



Chapter 1

My Jesus

Twenty centuries later, Jesus remains the central point of the human race even today. If all the mighty armies that have marched, all the powerful navies that have sailed, all the legislative bodies that have convened, and all the kings who have ever ruled were to combine their influence on human life, they would not equal the impact of this unique life.



- What is the reason for Jesus' immense influence in the world even today?
- How is Jesus, a young man, different from everyone else?
- Who is Jesus to me?

None like Jesus

There has never been, nor will ever be, another like Jesus in the history of the human race. His life, words, character, and influence bear witness to His uniqueness. He possesses countless virtues and extraordinary qualities. Just as sunlight is utilized in various ways across different elements of nature, people recognize only certain aspects of Jesus' divine attributes.

As we come to understand Jesus' uniqueness, our personal relationship with Him deepens.

We can recognize Jesus' uniqueness on four levels

1. The incarnation of Jesus
2. The teachings of Jesus
3. The distinctive characteristics of Jesus
4. The influence of Jesus on the world

1. The Incarnation of Jesus

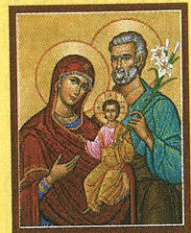
Every event in the life of Jesus, the historical figure, reveals His uniqueness to us.

UNIQUENESS

(From Latin words, *unicus* (only) + *unus* (one)) Found nowhere, incomparable, perfected on its own, Alone of its kind



Who is Jesus?
Search for the maximum number of answers in one word and present them to the class



There are around 200 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. All of them were fulfilled.

Form different groups, and each group will learn one prophecy and present it to the class.

- **Preparation for the Coming of Jesus:** In the Baptist recognized Jesus in Mary's womb (Lk 1:41). The birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of God's revelations, proclaimed through the prophets for centuries. All the sacrifices and symbols observed by the Israelites foreshadowed Jesus. God has instilled the hope of a coming saviour in the hearts of people across different faiths (CCC 522). Centuries ago, numerous prophecies foretold a birth... that birth precisely accomplished them ... and no other birth had such a preparation. **It was solely out of love for us.**

- **The Birth of Jesus:** Jesus was born in poverty and humility, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary in a manger (Lk 2:1-7). Here we see a God who stands in solidarity with every person, in all circumstances of life. No other birth like this; **it was solely out of love for us.**

- **The mysterious of Jesus hidden and public Life:** Jesus spent most of His earthly life partaking in real-life situations of humans. Like an ordinary person, He earned his livelihood by laboring like an ordinary person. He lived in the society submissive to God's law according to the Jewish religion. The only thing that has been revealed to us about his mysterious of hidden life is this; **"Jesus was obedient to His parents" (Lk 2:51).**

"The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life: The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus" (CCC 533)

In His public ministry, Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father (Jn 6:38). His life was marked by absolute holiness and perfection. Yet it remained a model acceptable to all. No other life like this; **it was solely out of love for us.**

- **The Passion of Jesus:** Jesus is the one who was highly humiliated and utterly defeated in the eyes of the world. That was His victory path. It is a unique event that the Son of God endured persecution for the sake of sinners (Rom 5:8). **It was solely out of love for us.**



Mic 5:1-15



Based on the Gospel, prepare a digital presentation of the nativity of Jesus.

To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become "children of God" we must be "born from above" or "born of God".... Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. (CCC 526)



What message does the mysterious of hidden life of Jesus give us?



Read CCC 532
Thereafter, conduct a discussion on the topic "Obedience: Jesus the Model and the Present Generation."



"Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." (Lk 2:52)

- **Jesus' death on the cross:** Jesus died on the cross for all of humanity. Just like His birth, the passion and death of Jesus were in accordance with the prophecies. His cross was not the end but the beginning; His death was not a defeat but a victory. There is not, never has been, and never will be a single human being for whom Christ did not suffer (CCC 605). Knowing everything in advance, Jesus willingly embraced death (Jn 19:30). **It was solely out of love for us.**
- **The Resurrection of Jesus:** Jesus is the only person in human history who died, was buried, and resurrected by His power (Mt 28:1–10). This happened exactly as foretold in the Old Testament prophecies and Jesus Himself. Five hundred people, including disciples, saw the resurrected Christ in person (1 Cor 15:6). Through His resurrection, Jesus triumphed over death. **What the resurrected Christ gives is the assurance of eternal life. This is the foundation of Christian hope.** Jesus, who died for us, also resurrected for us. The resurrection is the work of God, that none else could accomplish. **It was solely out of love for us.**
- **The Ascension and Second Coming of Jesus:** Jesus is the only person who entered into heaven on His own. **He ascended into heaven to stand in the presence of God on our behalf (Heb 9:24).** He is glorified and seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

The ascended Jesus will come a second time (Acts 1:11). He is the Lord. The Lord of everything in heaven and on earth, and He comes again to judge the living and the dead. The Father has given "all judgment to the Son," yet the Son did not come to judge but to save and to give the life he has in Himself (CCC 679).

Jesus alone is the ascended Lord, the One who will come a second time and the One who will execute the final judgment. **It was solely out of love for us.**

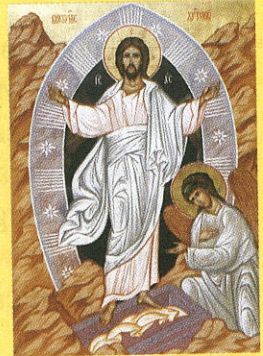
Youcat 76

Why did God become man in Jesus?

For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven.



Make a note of how Jesus has been the only perfect example for you as a son, daughter, friend, student, and a faithful.



Jesus' resurrection was out of love for us. Explain?



Even though Jesus was innocent, he was subjected to contempt and torture. How insignificant our sufferings are in front of His torments! Discuss how Jesus exemplifies suffering.



In what all ways do we meet and experience Jesus in the Holy Eucharist? Discuss in groups, make notes and present to the class.

2. The Teachings of Jesus

- **Jesus was a great teacher. He taught about God, humanity, and life.** Jesus taught with authority (Mt 7:28). While others taught only what had been revealed to them, Jesus taught about Himself; He taught about the Father with whom He is one, He taught about human life over which He is the Lord (Jn 3:13). **No one else could teach in that way.**
- Jesus did not abolish the law or the prophets; instead, He fulfilled them (Mt 5:17). He interpreted each one of the ten commandments in the language of love and fulfilled them. Using parables and stories, he taught in a simple style. His teachings were understandable and acceptable to all. Not a single word of Jesus could be dismissed by any humanist, politician, philosopher, or scientist. Likewise, only Jesus.
- **Only Jesus:** He defined God as love (1 Jn 4:16), and He alone demonstrated it through His actions.
- **Only Jesus:** The one whose words were backed by His actions—the one who did not have a breach between his words and deeds (Mt 5:16).
- **Only Jesus:** Introduced a new value system, emphasizing love for enemies (Mt 5:44), service, humility, and beatitudes. Jesus alone taught people to love their enemies. He announced the Gospel of Mercy and even prayed for those who wounded Him. Only Jesus prayed likewise.
- The powerful and practical morality was the distinct feature of Jesus' teaching (Mt 5:7). The moral principles taught by others were time-bound, **while the teachings of Jesus remain eternally relevant.**

Our lives become truly Christian when we live a life recognizing the contemporary world in the light of the exhortations of Jesus.

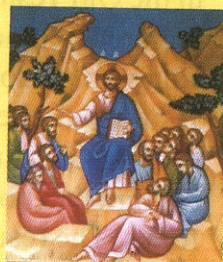
All the philosophies and teachings that have existed in the world until now have limitations. However, the gospel that



Did Jesus have a soul, a mind, and a body just as we do? Youcat 79 Read and discuss



What are the elements that make Jesus' teachings unique? Explain how do these influence you?



"Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the "Father's house", to God's life and happiness. Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us" (CCC 661).



Read today's newspaper. If Jesus was writing the editorial, what would he have written? Prepare in groups and present to the class.

Jesus proclaimed is limitless and will endure forever. This was possible only because He is God. The uniqueness of His teachings reveals His divine uniqueness.

3. The Unique Characteristics of Jesus

Jesus is both a perfect man and perfect God. He is the only savior, the countenance of the Father's mercy.

Jesus is God

The proclamation of the faith "My Lord and My God" (Jn 20:28) by Thomas the apostle while encountering the resurrected Lord reveals the divinity of Jesus in the most profound manner.

Messiah, the eternal Word and the incarnation of God, is the second person of the Triune God. The miracles recorded in the Gospels, in the early Church, in the history of the church, and those occurring currently proclaim His divinity. The fact that Christ Himself will carry out the Final Judgment (Mt 25:31-46, Jn 5:22-23) is the revelation of His divinity.

The truth that Jesus Christ is God sets Him apart from all others.

Jesus is the Son of God

At the time of Jesus' baptism, the Father in heaven revealed that Jesus is His Son. We see in the Gospel, Peter the Apostle proclaiming Jesus' divine sonship, and Jesus affirming it:

"Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but by my Father in heaven" (Mt 16:16-17).

Jesus, the Savior of the World

The salvation brought by Jesus is for all of humanity. That is why Jesus is called the Savior of the World.

"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11).

Jesus Christ is the Savior who came into this world for all people, before Jesus, during Jesus' time, and after.



Analyze and present the new set of values given by Jesus.



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being (Jn 1:1-3,14).



Find the gospel contexts where Jesus reveals His divinity.



Mt 25:31-46

Jesus, the Only Savior

Just as Jesus is the Savior of the World, He is also the Only Savior. Jesus told His disciples: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (Jn 14:6).

St. Peter teaches us: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:11-12).

Jesus, the Redeemer of sins

Salvation can only be experienced where the forgiveness of sins is possible. Jesus came into this world as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). **Those who believe in Him receive forgiveness of sin and a right to divine life.**

Many have tried to reform the world through teachings and good deeds. However, their philosophy could neither give the people total liberation nor deliverance from the bondage of sin. That is possible only by Jesus.

Jesus, the Face of the Father's Mercy

- From the very beginning of the creation of the universe, God's mercy toward humanity is evident. Jesus, the Son of God, is the personification of this divine mercy.
- When Jesus saw the crowds who came to listen to His teachings, struggling with hunger and thirst, He felt compassion for them (Mt 14:14). Multiplying bread for them showed mercy.
- He healed the sick and saved the sinners. Comforting word for many. Jesus is always close to people of all ages, in all states of life, and at all times, even today **Jesus gives the abundance of new life to those who believe and trust in Him.**

4. The Impact of Jesus' influence on the World

He has not written anything. Yet, the books written about Him are countless.

He has not built an institution or designed an edifice; Yet, numerous are the edifices, institutions, and movements

The word 'salvation' means liberation. The salvation offered by Jesus is the complete liberation of man. The gospels teach this very clearly.



How do we explain to someone who does not know the truth that Jesus is the only savior?



"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
(Lk 4:18-19).

Compassion is the decision to understand the need of another and help him. Implementing this decision is **charity**.

"The humble Messiah is our way. Messiah, the truth and the life is the Almighty and God. If you walk with the humble, you will come to the Most High."

St. Augustine

established in His name... The impact of Jesus influence is unparalleled.

- Jesus provided the perfect model for how a person can discover the meaning of life and live a holy life in cooperation with God's plan. When our hearts become like His, we will be able to live in holy love.
- Jesus continues to live in the world today through the Church. His presence and grace are made accessible to the world through the sacraments and the Church's ministries.
- The life and Gospel of Jesus is the foundation of modern humanitarian values. We can find in the gospels the basic values such as respect for human dignity, compassion, love, charity, service to all, and obedience to law. The good news that Jesus preached has inspired many of the world's greatest works of literature, arts, thoughts and philosophies.
- The impact of Jesus' influence is unique in shaping the whole world, modern and humanistic. The missionaries of Jesus influenced Raja Ram Mohan Roy. They also played a pivotal role by inspiring the historic Channar Revolt in Kerala, which led to the right for lower-caste women to cover their upper bodies. Missionaries who followed Jesus were pioneers in organizing movements against slavery and exploitation across the world.
- There has never been, nor will there ever be, anyone who has influenced humanity as deeply, widely, and comprehensively as Jesus. Inspired by Jesus, millions have left everything to follow Him. Countless are the people from different walks of life, like saints, great souls, social reformers, leaders, ordinary people, the poor, and the sick... finding solace and hope in Jesus. Countless are the transformations that befall from those divine words.

Jesus is infinite love. Infant in the manger. The darling of Joseph and Mary. The Omniscient teacher. The courageous, truthful, and abode of the weary and the burdened (Mt 11:28). Humility that washes the feet, patience that carries the cross,



Jesus continues to have great influence in the world even today. Explain in what all ways?

Love for our brothers and sisters is not simply the fruit of our own efforts; it demands the transformation of our selfish hearts. This realization gave rise to the oft-repeated prayer: "Jesus, make our hearts more like your own."

Pope Francis

He loved Us.

(DILEXIT NOS. 168)



Collect Leo Tolstoy's stories about Jesus and Christian values and present them to the class.

love that pardons, obedience to the point of death, and the resurrecting victory. He is the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament, the Church, the unfailing beacon of light, the inspiration, the Lord with us today and forever. **How much I know Him, how much I love him, how much I rely on him, that much will he be my own and my Lord.**



My Convictions

1. Jesus, the perfect God and the perfect man, loves me.
2. He is the Savior of the world, the only Savior, and my saviour.
3. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.



Let us read the Word of God

The Gospel of John, Chapters 1–4



Let us illuminate our hearts.

“My Lord and my God”

Jn 20:28



My Resolution

I will see the daily events
through the eyes of Jesus;
I will respond to them as he would.



We have studied the different dimensions of the uniqueness of Jesus. Which one has had the most impact on you personally? Make notes and present them to the class.