

The Person and The Way: Jesus Christ



Unit One, Session 1

Jesus of Nazareth: Son of God

Pray Together

Dear Lord, help us to understand who you are, to see that even as you are God and King of all life, you know intimately what it means to be a human being with all the cares of this world. Amen.

Who Is Jesus? *Heesoos Kreesdos* **Յիսուս Գրիստոս**

Jesus is human because

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Jesus is divine because

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Jesus as One of Us

In the New Testament we learn about Jesus' life on earth. We know that he came to the world as a newborn baby. All babies need lots of care, so God provided a loving human family to see that Jesus was kept warm and fed and safe.

Like all of us, he went through all the stages of childhood. Jesus became a teenager and eventually a grown man. The Nicene Creed states that Jesus "became incarnate, and was made man." This means that, like us, Jesus felt hungry, thirsty, sad, tired, and all the ways that we feel.

How do you think you would feel if you had just walked in the hot sun for several hours? Thirsty? Tired? That is exactly how Jesus felt one day when he was walking from Judea to Galilee. He stopped to rest at a well in Samaria. A Samaritan woman came up to the well with her bucket to draw some water. Jesus asked her for a drink (John 4:4-26). This shows he felt exactly the same way we would feel after hours of travel under the summer sun. Jesus even went through a terrible death on the cross. Because of this we know that he truly was one of us in every single way, and we can trust that he can really understand us.



Jesus as God

Jesus lived among us as a complete human being, but he is also the Son of God. How do we know this? ("This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 17:5)

Unlike everyone else who ever lived, Jesus never sinned. He was perfect even though he was just like us. He felt the same temptations to disobey as we do, but he did not follow those temptations even one single time. Jesus was able to instantly cure illnesses and even bring the dead back to life. He changed plain water into wine at a wedding feast and fed a crowd of thousands of people with two small fish and five loaves of bread.

Jesus told a stormy sea wind to stop blowing and it did! Even after his own death, he arose and walked out of the tomb. Because he can do these things, we can be certain he has the power to help us and rescue us from our sins.

Putting It All Together

Jesus is called the “Second Person” of the Holy Trinity. The other two are the Father and the Holy Spirit. The idea of the Holy Trinity can be difficult to understand. One God in three persons? How does that work?



Think about your Sunday School teacher. He or she, as you know, is a *teacher*. Your teacher may be married, which makes him or her a *husband* or *wife*.

Does the teacher have children? That makes your teacher a *parent*. If they have a job, they are an *employee* of a business.

Sunday school students might call their teacher “Mrs. Hovsepian.” Her husband refers to her as “my wife.” Her children call her “Mom,” and your teacher’s co-workers might call her by her first name. One person, seen in several different ways, all reflecting a specific function and relationship.

Science provides a useful model of the Holy Trinity. Water can be a liquid, a gas (steam) or a solid (ice). These substances look, feel, and behave very differently, yet the chemical formula for water, H₂O, is exactly the same in all cases. Three substances: liquid, ice, and steam – always water. Father, Son, Holy Spirit – always God.

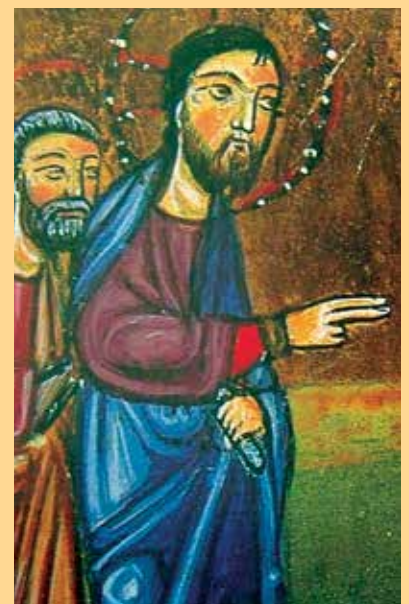
You fulfill many different roles in your life. You are almost like several people rolled up into one person. What are the various “people” that make you the special person you are?

What Does the Bible Say?

Throughout the Bible, God tells us about Jesus and his unique position as fully God and fully human. Not only do we read about Jesus in the New Testament, but even some of the earliest Old Testament writings let us know about him.

We know that he would come in the form of a man that did not look different from any other men. Somewhere around 740 to 701 B.C., the prophet Isaiah tells us that this Son which God will give us will have “no beauty or majesty to attract us.” (Isaiah 53:2) We also see from Isaiah that Jesus is worthy to be called “Mighty God, Everlasting Father.”

In various places in the Bible, Jesus is referred to as the “Word.” This means that Jesus, as God, clearly expresses in his teaching and through his life how we should live to truly follow him.





You are many things – but just one person. Just like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – One God!

Below are some descriptions of Jesus from the Bible. Place a star on the line before each statement that tells us Jesus is God, and a circle before each statement that shows he is truly human.

1. _____ “The disciples just sat there, awed! “Who is this,” they asked themselves, “that even the winds and the sea obey him?” (Matthew 8:27)
2. _____ “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:14)
3. _____ “Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.” (Isaiah 53:4)
4. _____ “Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made.” (John 1:3)
5. _____ “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” (John 1:1-2)

Faith Word

Bible

From the Greek “biblia” for “books.”

