

Junior Soldiers

Unit 3: Lesson 3

Online Meeting Version



Jesus = truly human!

PURPOSE: For children to explore and begin to understand that Jesus was both truly human and truly divine at the same time. The purpose for this lesson is to look at how Jesus was fully human and how that can help to impact our faith.

Jesus is both truly God and truly human: he has both God's nature and our nature.

We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ, the Divine and human natures are United, so that he is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.

Doctrine 4, The Salvation Army

Consider & Prepare

Read:

John 1:1-18

Philippians 2:5-8 (The Message)

Romans 5:6-21 (esp.15-19)

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

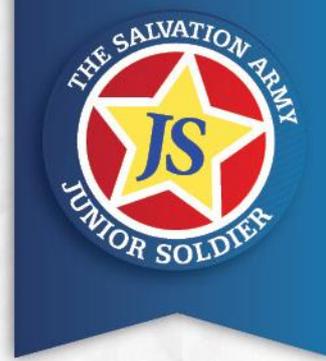
1 Timothy 2:5-6

These next two lessons explore doctrine four, that Jesus is truly and properly God and truly and properly man. This lesson looks at Jesus as being truly human. Helping the kids to understand that Jesus (God) came to Earth in human form will allow them to realise that Jesus understands the human condition and what we experience in life. He gives us an example of how to live not as an alien or a robot or a superhero or a Transformer (!) but as one of us: a human being.

It's also important that the children know that Jesus was human because when they come to an understanding of his crucifixion they will need to know that Christ went to the cross representing humanity; this is emphasised in the readings (above) from Romans, 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy.

Jesus couldn't represent us if he wasn't one of us. It would mean nothing to humanity if a Martian died saying, 'I represent humanity to God and seek reconciliation with him on your behalf.' We'd say: 'No, you don't. You're a Martian.'

Jesus' humanity is a vital part of the whole doctrinal stance of the church regarding being reconciled with God and being saved because of Jesus' atoning actions on our behalf.



What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Pens/ textas/ Pencils
- Pad of paper or lots of loose paper (doesn't have to be big, just enough to draw a face)

For 'The Main Thing'

- Bible

For 'Tying In'

- 1 cup of plain flour
- ¼ cup of water
- 6 tablespoons of cooking salt
- 2 teaspoons of oil
- Food colouring

*Alternatively, you can use modelling clay or pre-purchased playdough if able to get it to children

Connecting In

Face Race...

- Give a scenario and children will need to draw a face of how a person might be feeling, e.g. 'What would you be feeling or how would you look if a friend dobbed on you for something you didn't do?'
- Children will then race to complete their face.
- When children have their face finished, they have to explain why their face is looking the way it is, e.g. the mouth is wide open because they are shocked that their friend would do this to them.
- The points are awarded to the child with the best face and explanation.
- Some suggestions for scenarios are below but you may like to come up with your own:
 - It is your birthday and you have just opened the most amazing birthday present.
 - You have fallen over and grazed your hands and knees on the hard concrete.
 - When walking into a room a friend jumps out from behind the door.
 - Someone you love is very sick.
 - You tried really hard to get onto the team but just missed out.
 - Someone is giving you directions on how to get to the toilets at a new school but they are talking too fast and talking about places and items that you don't know.
 - You have just finished your spelling test and are confident that you have all the words correct.
 - You have taken something that doesn't belong to you.
 - Everyone has gone to play basketball together and you are sitting by yourself.

- **Link:** Take some time to explore some of those feelings with the children.
 - 'Have you ever had times when you have felt like some of the feelings indicated above?' (*Give the children opportunity to share, trying to cover a variety of feelings.*)
 - 'Today we are going to explore some of the times when Jesus might have felt some of the ways you and I have or some of the things that he witnessed around Him. Can you think of any?' (*Let the children make some suggestions*)
 - 'Understanding how Jesus might have felt during certain times can be helpful to us, why do you think that might be the case?'



The Mirror Game...

Get the children to focus on the facial expressions of the leader and try to copy it. Take it in turns to be the person that is the leader; the other children will try to follow the leader's facial expressions as closely as they can. After a couple of minutes, leader can choose who copied/mirrored the best expression.

- **Link:** We have had a bit of fun following each other as they have been making facial expressions. You have to concentrate hard to follow the expressions closely.
 - What other sorts of things do you follow? (*Give the children option to make some suggestions here.*)
 - Who sets a good example for you to follow in the way you live your life? Who do you follow? (*Again give some time for the children to give suggestions.*)
 - Today we are going to explore a bit more about how Jesus sets an example for us on how to live.

The Main Thing

Bible Searching...

I wonder what sorts of things, feelings, emotions that Jesus might have experienced? He was born just like you and me (except in a manger where animals get their food) and lived on earth, so what sorts of things do you think he might have done or felt?

Brainstorm a bit together and wrestle with some of the things (especially in the time period that we don't know about, his teen and young adults years) that he might have done, felt or experienced.

- Below is a list of passages.
- Get the children who are happy to read out bible verses (leaders: if you are good at sharing pages on Zoom, then you could share a slide with the bible verses on it so that the children can read from it)
- After reading each passage, decide 'what they think the passage is telling us about Jesus being fully human'.
- Get each child to share their findings with everyone.

