

Youth Night

The Two Natures of Christ

Purpose of the Night

This youth night is designed to provide a teaching on the two natures of Christ which are both His humanity and divinity. As Catholics, we believe that Jesus was entirely divine. He was the Son of God and possessed a complete divine nature. At the same time, He entered completely into our human condition as He was also fully human. This doctrine is essential to our faith and this youth night will aim to provide the teens with a better understanding of it.

Supplies Needed

Rope or String

Environment

The environment for this night will aim to provide a visual representation on what the night will be about. Place images around the room of different things that come in pairs (peanut butter and jelly, salt and pepper, pictures of core members and their spouses, ketchup and mustard, etc.) At the front of the room, try to depict the pairing of humanity and divinity by placing objects that represent Christ's humanity (cross, crown of thorns, manger or manger scene, bread, etc.) along with objects that may represent His divinity (Bible, candles, etc.)

Preparation

Snacks/fellowship time (20 minutes)

Before diving into the topic, have snacks or even a meal available for the youth as they arrive. Allow them time to socialize with their friends as well as to meet any new people. Be sure to have yourself as well as any core team mingle among the kids and reach out especially to anyone who may be new. This time would also be a good time for any announcements as well as announcing any birthdays.

Game – Three Legged Race (10 minutes)

Have everyone find a partner, preferably with someone they may not know. Have each pair tie a short piece of rope around one of each of their ankles so that they are connected to one another. Once all pairs are tied together, have them race through an obstacle course. Try to put as many obstacles in the way as possible while at the same time not making it too extreme that it can be easy for someone to get hurt. The first pair to finish wins.

Introduction of the Topic (5 minutes)

Transition the youth into the main space to begin the night. The youth minister will begin by introducing the topic of the night.

Proclamation (The proclamation is a key word, sentence, phrase, quote, or Scripture verse that sums up the message for the session. This should be short, easy to remember, and something that is repeated throughout the talk and the session. Below is a suggestion for the session 1 proclamation.)

Proclamation verse: Philippians 2:5-7 – “Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance”

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

(Optional) If you have a musician who can begin the night with a praise and worship song, that could be used as the opening prayer

Reading (Philippians 2:5-11)

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We come before you this day in thanksgiving for the gift of Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ and His Incarnation to become a human being like us. Open our hearts this day to the sacrifice of His humanity so that we could share in His divinity. We ask this in your name.

Amen.

Explanation

Teaching (15-20 minutes)

Choose a speaker to talk to your group about this topic and its importance in our lives. The speaker can be the youth minister, a core member, a parish priest or deacon, a guest speaker, or anyone who you feel may be qualified to speak on the topic. You can use the outline below to provide some thoughts for this talk.

Transition from game

- The game tied two people together and provided a visual representation of the hypostatic union which is the union of Christ's humanity and divinity.

Jesus had a human nature

- Jesus was a human being just like us
 - o Jesus was different than all human in many ways, but one thing that certainly stood Him above the rest of us is that He was a divine being as well as human. We are humans. We eat, sleep, and do all functions that human being do. Christ, like us was fully human. Yet at the same time, He was fully God.
 - o Jesus experienced human emotion as well. When we look to the story of Lazarus, we see that Jesus is disturbed and saddened upon hearing of Lazarus' death.
 - *John 11:35 – "Jesus wept"*
- His humanity also allowed him to be tempted by sin just as we are
 - o *Matthew 4:1-11 – Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted for forty days and forty nights,* and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you' and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.*
- Ultimately, in His humanity, Jesus entered into the suffering of the world in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection

Jesus had a divine nature

- The Son has eternally existed with the Father
 - o *John 1:1 – "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God."*
 - o Christ in the second person of the Trinity has existed with the Father for all eternity.

Jesus is both fully human and fully divine

Application

Small Groups (15 minutes)

Divide the group into small groups.

1. What has stuck out to you so far from tonight? What stood out to you from the talk or the game?
2. How do you picture Jesus?
3. Who is Jesus to you? Do you see Him as a friend, as just some guy who lived 2000 years ago, as God, etc.?
4. In life, we hear about people who are “legendary” or “larger than life”. These can be sports figures, famous actors, historical figures. When you think of those kinds of people, who comes to mind?
5. Do you view Jesus as someone in that same mindset?
6. What does it mean to you to be able to go inside of a church and be in front of Jesus in the Eucharist who is truly God?

Celebration

Eucharistic Adoration (20 minutes)

Gather everyone into the church or a prayerful area and spend a few minutes recapping the night. Then move into a short time of Eucharistic Adoration for about 10 or 15 minutes. Invite the teens to look upon Jesus not just as a piece of bread, just a man, but as God Himself who is both divine but also human like us. End with Benediction.