

## Is Jesus Human, Divine or Both?

Explain the Incarnation to your children: When God (Jesus, the second person of the Trinity) became human while remaining divine:

- According to the mystery of the Incarnation, Jesus has two natures.
- Jesus is completely human and completely divine at the same time.
- Jesus is not more human than divine, and He is not more divine than human.
- In His humanity, Jesus was like us in all things—except sin. This means that He was born, He experienced human emotions, and He died—just like all human beings.
- In His divinity, Jesus performed supernatural miracles.

Designate one of the walls in your room to be the “Human” wall, and one wall to be the “Divine” wall (perhaps posting a piece of paper with the words human and divine on the walls). You can also do this outside, and designate a specific space for each one (human/divine). Then explain the rules:

- While Jesus is both human and divine all the time, there are certain gospel passages that show us one aspect or the other. When I read the gospel verse/passage choose the wall that coordinates with which aspect is most present, human or divine.
  - For example, if I read “He fasted for forty days and nights and afterwards he was hungry.” You would run to the wall that said “human” because it talks about Jesus being hungry, a human experience.
- Once they have chosen a wall, have one of them explain why he/she believes the passage describes Jesus as human or divine.
- You could turn this into a competition, awarding points for correct answers or who gets to the wall first with the correct answer.
- Here are the verses/passages:
  1. When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. . . . And Jesus said to the centurion, “You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.” And at that very hour [his] servant was healed. (Matthew 8:5-8, 13)  
Divine, only God can perform miracles.
  2. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. . . . During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once [Jesus] spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.” (Matthew 14:22, 25-33)  
Divine, only God can walk on water.
  3. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee,\* and began to feel sorrow and distress. (Matthew 26:37)  
Human, Jesus felt human emotions of sadness and distress.

4. Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" (Mark 4:36-41)  
Divine, only God can control the sea/weather.
5. When the Lord (Jesus) saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep."  
(Luke 7:13)  
Human, Jesus felt bad for her, a human emotion.
6. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. (Luke 7:12, 14-15)  
Divine, only God can raise people from the dead.
7. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. (Luke 22:44)  
Human, pain is a human experience.
8. And one of them struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said in reply, "Stop, no more of this!" Then he touched the servant's ear and healed him. (Luke 22:50-51)  
Divine, only God can heal someone's ear instantly.
9. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."...Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim...And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." (John 2:3, 7-10)  
Divine, only God can turn water into wine.
10. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.  
(John 4:6)  
Human, being tired is a human condition)
11. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"...Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining (5,000 men and their families), and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. (John 6:2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11-13)  
Divine, only God can multiply food.

12. When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days... When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see."... Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"... And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." (John 11:17, 32-34, 39-40, 43-44)

Divine, only God can raise people from the dead.

At the end of this activity, make sure you reiterate with your child that even though we see different aspects of Jesus in these passages (and others in the Bible), Jesus is ALWAYS fully God and fully man.