

Jesus 101

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1. Jesus, the Heart of Catholic Faith

1. What are the four reasons for the Incarnation?
2. What examples show that Jesus is at the heart of Catholic doctrine, worship, morality, and prayer?
3. How does the Catholic approach to Jesus differ from the “quest for the historical Jesus”?
4. Why did Jesus start a Church rather than write an autobiography?
5. What are the three keys to Jesus’ identity? How are they taught by the Mass?
6. What does it mean to have a relationship to Jesus that is personal but not individualistic?

Chapter 2. The Names and Titles of Jesus in Scripture

1. How do the following three names or titles convey divinity: *Jesus, I Am, Lord*?
2. What three offices of Jesus’ messianic mission are foreshadowed in the Old Testament? How is each office fulfilled and surpassed by Christ?
3. What do the concepts of Jesus as *new Moses, Word, and Wisdom* teach about his prophetic mission?
4. What do the titles *High Priest, Lamb of God, and Temple* teach about the priestly ministry of Jesus?
5. What is the significance of Jesus’ ancestry as *Son of David, Seed of Abraham, and Son of Adam*?
6. What do the titles *Son of Man* and *Son of God* mean when applied to Jesus?

Chapter 3. The Life of Jesus

1. What does the virginal conception of Jesus teach about his identity and mission?

2. What do we learn about Jesus from his childhood and hidden life as a carpenter?
3. What does it mean to describe the kingdom proclaimed by Jesus as “now but not yet”?
4. What do the miracles of Jesus teach about his identity and mission?
5. How does Jesus’ redemptive death fulfill his mission as *king, priest, and prophet*?
6. What does it mean when we say that Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is both historical and transcendent?
7. In what ways does the Church help us participate in the mysteries of Christ’s life?

Chapter 4. The Person of Jesus In the Teaching of the Church Fathers and Early Ecumenical Councils

1. How did Saint Ignatius of Antioch argue against those who denied the reality of Jesus’ humanity?
2. What was the heresy of Arius? How did the Nicene Council and the arguments of Saint Athanasius refute it?
3. What is the significance of the full humanity of Christ according to Saint Gregory of Nazianzus and the Second Vatican Council?
4. What arguments did Saint Cyril of Alexandria use against the errors of Nestorius?
5. How do the four negations of the Council of Chalcedon affirm the one person and two natures of Christ?
6. How do the early ecumenical councils provide a framework for contemplating the mystery of Christ and reading about Christ in Scripture?
7. How does the image of the Sacred Heart illustrate the teachings of the ecumenical councils on the divinity and humanity of Christ?

Chapter 5. The Mission of Christ in his Church in the Teaching of the Second Vatican Council

1. What did Vatican II teach about the prophetic mission of Christ?
2. What did Vatican II teach about the priestly ministry of Christ?

3. According to Vatican II, how does Christ continue his prophetic, priestly, and kingly ministry through the Church?
4. How is Christ the key to fulfilling the universal call to holiness proclaimed by Vatican II?
5. What did Vatican II teach about the universal offer of salvation through Christ?
6. If salvation is possible even to those who through no fault of their own are ignorant of Christ, why should we continue proclaiming Christ to all the world?