Matthew 2:1-2 (Jesus was born)

Matthew 4:2 (Jesus very hungry) & Matthew 12:1 (disciples feeling hungry - Jesus witnessed what others are experiencing)

Mark 10:14 (Jesus was angry) & Luke 4:28 (others became angry because of what he said - he witnessed what others were feeling)

Matthew 14:13 (Jesus wanting to be alone) & Mark 6:31 (Jesus and the disciples needing some time alone to rest)

John 11:32-36 (Jesus wept and showed love and was deeply moved)

Mark 10:21 (Jesus looked at him and loved him)

There are just some of many examples in the Bible that showed Jesus felt what we feel and experienced what we experience.

While the Queen and the prime minister and a famous movie star are famous or special in some way, they are still just humans - who have to eat and sleep and have a shower and who get upset and laugh and cry and eat ice-cream! While Jesus was a very special person, he was still a person.

- Read 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (*emphasising the start of v.6 where it talks about Jesus representing 'all' people; Contemporary English Version is best*).

Imagine if some bus drivers weren't happy with the manager of the bus company and they wanted to complain about the low pay and the long working hours and the old uniforms they were given to wear. They decided to send a representative to talk to the manager, so they chose - the local carpenter. Or imagine if they sent the baker or a school teacher or the hairdresser.

The manager would say, 'You don't represent the bus drivers at all! What do you know about bus driving? The bus drivers can only truly be represented by a bus driver.'

People had fallen out of a close relationship with God; they needed a representative to plead for God's forgiveness. Who could represent humanity? Only a human. That's why Jesus had to be fully human.

Tying In

Blending...

For this activity you will need to have two pieces of playdough. This will work best by giving the children two colours that blend well together to make another colour, e.g. red and yellow, blue and yellow, any colour and white etc.

Important safety notes in making playdough

If children cannot find playdough in their home, they can make one. Most children should be able to make some playdough. It is recommended that you tell them to ask an adult in their life for help and being allowed to do this. They will be using warm, but please ensure that water is not too hot for children. A good way to express that is to get them to look at how much steam is coming off the water – warm water should only have a little as opposed to boiling

There is a video uploaded on a link (shorturl.at/hruF7) to show how to make the playdough and added a bit of the tying it in lesson. Leaders can send this video to parents the weekend before asking them to have their two colours of playdough ready to use for your designated Zoom Junior Soldiers session. Just remind them to keep both colours in a sealed container so it doesn't dry out before you need it.

Ingredients are listed below is what you need to make the playdough. This mix needs to be ½ again, so kids make two separate colours.

Colour 1

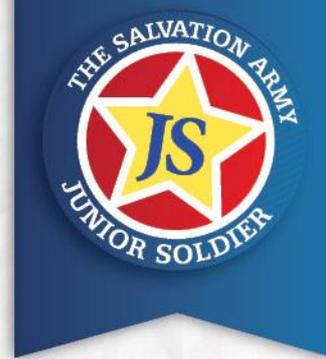
½ cup plain flour
1/8 cup warm water
3 tablespoons cooking salt
1 teaspoon oil (any will do)
Food Colouring of Choice

Colour 2

½ cup plain flour
1/8 cup of warm water
3 tablespoons cooking salt
1 teaspoon of oil (any will do)
Food colouring of choice



- Ask each child to take a small piece of two colours of playdough. Explain that one colour can represent Jesus as being totally human and the other piece can represent Jesus as totally divine.
- Reinforce with the children some of the things that you have explored today about Jesus being human.
- ‘Next time we are going to look at how Jesus is ‘divine’. What do you think of those characteristics might be?’
- As you are talking and reflecting on these things ask the children to begin to blend the two colours together.
- When you can see that most of the children have mixed the colours enough to be blended but that you can still see both colours get them to stop.



- ‘You can see that the two colours are not totally blended and that you can still identify elements of red and yellow. Now I want you to take them apart and divide them into the two original colours that you had.’ (Of course this is not possible, have some fun with this.)
- You can’t separate them can you? This playdough is a little bit like Jesus and what we believe about him.’
- ‘The Salvation Army doctrines (the key beliefs that we base our faith on) tell us that Jesus is both truly God and truly human and that these parts are ‘united’. He is not one person with two separate parts but one person with elements that are all mashed up together and cannot be separated. It can be difficult to talk about what part is human and what part is divine. Even though in our lessons we are looking at some of the elements separately it is important to remember that they are united in the person of Jesus.
- Don’t blend this playdough any more, although you might like to shape it into something, so you can be reminded that Jesus has two key parts that are mixed together.

Home & Beyond

Print off the Home & Beyond cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journal or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Do you have a smiley face?

Today we have been looking at how Jesus was truly human. This meant that he experienced a variety of feelings and emotions that we do. This is a helpful thing for us because we know that when we are feeling a particular way, Jesus understands because he had times of feeling this way, too.

- This week, stop and think about how you are feeling. Share some of these feelings or emotions with you Big Bud, family member or trusted friend. You might even like to get them to ask you a couple of times through the week how you are feeling to help you stop and think.
- It is important to talk to Jesus about how we are feeling. You might like to write this in your journal, use some objects to help prompt you in prayer, draw some pictures or create some artwork that expresses your feeling or you might just talk to Jesus about your experiences.



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