

## JESUS PPT #1

Welcome to the module who is Jesus. As we explore together, Jesus is fully human. Let us begin this module with prayer.

Oh God, you have shown your amazing love for us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life, death and resurrection, and all it means for us, help us understand who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for us.

Help us to be his faithful followers and share your love with all people in his name. We pray amen in grappling with the question who is Jesus Christ.

The debate on whether Jesus is human or God, or both has been a concern for Christians from the beginnings of the church.

As we consider what we know about Jesus from the gospel writers, we see the struggle to answer this question, taking shape before our eyes mark, the earliest gospel has Jesus coming on the scene as an adult and heading to the river to be baptized by John the Baptist, Matthew and Luke, try to answer some of the questions about Jesus beginning to surface.

Once those who knew him personally have died. Matthew and Luke write birth stories, both of which involve a Virgin birth.

Their stories are vastly different in detail, but the church tends to blend them together seamlessly. At Christmas time. Now we have parents named geographic locations to map and political leaders identified within the Roman empire, which provides a time in which to locate Jesus's birth and history.

As more time passes. Other stories are written, which offer details for Jesus's life. At an earlier age, these are far more fantastical than that one story we find in the gospels where Jesus teaches in the temple, his parents cannot find him and he doesn't seem to care.

These other stories are rejected as less than good news and do not find their way into our Bible. Finally, John's gospel appears and Jesus, his story takes on a cosmic before time dimension.

Jesus is the logos. The word of God, that was God from before creation, participating in the creation of everything. Now, who do you say Jesus is for centuries?

The church debates. The question church councils take place and doctrine is created, which intends to clarify and demystify Jesus theologians and church fathers proposed notions that Jesus was half human and half God.



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Jesus was God on the inside and human on the outside. Jesus was really divine and only seemed to be human.

God wore a human disguise, the debates rage on and heresies, discredited, the illogical thinking and believing or identified and condemned.

Why did this matter then for the early church, this was a matter of salvation and Jesus. We're not really human.

How could humans be saved? Salvation was at stake. Why does this matter now? Because our salvation is at stake. It is vitally important that we know Jesus as fully human and fully divine as a human.

We know that Jesus was born of flesh and blood to a woman named Mary as a fully human baby. He is helpless.

He cries, he needs food. He needs his diapers changed. He is like all human babies in every way. Amy, Jill Levine and Cynthia Rigby both describe the importance of knowing that Jesus of Nazareth was Jewish.

Jesus stressed, prayed, taught, argued and lived according to the commandments, given to God, by Moses in the custom of Jewish people of his time.

He also died on a Roman cross, like thousands of other Jewish people. He ate the food of his day with friends in their homes.

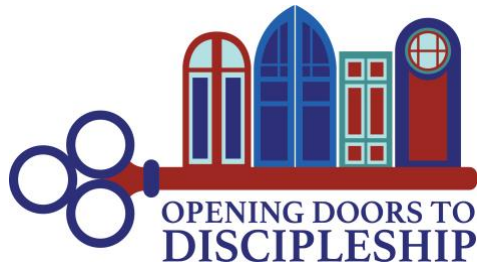
And on the side of mountains, he attended wedding parties and knew what really good wine was. He chatted with folks like Nicodemus and a Samaritan woman.

And he showed Thomas his hands and his side and on and on. Plus He cared for the poor. He told wonderful stories.

He got hungry and thirsty. He was tempted to do what he shouldn't. And they did one of the most human things.

He died. Jesus is fully human Jesus interacts with and is approachable to all his fellow human beings in different ways.

He enters their lives, their workplaces and their personal spaces. He experiences all the range of emotions. We all do. He is compassionate.



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He is troubled. He is angry. You weeps. He grieves. He sees. He is an agony. He is surprised and amazed.

He rejoices greatly. Jesus is a son, a brother, a friend, a teacher carpenter's apprentice, and a man of his culture.

And his time he is fully human. Had Jesus only been fully God or God in disguise. He never would have had these human experiences, however, and it is a big, however, Jesus was more than a mere human Jesus lived without sin.

Jesus is God with us. The church must grapple with the incarnation. The word of God has come to earth and pitched a tent among us.

We will explore this more. And the next parts of this module.