

SACRAMENTS - SESSION FIVE

THE PERSON OF JESUS – THE NEED TO KNOW CHRIST TO CONTINUE THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Session Five: Our youth will appreciate Jesus as God become one of us and begin the task of knowing Jesus as a person who loves us and shows us how to be Christ for others.

Looking into the Scriptures, we learn the following about Jesus:

His Birth

- Jesus – Is the God who made all things. God loves us so much he became one of us.
- Jesus – was not born at home or a hospital. He was born in a stable among strangers and animals. We learn that you don't need a lot of "things" in life to be happy.
- Jesus – lived a very ordinary life – in a family. With Mary, His mother and Joseph, His foster father. We learn simple is good.
- Jesus - experienced everything – good and bad – that happens to us in life. He knows life is hard. We can talk to Him. He knows.

His Public Life, Death, and Resurrection

- Jesus – came to tell people that God loves everyone. God gave us a beautiful world and modeled how we are to live.
- Jesus – told us that we are going to live forever. This is the very important. It makes life worthwhile.
- Jesus – respected every person, and saw God in each one. To be like Jesus is to see the good in each person – see God in each.
- Jesus – knew people hurt a lot on the inside. He experienced it too. Do I try to move beyond people's words and emotion, see the pain and ask if I can help?
- Jesus – knew Himself how hard rejection is, If you feel rejection, talk to Him. If you meet others who feel it, do Jesus a favor and say "I know how much it hurts. How can I help?"
- Jesus – did not just associate with people who had power, wealth, influence. He talked with fishermen, with the lowly of the earth. Do I spend time with those who are needy as well as those who can help me? How do I help them?
- Jesus – could sense people who were hurting. He stopped a funeral procession and raised to life the son of a poor widow? Am I working on being sensitive to the needs and wants and hurts of others? To be like Jesus, I will have to do this.
- Jesus – was often disappointed. He spent three years with 12 close friends, living with them, teaching them, and forming them. One would turn him over to those who wanted to kill Him. Fear drove the other 11 off when He needed them most. Am I working on getting over disappointments and seeking to be forgiving when others hurt me.
- Jesus – often challenged people to love God and make Him most important. How much importance do I give Christ in my life? How much input do I give Him fashioning the way I live? How much time do I let Jesus influence the values that guide my life? How much do I talk with Christ about my hopes and my dreams? How much time do I spend learning about the kind of person He is by reading the Gospels?
- Jesus – was very realistic. He told His disciples that He had to suffer, die, and rise to bring us healing and hope. Am I realistic in recognizing that the tough times of life are only steps on my Pilgrim journey?
- Jesus – told us very plainly that to love God means not only to approve of Jesus but to live in such a way others can see what it means to become Jesus for others.
- Jesus – was the great peace-maker. Jesus forgave people whether they deserved it or not. He overlooked a lot and moved beyond hurt. Unless we forgive as Jesus did, there never will be peace.
- Jesus – on coming into the world, found poverty, disease, oppression and slavery. On leaving the world, these remained. Jesus' formula for world peace was "Love one another as I have loved you." We are to model this for the world and thereby continue Christ's healing presence.
- Jesus – tells us: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.? Where is my "Treasure?" If someone looked at my life, what would he or she see as most important? Wealth? Power? Influence? Leisure? Pleasure?
- Jesus – tells us not to love only friends. To follow Jesus, love those who are different, the poor, the sick, the handicapped, those without influence or power, the homeless. Do I try to be like Christ and love those whom it is difficult to love?
- Jesus – tells us that we are His Light to the world. To the darkness, light brings the ability to see, understand, appreciate order, beauty. By the way I live my life, others must see what life is all about – gift of God, to be lived for others. My goal: birth into a life of joy forever with our God.

Parents: One way to make Jesus come alive is in the Scriptures. A suggestion - Read a chapter of the gospels a day, beginning with Mark. Do this and tell your children what new you learned about Jesus each day. Look for what kind of a person Jesus is in His stories, words, attitudes and actions. Put these into a story. And tell the story your children.