

II. Introduction to Jesus

In the gospels we meet the living Jesus, a person who is fully human and fully divine. 425, 515, 480-83

We hear Jesus call us to be his disciples, and we learn to offer him a personal, loving response. 520-21

Through the gospels we encounter the Risen Lord, ever present in his Church. 639, 641, 669

A. Jesus, Son of Mary

Jesus is fully human.

- He was Jewish and was born of Mary in Palestine in the first century. Joseph was his foster father. (Matthew 1:1-17; 2:1) 423, 525
- As a human being, he grew and developed naturally from childhood into adulthood, maturing physically and spiritually in age, wisdom and grace (Luke 2:1-38; 2:39-40, 51-52). 472, 518, 531, 514
- Jesus experienced the joys of life. He also experienced real suffering, misunderstanding and rejection (Mark 6:1-6). 461, 520, 478

B. Jesus, Son of God

Jesus is fully divine.

- Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, was always God (John 1:1-5, 14). 464, 479
- In the words and actions of his life he revealed God the Father and the love God has for us (John 14:8-10). 516, 458-59
- Jesus is God present in our midst (Matthew 1:23, 28:20; John 20:24-31). 444-45

Prayer Experience

Read aloud slowly Matthew 16:13-15.

Give the students time to consider silently how they would answer Jesus' question.

Invite the students to listen prayerfully as Jesus tells them who he is: John 6:35, 8:12, 10:14-15, 11:25.

Have the students conclude by speaking to Jesus about who he is in their own lives.