

GOD IN A BOD



1. What words below describe Jesus? Circle those that do and X those that don't.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|
| meek | humble | honest |
| strong | mysterious | awesome |
| strange | boring | wimpy |
| sad | friendly | loving |
| fun | happy | God |
| tough | angry | caring |
| cool | smart | perfect |

2. What do you think? If Jesus Christ lived in your town, attended your school, and was the same age as you—

- Would he be **popular** or **unpopular**?
- Where would he go to **church**?
- What kind of **music** would he listen to?
- What would he do **after school**?
- What **TV shows** would he watch, if any?
- Would he like your **youth group**, if he attended?

3. If someone asked you why you believed in Jesus, how would you respond?

What would you say if they argued with you?

4. Christ asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" (Matthew 16:13, author's paraphrase). Find out what each of the following Bible verses says about Christ, then complete each of the sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Matthew 16:16 | Jesus is— |
| John 3:16-17 | Jesus is— |
| John 10:30 | Jesus is— |
| Colossians 1:13-23 | Jesus is— |

GOD IN A BOD [J e s u s C h r i s t]

THIS WEEK

Most of your kids may have learned about Jesus Christ through Bible stories and in Sunday school. But do they really understand who he is? The creator of the universe was God—in human form! He was born as a baby, just like every other person. This TalkSheet focuses on Christ's attributes and how to get to know him better.

OPENER

On a large sheet of white paper or a whiteboard have the kids make a list of words they think describe Jesus—his physical looks, his spiritual nature, his personality traits, et cetera. Where do they get these ideas? From the Bible? From pictures or models of Christ in church or in stores? What does society say about Jesus? How do they describe him? What do your kids hear about Jesus at school?

Or try this. How well does your group know the life of Christ? Give the group a list of events in the life of Christ such as his baptism, the Sermon on the Mount, key miracles, parables. Divide the group teams to compete and arrange the events chronologically.

THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. Have the kids share the words they circled and the ones they crossed out. What reasons do they have for their answers? Are there any other words that describe Jesus?
2. What kind of person would Jesus be if he were living today in their town? Put aside the "Jesus in the carpenter shop" image and portray him as a modern-day teenager. This may be challenging—remind them that there's no right or wrong answer. What ideas from Bible verses support their answers, if any?
3. This is a heavy question for some kids, especially those who are new Christians. Don't expect them to open up easily. This may be a good time to share your thoughts about what Jesus means to you. You may want to follow up with a question like, "How does believing in Jesus make a difference in your life?"
4. Have several kids share their completed sentences and discuss the character traits of Christ. What traits of Christ do your kids admire the most? Which ones do your kids need to work on?

THE CLOSE

Christ works in each person differently. You may want to share what he has done for you. How has a relationship with him changed your life? The blind man Jesus healed put it simply in John 9:25, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Explain that your kids can let Christ change their lives—are they willing? Will they let Christ live in them and work in their hearts? The only way to understand Jesus is know him better.

Point out that Christ is their friend—not a remote autocratic being in heaven. He is someone who will stay close to them. He understands their situations, needs, desires, temptations, and struggles because he lived on earth as a human. Invite your group to start a personal relationship with Jesus if they haven't already. What will they lose? Nothing. They'll gain the best friend they've ever had.

MORE

- This lesson can't cover everything about Christ. You may want to start a Bible study or small group on the life of Christ. Several materials, including *Creative Bible Lessons on the Life of Christ* (Doug Fields) are available from Youth Specialties. Check out the YS Web page (www.YouthSpecialties.com) for more information and links for more materials.
- How is Christ portrayed by the media—on the Internet, in movies, or on TV? Ask your group to do some outside research to find some examples. They'll most likely be able to find both good and bad ones. Discuss the examples they found and how society depicts Christ. Are these accurate examples of Jesus? What do these examples say about Christianity and religion?
- You may want to use this lesson to explain the difference between God and Jesus. Some of your kids may wonder how Jesus can be God if he's God's son. This is tough to explain in simple terms! Be careful not to get too theological, but take the time to explain the Trinity and the relationship between God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Take a look at the TalkSheet "Got Spirit"? (page 103) for more discussion questions, explanations, and activities.