Our Armenian Way

Prayers of St. Nersess Shnorhali

Soorp Nersess Shnorhali

Սուրբ Ներսէս Շնորհալի

St. Nersess Shnorhali (Nersess the Grace-filled) was a great leader of the Armenian Church. He lived from 1100 to 1173 A.D. St. Nersess wrote hymns, poems, and the beloved Armenian prayer “*Hasvadov Khosdovanim*” (I Confess with Faith).

Below is one of the 24 verses of that prayer.

Jesus, Wisdom of the Father

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos

Իմաստութիւն
չոր Յիսուս

Grant me wisdom

Door eents eemasdootyoon

Տուր ինձ իմաստութիւն,



That I might always
think, speak, and do

That which is good in your sight.

Uzparees khorhel yev khosel yev kordzel

Arachee ko amenayn jham.

Զբարիս խորիել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի քո
յամենայն ժամ.

Save me from evil thoughts, words and deeds

Ee char khorhurtotz, ee paneetz yev ee kordzotz purgya zees.

Ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա զիս.

And have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a
great sinner.

Yev voghormya ko araradzotz yev eentz pazmameghees.

Եւ ողորմեա քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս:

At what times do you think this prayer would be especially appropriate?

Spotlight on the Bible



In Armenian, the Bible is called “Asdvadzashoonch,” or “God’s breath (inspiration).” This means that the stories and teachings of the Bible came to us through the various writers and editors of the Old and New Testaments who were each divinely inspired.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today we learned that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. In the Bible we found examples from his life that show his nature. We also explored the concept of the Holy Trinity, so that the students might understand how the three Persons of the Godhead relate to one another. This lesson introduced the children to St. Nersess Shnorhali and the prayer known as “Jesus, Wisdom of the Father.”

Family Faith Activity

We are so happy about Jesus and his love for us that we want to share it every day, not just in church. During this week, find a time when all the family is

present. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Say the “Hayr Mer” together.
2. Have each family member share a way to “think, speak or do” what is good in God’s sight.
3. Have each family member look through the newspaper and find an article which shows a person being like Jesus through helping others.
4. Learn the St. Nersess prayer in English and Armenian.

The Person and The Way: Jesus Christ



Unit One, Session 1

Jesus of Nazareth: Son of God

Key Concepts

1. Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine.
2. Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity.

Objectives

During the session, students will

1. Provide responses to the statement “If Jesus came to my school this week I would ask him to...”
2. Brainstorm and explore qualities of Jesus’ divine and human nature.
3. Examine Jesus’ place in the Holy Trinity.
4. Review some of the ways the Bible describes Jesus.
5. Learn the Armenian word for Holy Scripture.
6. Define the word “Trinity.”
7. Read about the life of St. Nersess Shnorhali.
8. Look at one of the prayers from “*Havadov Khosdovanim*” (*I Confess with Faith*).

Materials Needed

1. Pens
2. Index cards
3. Chalk or dry erase marker for writing on the board

Procedure

1. Welcome students, distribute books, and say the opening prayer together. Then read the title aloud and ask: “So what do you make of this? We’re talking about not ‘a’ person but THE Person. And who is that? (Jesus Christ). So why ‘A people and a way’? What does that mean?” After responses, if any, continue, “This then is about how our particular church, the *Armenian Church*, understands and follows Jesus. So during this year, we’ll learn more about who Jesus is and how over the centuries our people – including us here in this room and our church today – have come to know who he is and follow him and live the life he calls us to live.” 5 min.
2. Distribute a pencil and index card to each student. Write the following phrase on the board for students to copy on their cards: “If Jesus came to my school this week, I would ask him to...” Have students complete the sentence on their cards. Call on each child to share his or her response with the class. Collect cards to recycle or use on a bulletin board display. 10 min.

3. Have students provide responses to the statements “Jesus is human because” and “Jesus is divine because.” You may choose to have them record answers in their books and then read their thoughts to the rest of the class, or you may have the children raise their hands and respond orally. Accept all reasonable responses. Use the following list as a guideline. If the experiences below are not mentioned, write the Scripture reference on the board for students to look up.

Examples of Jesus’ humanity

He became hungry (Luke 4:2)
He was tempted (Luke 4:2)
He became thirsty (John 19:28)
He experienced death (John 19:33)
He slept (Matthew 8:23-25)
He had friends and went to festive gatherings (John 2:1-2)
He was deeply upset about his impending crucifixion (Mark 14:32-36)

Examples of Jesus’ divinity

He cured a blind man (John 9:1-7)
He is called Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)
He walked on water (Mark 6:47-49)
He fed the 5000 (Matthew 14:15-21)
He changed water into wine
He rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1-10)
He raised people from the dead (Luke 7:11-17)

10 min.

4. Break the students up into groups of two or three (or work together if that is easier). Have them read *Jesus as One of Us and Jesus as God*, underlining important points. Discuss together. 10 min.

5. Keep the students in their groups to read *Putting it All Together*. Have them help each other list their roles, then ask them to share their responses with the rest of the class. 5 min.

6. As a class, read *What Does the Bible Say?* Have the students answer the questions. Quotations 2 and 3 are representative of Jesus’ human qualities. The others highlight his divinity. 10 min.

7. Read about St. Nersess and pray the accompanying prayer. Discuss the question. 5 min.

8. Review *Faith Word* and *Spotlight on the Bible*. Tell students to share the Family Focus section at home and that you will be sending it home electronically as well. Close with a prayer and dismiss the class. 5 min.



Unit One, Session 2

God Is Born!

Key Concepts

1. Jesus came as a baby.
2. Jesus’ coming is foretold throughout the Old Testament.