


UNIT TWO: I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 2: Jesus Our Model

CONTENTS OF LESSON:

1. Jesus was also called 'Emmanuel' (God with us). By becoming man (Incarnation), he became one of us and came to live among us. [CCC 521]
2. Jesus invites us to become like him, to make him our model. [CCC 520]
3. By looking at Jesus' life, we can get to know him and learn from him. [CCC 561] Thus,
 - i. Jesus was a friend of sinners, welcoming them back to God. We learn to be merciful. [CCC 545]
 - ii. Seeing Jesus work miracles we realize his divine power. This helps us to believe in God. [CCC 548]
 - iii. Washing the feet of his disciples, he asked them to learn from him. We too learn to humbly serve others. [CCC 520]
-  4. Jesus asked us to take his 'yoke' and learn from him. We respond to his call to walk beside him, to live as he lived.

REFERENCES: Matthew 11:29-30. Luke 2:1-7, 41-51; 19:1-10. John 11:38-45; 13:3-5, 12-15

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, Bibles, copies of jigsaw puzzle, envelopes. (*Photocopy and cut along the lines. Make 1 puzzle for 3-4 students.*)

I. STARTER:

- Last time we looked at the different names and titles of Jesus and tried to find out more about him in this way. Without looking at the handout, try and write down as many names and titles that you remember.

[Congratulate those who can remember most of the names.]

- Today we are going to look at one particular name of Jesus. You will receive a picture which represents that name, but it is cut up into pieces. In your groups you will have to:
 - i. Put the puzzle together.
 - ii. Guess which name of Jesus it represents.
 - iii. Suggest what the artist is trying to show through the picture.

Form groups of 3 to 4 students and distribute envelopes with pieces of the puzzle. The students discuss the questions. After 5 minutes bring out:]

- *The picture represents 'Emmanuel' which means 'God with us'.*
- *The artist is trying to show how close Jesus is to us, and how much we need him.]*
[Accept other suggestions!]
- How did God come so close to us? *[By becoming a human being.]* This is called the INCARNATION. (CARNE= FLESH) [Write this on the board.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- So God became one of us. But that is not the end of the story. For real union, we have to become one with him. Jesus calls us to get to know him, to learn from him and follow him. How can we do that? *[By reading about his life. We can get to know Jesus better: how he lived, how he treated others, who his friends were and so on.]*

- So once again, let's do some detective work. Each group will study one incident in Jesus' life and share it with the rest of us.

[Give out the handouts. The students fill in the blanks with the words EMMANUEL and INCARNATION. (Top centre) Assign one incident to each group. They read the Bible passage and 1. Describe it briefly 2. Share what they noticed about Jesus. 3. Give one practical way that they can imitate Jesus. After each presentation the answers in the section are filled in by the whole class. The following points should be brought out:]

1. The people grumbled because Jesus had gone to eat with a sinner. But Jesus said that he had come to seek and save the lost. This shows his mercy. God wants us to forgive those who are weak or sinful and not look down on them, or judge them. We need to practice mercy in all our relationships, at home, on the streets, at school/ college/work.
KEYWORD: MERCY.
2. Jesus worked the miracle of bringing a dead man to life. He had full confidence that God would answer his prayer. He thanked God even before anything had happened. Seeing the miracle the people believed in Jesus. They realized that he had power over death even. (The word 'believe' appears 3 times in the passage.) God wants us to believe in God's power, just like Jesus. This means that we can pray with confidence, knowing that God is able to do anything, that he loves us and is listening to our prayer.
KEYWORD: BELIEF [or FAITH]
3. At the Last Supper, Jesus wanted to give the apostles a lesson they would never forget. So he washed the disciples' feet. He asked them to imitate him. He said, "If I your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."
Jesus was not asking us to spend the rest of our lives washing feet. But he wants us to serve each other in a humble way. Saying sorry, admitting our faults, helping quietly without expecting praise, doing jobs which others find too dirty; all these would make us like Jesus.
KEYWORDS: HUMBLE SERVICE.

III. INTERIORISATION/PRAAYER:

- Read Matthew 11:29-30. Can you pick out the key words in the passage? What do you think are the most important words? [*'Learn from me' could be the key words.*]
- Jesus is inviting us to learn from him the best way to live.
- A yoke is the wooden bar that is placed over the necks of the bulls when they have to pull a load. Jesus is asking us to take his yoke, to walk beside him and go where he goes, act as he acts. He promises us that it will be easy, because he will be pulling along with us.
[The students write a prayer in response to God's call.]

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Students could plan and enact one practical way of imitating Jesus in today's world.]

HOME ASSIGNMENT: ⇨ Read the handout. Learn the Bible verses.