

Jesus' identity throughout his life. The Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism. Paul tells us that the Spirit is also the one who gave testimony in Jesus's resurrection from the dead! Romans 1:4 *[He] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

#### Discussion Questions

- What are some times in Jesus's life when the Holy Spirit made Himself known and active?
- How was the Holy Spirit involved in Jesus's resurrection?
- Has the Holy Spirit given you new life? How do you know?

#### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

When Jesus became a man he became like us in our humanity. He shared in much of what we experience. Just like you and I, Jesus was conceived and he was born. He nursed. He had his (first-century) diapers changed. He learned to crawl, walk, run, and talk. He learned to work hard in his studies and his labor. He learned the feelings of hunger, thirst, joy and sorrow. Jesus was like us in everything that makes us human. Yet, there is one very important way that Jesus was different from you and I. Jesus was born without sin. Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.* Some people think it is more comforting to imagine a Jesus who wasn't perfect. They like to think Jesus made mistakes, and sometimes needed to be corrected. There are even modern retellings of Jesus's life on TV that try to make Jesus "more relatable" by making him less perfect. This is blaspheme! Why was it so important that Jesus be without sin? For one thing this confirmed his identity as God. If Jesus had any trace of sin in him it would prove he was not God. Yet, we know from God's own testimony that Jesus is God, and Jesus never sinned! Jesus needed to be sinless so that he could be the perfect substitute for us on the cross.

#### Discussion Questions

- Discuss some ways Jesus was like us.
- Discuss some ways Jesus was not like us in his humanity.
- Spend some time worshipping Jesus for his holiness and his salvation.

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

#### Baptist Catechism Question #25

**Q:** How did Christ, being the Son of God become man?

**A:** *Christ the Son of God became man by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul; being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

### Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

From the beginning of the New Testament Church false teachers began to teach wrong things about Jesus Christ. Often they would teach that Jesus never really took on a body like ours. The Apostle John condemns these false teachings in his letters. 1 John 4:2-3 *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.* Why was there such a strong reaction to the Bible teaching that Jesus took on a human body? The false teachers said this was too humiliating for God. How could the almighty God, who is a Spirit, take on flesh? Additionally, Greek philosophy taught that matter is inherently sinful. How could a holy God have a physical body? First, the Bible doesn't agree that matter is inherently sinful. In the beginning God made all things perfect and good. When Jesus took on a body like ours, he took on a sinless body. Secondly, the Bible actually agrees that for God to take on flesh is humiliating for Him. That was actually the point. Jesus humbled himself to become like us, and then die for us. He did this as the greatest act of love! Phil 2:7-8 *[He] emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

#### Discussion Question

- Why is it hard for many people to believe that God became a man?
- How important is it to believe this? Can you be a Christian and not believe Jesus is fully God and fully man?
- Consider the humiliation that Jesus endured to save you. Let this lead you to worship.

### Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever thought about what it was like for Jesus to grow up as a child? Did you imagine him as a toddler walking around and talking like a man because He is God and all knowing? As God, Jesus has always known all things. Yet, the Bible tells us that as a human he had to grow and learn like every one of us. As a human he wasn't born knowing everything. He had to learn to walk and to talk. He had to learn to read and write. Jesus had to learn how to pray to his Heavenly Father.. Luke 2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.* Did Jesus know the Bible by heart from birth? He had to learn the scriptures. This was something he devoted himself to regularly as he attended the synagogue weekly and worshipped daily in his home. As he grew, learning God's Word, praying daily with God himself, he grew in wisdom and maturity. How often have you neglected these things as you have grown and matured? Does the Word of God seem like something you could give or take as you have time? What about the weekly meeting of God's people? What about prayer? If Jesus made it His aim to grow in wisdom and favor with God, how much ought we to also make that our aim?

#### Discussion Questions

- What do you do to grow in wisdom and maturity?
- Fathers, what does God's Word call you to in the training of your children? How faithful have you been in these things?
- Do you need to repent for neglect of God's Word, his people, or prayer?

### Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The reality of the incarnation is not something we can know by our own wisdom or understanding. If you try to think and figure out how the eternal God became man your creaturely understanding will fail you. The reality of the incarnation is something that God teaches us in His Word. We read what God has written and we are called upon to believe His Word by faith. While we may not fully understand the incarnation, God becoming man, we are given many places in His Word to help guide our understanding here. One of these key teachings is the virgin birth. Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.* Some people have worked too hard trying to figure out why God used the virgin birth to bring about the incarnation of Jesus. They have postulated that sin must pass from the father, rather than the mother, and that is why Jesus couldn't have an earthly father. Others have decided that Mary must have been sinless so that she could give birth to the sinless Savior. These imaginings go beyond scripture and miss the purpose of the virgin birth. God used the miracle of the virgin birth to demonstrate that Jesus was not descended like every other human being. While he was fully human, Mary being his mother, Jesus' origin was the Holy Spirit of God. He is the God-man!

#### Discussion Questions

- Why is it important that Jesus is fully God?
- If Jesus is God, what do you owe him?
- Is Jesus your God?

### Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In the Bible we read about a difficulty that Joseph, the father of Jesus, faced. He was engaged to be married to a young lady named Mary. What should have been a happy time was marred when he discovered Mary was pregnant. As he was troubled in his heart over this news Joseph was given a revelation from God that cast a whole new light on these circumstances. Matthew 1:20-21 *But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."* Mary had not been unfaithful to Joseph. Rather, the Holy Spirit Himself had brought about the conception of Mary's child. Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit is one of the direct testimonies that God has given us to let us know that Jesus is God in the flesh. The Holy Spirit continued to testify to