His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. One very special form of prayer is called Eucharistic adoration. In this type of prayer, we kneel before a consecrated host in a monstrance, and contemplate the mystery of God with us. When we visit Jesus in adoration, Christians create a community of love. Does your parish offer regular adoration times, or even perpetual adoration? If you don't know, how can you find out?

HANDOUT D

The Transfiguration

BY BL. FRA ANGELICO (C. 1440-1442)



Convento di San Marco, Florence, Italy.

The Incarnation

Directions: First, read the following passage from St. Augustine about the Incarnation and highlight or underline all of the names for Jesus mentioned in the passage. Then read about the four reasons for the Incarnation according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Finally, answer the questions.

St. Augustine's Sermon 191

The word of the Father by whom all time was created was made flesh and born in time for us. He without whose divine permission no day completes its course, wished to have one of those days for His human birth. In the bosom of His Father He existed before all the cycles of the ages. Born of an earthly mother, He entered on the course of the years on that very day. The maker of man became man that He, ruler of the stars, might be nourished at the breast; that He, the bread, might be hungry; that He, the fountain, might thirst;

that He, the light, might sleep; that He, the way, might be wearied in the journey; that He, the truth, might be accused by false witnesses; that He, the judge of the living and the dead, might be brought to trial by a mortal judge; that He, justice itself, might be condemned by the unjust; that He, discipline personified, might be scourged with a whip; that He, the foundation, might be suspended on a Cross; that He, courage incarnate, might be weak and He, security itself, might be wounded, and He, life itself, might die.

Four reasons for the Incarnation

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* gives us four reasons for the Incarnation in paragraphs 456-460. The first reason for the Incarnation is to save us from sin. Christ's sacrifice on the Cross paid the penalty for sin that we could not. Out of sheer gratuitous love for us, Jesus laid down His life so that we might live.

The second reason for the Incarnation is so we might know God's love. The very act of God becoming one of His own creatures while remaining truly God shows how much He loves us. And then, He demonstrated His perfect

self-giving love by sacrificing Himself on the Cross.

The third reason for the Incarnation is so that Jesus would be our model of holiness. Christ's public ministry taught us what it means to be holy and how to be loved by God and to love Him in return.

The fourth reason for the Incarnation is to make us sharers in God's divine nature. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our human nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."

1. According to St. Augustine, what was made flesh, and what did He do?

2. What day (that we continue to celebrate today) is St. Augustine talking about in his homily?

3. After reading through all of the various titles St. Augustine used for Christ, what can we say St. Augustine believed about the purpose of the Incarnation?

4. According to the *Catechism*, what are the four reasons for the Incarnation?

5. How did Jesus save us from sin?

6. How does Jesus show us God's love for us?

7. How is Jesus our model of holiness?

8. How does Jesus make us sharers in God's divine nature?

Reflection Question

We can summarize all of the various reasons for the Incarnation by simply saying that God became man because He loves us. Describe a time in your life when you knew confidently that God loved you. How did you know? What did you do in response to God's love?

Answer Key

Handout B: Jesus' Two Natures: God and Man Crossword Puzzle

Down

1. Tempted
2. Son of Man
3. Everything
4. Flesh
8. Died
10. Son
11. Homage
12. Wisdom

Across

5. Called out
6. Man
7. Eternal
8. Deity
9. God
10. Sin
13. Glorify

Handout C: Bible Verse Sort

Accept reasoned answers.

Handout E: The Incarnation

“The **word** of the Father by whom all time was created was made flesh and born in time for us. He without whose divine permission no day completes its course, wished to have one of those days for His human birth. In the bosom of His Father He existed before all the cycles of the ages. Born of an earthly mother, He entered on the course of the years on that very day. The **maker** of man became **man** that He, **ruler** of the stars, might be nourished at the breast; that He, the **bread**, might be hungry; that He, the **fountain**, might thirst; that He, the **light**, might sleep; that He, the **way**, might be wearied in the journey; that He, the **truth**, might be accused by false witnesses; that He, the **judge** of the living and the dead, might be brought to trial by a mortal judge; that He, **justice** itself, might be condemned by the unjust; that He, **discipline** personified, might be scourged with a whip; that He, the **foundation**, might be suspended on a cross; that He, **courage** incarnate, might be weak, and He, **security** itself, might be wounded, and He, **life** itself, might die” (Augustine).

1. The Word of the Father was made flesh. He created all time.
2. The day of Jesus' birth, which we celebrate on Christmas Day.
3. In sum, God became man so that He could experience all that it means to be human (i.e., what it is to be fed, to be tired, to be hungry, to be thirsty, and so forth.)
4. To save us from sin, so that we might know God's love, to be our model of holiness, and to make us sharers in God's divine nature.

5. He paid the price of our sins by willingly giving His life on the Cross.
6. He demonstrated His love in the very act of becoming one of His own creations and showed the extent of that love by dying on the Cross.
7. Everything Jesus did or said during His public ministry taught us how to be holy and how to love God and be loved in return.
8. Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross defeated sin and death and made it possible for us to be restored to the relationship with God He intended from the beginning.

Reflection Question: Accept reasoned answers.