

THURSDAY

READ 1 PETER 1:17-20.

Let each family member research and tell about an item and its approximate cost.

In today's Bible passage, Peter says Jesus' death on the Cross is more valuable than silver or gold. People cannot get into heaven by paying their way with money. Some people think that by doing many acts of kindness or giving a lot of money to churches or charities they will earn their way to heaven. Jesus, God's Son, provided salvation for sins by dying on the Cross. People only need to ask God's forgiveness and accept Jesus as their Savior.

According to 1 Peter 1:20, Jesus was chosen to be our Savior before creation. In other words, Jesus existed before anything was created. He is God, the Son.

Close with prayer. Suggest that each family member pray for areas of life where he or she needs God's help. Thank God for sending Jesus as our Savior.

FRIDAY

READ JOHN 14:8-11.

"Mom," Brent said, "I know Jesus is human, but I'm not sure I understand how He can be God too. How can He be both?"

"That is a difficult question to answer," Mom replied. "Jesus' disciples lived and worked with Him every day, and still they didn't understand. In John 14:8-11, Jesus told Philip that when he saw Jesus, he saw the Father."

Brent still didn't totally understand. "I'm glad I don't have to understand everything to believe in Jesus," Brent said.

People cannot completely understand how Jesus is both human and God. But the Bible makes it clear that He is. Jesus came to show us what God is really like and to tell us about God's great love for us.

Allow time for discussion or questions. This is a tough devotional thought, and children may struggle. Don't be afraid to admit you don't know the answers to their questions. Share with them how you deal with not fully understanding and yet you still believe.

Close with prayer. Ask God to help each family member believe in God and His Son, Jesus.

WEEKEND

To celebrate Advent, use the Advent wreath in physical form or digital. This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. First, light the two purple candles. Today's candle is called the Shepherds' Candle. The third candle (pink) should be in the 9 o'clock position in the wreath. It is the candle of

repentance, the Shepherds' Candle. It represents the joy the shepherds knew that night in Bethlehem when they were told of the Messiah's birth. Celebrate God's announcement of His coming to the shepherds by singing "Silent Night."

Unit Bible Verse

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

Matthew 1:21a



Jesus' Humanity

by Jeff Croft

INTRODUCTION

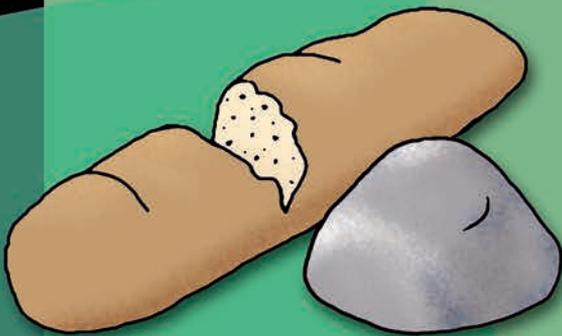
Jesus is both God and human. He was born as a human baby. Because He is both God and human, He understands people's hurts, sorrows, and joys.

Jesus' birth marked a significant turning point in the history of the world. God took on the human form. Jesus was called "Immanuel" meaning "God with us." The entrance of God into our world changed the course of history. A world with no hope now had hope through the Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection laid the foundation for a whole new world.

This week you will talk about the human side of Jesus.

This week you will need:

- Monday: a snack and a sign that says "Do Not Touch"
- Wednesday: a teddy bear
- Thursday: paper and pencils
- Friday: warm water, washcloth, and a towel
- Weekend: Advent wreath with three purple candles and a pink candle



MONDAY

Before the family gathers, prepare a tray of the family's favorite snack foods. Set it in the room where you have devotions. Place a sign on the tray that says "Do Not Touch."

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

After reading the Bible passage, ask:

- **How do you think Jesus felt when Satan tempted Him to turn the stones into bread?**
- **How would you feel if you were very hungry and saw something to eat that was forbidden?**
- **What do you think about the sign that says "Do Not Touch" this snack?**
- **Do you think Jesus understands how you feel?**

Have each family member think of a verse that could help them when they are tempted. Write the verses on cards. Allow the family to eat the snack.

Close by asking God to help each family member to overcome temptation.

TUESDAY

READ HEBREWS 4:14—5:6.

Dear Parents: In today's discussion you are working toward the concept that we need a representative that knows us and can relate to our needs.

- **What is the best thing about your school or Sunday School?**
- **If you could change one thing about your school or Sunday School, what would it be?**
- **What would you need to do to make that change happen?**

The best way to make a change is to have someone in leadership who understands the need. Because Jesus lived as man, He knows people's needs and understands everything about them.

Today's Bible passage calls Jesus a high priest. The high priest was the person in the Old Testament who represented people to God. He spoke to God for them. Jesus is our representative before God, the Father.

Close by praying for each other. Ask God to help family members with the challenges they face each day.

WEDNESDAY

READ 2 JOHN 1:7.

Place a teddy bear in the room.

- **What are some of the characteristics of a real bear that this stuffed animal represents?**
- **Can this teddy bear do these things?** (Example: A real bear walks in the woods, eats berries, sleeps all winter, and climbs trees. Can this teddy bear walk in the woods? Can this teddy bear climb a tree?)
- **Do you think the teddy bear understands what it is like to be a real bear?**