

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 10	The Saviour is Born
Lesson 3	Son of God, Son of Mary

AIMS

1. Children will be able to explain that Jesus is both God and man.
2. They will know that this is a mystery of faith that no one can fully understand.
3. They will be able to define the Saviour's mission: to save man from sin and to regain Heaven for everyone.
4. They will understand what it means to call Jesus the "Light of the World."

STEP 1

Remind the children of the sin of Adam and Eve, and review the consequences of this first sin for everyone except the Blessed Mother. Help them to understand how deeply we needed a Saviour to rescue us from sin and to reopen the gates of Heaven.

STEP 2

Explain to the children that because Jesus had a human mother, Mary, He was truly human. He was born as a baby just like any other human, dependant on his mother and foster-father for food, clothing, shelter, love and education.

STEP 3

Ask the children to tell you who Jesus' father is. Explain that it was not St Joseph; he was Jesus' foster-father. His real father was God the Father, the first person of the Blessed Trinity.

STEP 4

Summarise what they have just learnt: Jesus the Saviour is both human and divine (God). Tell them that this is a mystery that no one can fully understand. In the natural world a thing cannot be a tree and a frog for example, or an elephant and a fish. But in the case of our Saviour, God worked a marvellous miracle so that He was both God and man in one divine person, Jesus.

STEP 5

Ask the children to look carefully at the painting in their packs. Ask them to locate the bright light in the picture. Explain that the bright light coming from Jesus is a symbol of Him being God.

STEP 6

Mention Isaiah's prophecy: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:2a). Explain that everyone (except Mary) walked in the darkness of sin from the time of Adam and Eve until the coming of the Saviour. Then, when the Saviour was born into the

world, it was like a bright light began to shine. He had come to save man from the darkness of Adam's sin; this is why Jesus is called the "Light of the World."

STEP 7

Reread the "Special Paragraphs" in the children's pack that tells how the shepherds arrived at the stable and fell down on their knees to worship the Christ child in the manger.

STEP 8

1. Study the Catechism Questions 25 and 26 with the children.
2. Help the children complete the word search in their packs.

CONCLUDE

1. Review Catechism question 24 with the class.
2. Sing together "Away in a Manger," *Adoremus Hymnal* # 336

PREVIEW

In the next lesson, we will learn more about some Christmas traditions that help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus.