

JESUS IS...

LEADER Prep:

- Listen to provided CD/mp3 ahead of time and prepare thoughts on discussion questions.
- Submit your supply list to Identity Project Coordinator at least 1 week in advance.

Before this chapter, read:

- APPENDIX PG 28 on the existence of God
- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* articles 29-43 on knowing God, articles 156-160 on faith and understanding, articles 286, 338, and 356. *YOUCAT* 3-8.
- *Genesis 1:1-31*
- *Job 11:7-9*
- *Isaiah 55:6-9*
- *Jeremiah 9:22-23*
- *Romans 5:1-5*
- *Ephesians 5:1-20*
- *Hebrews 11:1-3*

Additional reading: *Your Questions, God's Answers* by Peter Kreeft, church documents *Dei Verbum* and *Libertas Praestantissimum*

Supplies:

- Student Notebooks
- Pens/pencils
- Blown up Beach Ball
- CD "Jesus is..." by Father Michael Schmitz
- CD or DVD player
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Bible
- Copies of the Opening & Closing Prayer

THE LESSON:

- 1:15 pm Begin with Ice Breaker. Then introduce this topic, "Jesus is..." a brief overview of what they will be experiencing together in the next few months.
Pray Saint Ambrose Prayer.
- 1:30 pm Play part of CD "Jesus is..." by Father Michael Schmitz (Part I = 29 minutes)
- 2:00 pm Break
- 2:15 Discussion Questions Part I
- 2:35 pm Continue CD to the end (Part II = 18 minutes)
- 2:55 pm Discussion Questions Part II
- 3:00 pm Close with Saint Ambrose Prayer

Ice Breaker Instruction:

1. Have students sit in a circle.
2. Toss the Ball to a student and have him/her introduce themselves, explain why they chose the class, answer the question that his/her right thumb landed on.
3. Have that student throw the ball to another student that hasn't yet answered a question.
4. Repeat until everyone had a chance to answer a question. *(Be sure to include all adults in the icebreaker.)*

Part I Discussion Questions:

You only have 20 minutes to discuss these questions. According to the students understanding of the lesson, pick and choose which questions to ask.

Stop At Exactly 29 minutes into the CD after he says, " Explain that to someone who has been beaten, been raped" "Just What is."

1. What is truth? *(That which is...)*
2. What is the difference between objective and subjective truth? Give examples?
(Subjective is about the subject, about myself. It's true for me but not for you. It is about feelings and preferences. Objective is about the object, not about me. Independent of whether I know it, like it, or believe it. Examples: subjective= I like chocolate ice cream, I feel sad, I'm hungry, I don't like this art. Objective = There is a Starbucks on the corner, I ate lunch, plants need water, kittens are baby cats.)
3. What is the principal of non-contradiction?
(A thing cannot both be and not be at the same time and in the same way. Example= a baby cannot be born and not born at the same time.)
4. If every effect has a cause, then can an effect happen without a cause? *(No.)*
5. Why do we need an uncaused cause?
(Because it is not possible to have infinite regression. Example the boys hitting each other's backs. There must be a start to the progression. There must be a beginning.)
6. How does this relate to the big bang theory?
(If there was a big bang there must have been a big banger first)
7. Does the Church accept the big bang theory?
(The Church neither promotes the theory nor rejects the theory. The big bang theory was first proposed by a Roman Catholic priest, Msgr. George Lemaitre. In the early 1950's Pope Pius the XII not only declared that the big bang and the Catholic concept of the creation were compatible; he embraced Lemaitre's idea as scientific validation for the existence of God and of Catholicism.)
8. If God doesn't exist, then what does that mean about our world?
(If God doesn't exist then all that exists is matter/stuff, it's just physics, atoms hitting atoms, it's predetermined, if you follow the laws of physics then you would be able to predict the future.)

9. If only the laws of physics exist...if it's just atoms hitting atoms...then is their freedom?
(No. Everything is predetermined. Because what would be happening around us is only a result of what happened before it. Making our thoughts not our thoughts, our actions are not our actions. There would be no choice.)
10. If there is no freedom and there is no choice, would there be right or wrong, good or bad?
(No. just physics)
11. Do you believe there is a right or wrong? And what does this mean about life? What difference does it make?
(If there is no right or wrong, then life is meaningless.)

Part II Discussion Questions:

1. According to logic, is the statement "Jesus is God" an objective or subjective truth?
(Objective.) Why? (Because the "tri-lemma:" either Jesus would have to be Lord, Liar, or Lunatic. The only thing he can't be is just a Holy Guy, or just a Good Guy.)
2. As a subjective truth, Who do you say that is Jesus is to you? What does this answer mean for your life?

Opening & Closing Prayer:

O Lord

*teach me to seek you,
and reveal yourself to me
when I seek you.*

*For I cannot seek you unless
you first teach me,
nor find you unless
you first reveal yourself to me.*

*Let me seek you in longing,
and long for you in seeking.*

*Let me find you in love,
and love you in finding.*

Amen.

--Saint Ambrose of Milan, c. 340 - 397

Check these out...

For more information about the proof of the existence of God:

- *Your Questions, God's Answers* by Peter Kreeft
- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* articles 29-43 on knowing God, articles 156-160 on faith and understanding, articles 286, 338, and 356.
- *YOUCAT 3-8*
- "God's Not Dead" DVD and www.godsnotdeadthemovie.com