

God and Man

For teens ages 12–14 · about 45–60 minutes · Buried & Raised · game **God and Man** · built on **John 1:14, Philippians 2:6–8, and 1 Corinthians 15:3–4**

Ask a room of teens "Who is Jesus?" and you'll get a mix: good teacher, inspirational guy, swear-word substitute, someone's homeboy, or "God, obviously" without much underneath the word. Culture flattens Jesus into a meme or a moral coach. Even church kids can repeat correct answers without meeting the real Christ. Baptism candidates need more than slogans. They need to know the Jesus they are trusting is **fully God and fully man** — the only One who could die for sin and rise again for us.

Before you teach anything, pray.

You are not defending a doctrine chart — you are introducing students to a Person who still lives. Some carry pain Jesus understands. Some doubt the resurrection. Some think "Jesus" is just the religious version of being nice. Ask the Spirit to make Christ real, trustworthy, and worthy of worship in this room.

The heart of the lesson

Jesus is not a created angel, not a guru, not a super-human, and not merely a good example. He is **God the Son** who took on flesh. John 1:14 says the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Philippians 2:6–8 shows the stunning descent: though He was in the form of God, He did not cling to His privileges — He emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, was born in the likeness of men, and humbled Himself to death on a cross. **True God. True man. One Person.**

The God of the universe became one of us.

Why the God-man matters: only a human could die for humans; only God could bear the infinite weight of sin and defeat death. A mere martyr's death cannot save the world. A distant God who never entered our pain cannot comfort a crying fourteen-year-old at midnight. Jesus does both. He wept at Lazarus's tomb. He was tempted in every way yet without sin. He understands homework stress, betrayal, exhaustion, and grief — because He lived it in a real body. And He rose bodily — not as a ghost story, but as the firstfruits of our resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 20).

He did not come to give us a quote for Instagram. He came to die for sin and rise for life.

Watch for the world's shrunken Jesuses: moral teacher only, political revolutionary, "my personal vibe," or distant sky-god. Scripture won't allow any of them. The same Jesus who touched lepers calmed storms with a word. The same Jesus who asked for the cup to pass endured the cross. Teens preparing for baptism must trust this Christ — not an edited version that fits their preferences.

JOHN 1:14

"And the Word became **flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8

"Though he was in the form of God... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even **death on a cross.**"

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

"Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures... he was buried... he was **raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."

How the session flows

- 1 Who do people say?** Poll the room; contrast culture's Jesus with Scripture's. ~7 min
- 2 God and man.** Incarnation, cross, resurrection — why both natures matter. ~12 min
- 3 Play the game.** "God and Man" on screen. ~12–15 min
- 4 Quiet honesty.** Reference card — who is Jesus to me? ~5 min
- 5 Worksheet.** Verses, true/false, application. ~15 min
- 6 Trust the real Christ.** Invitation to know, not just know about, Jesus. ~8 min

Screen for the game, printed reference cards and worksheets, pens, optional cross or empty-tomb visual, leaders ready for one-on-one conversations after class.

Leading it, part by part

Who do people say?

Start like Mark 8:27 — "Who do people say that I am?" Let students shout answers: good teacher, prophet, fictional, crutch, God. No shaming. Then narrow the stakes: if Jesus is only a teacher, the cross is a tragedy with no power. If Jesus is only God pretending to be human, your pain doesn't reach Him. Scripture presents someone harder and better: God who entered our skin. Write two columns on the board: **Culture's Jesus** vs. **Bible's Jesus**.

God and man

Read John 1:14 slowly. "The Word" is God the Son — eternal, Creator (John 1:1–3). He *became flesh*. Not looked human. Not visited in a hologram. **Became**. Philippians 2 is your humility passage — ask why infinite God would die on a criminal's cross. Answer: love and salvation. Only the God-man could represent humanity before God and bring God to humanity. 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 is the gospel skeleton: died for sins, buried, rose — all "according to the Scriptures," not according to wishful thinking.

Make it teen-concrete: Jesus knows what it's like when your body hurts, when friends ghost you, when you're wrongly accused. Hebrews 4:15–16 is a great add-on — sympathize, then throne of grace. The resurrection is not optional decoration. A dead Jesus still in a tomb cannot save anyone. Bodily resurrection means your future hope is physical, real, and eternal — not escaping earth, but resurrection life in God's new creation.

Play the game

Run "God and Man" — Round 1 sorts Bible truth from cultural myth, Round 2 drills incarnation and resurrection verses, Round 3 applies to doubt, pain, and baptism trust, Round 4 lightning. Twelve to fifteen minutes. Bridge: "Which wrong Jesus did you almost believe?"

Quiet honesty

Hand out the reference card for five quiet minutes. Nobody else reads it. Ask whether Jesus feels like a real Person they can talk to or only a religious figure on a wall. Invite honest doubt on the card — God is big enough for honesty.

Worksheet

Biblical reinforcement — fill-ins from John 1:14 and 1 Corinthians 15, true/false on common errors, one scenario about explaining Jesus to a friend. Learning angle, not emotional confession.

Trust the real Christ

Close by separating knowing *about* Jesus from trusting *Jesus* (John 17:3). Invite students to speak to Him directly — thank Him for understanding human pain, confess sin He died for, ask Him to make His resurrection real to their hearts. For baptism candidates, state clearly: you are not baptized into a denomination's mascot. You are baptized into Christ — the living God-man who saves. Pressure-free, Spirit-led, Scripture-anchored.

Take it further

- What does John 1:14 teach about Jesus' humanity and divinity?
- Why did Jesus have to be both God and man to save us?
- What does Philippians 2:6–8 reveal about Christ's attitude — and what should that change in us?
- Why is the bodily resurrection essential, not optional? (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 17)
- How is the Bible's Jesus different from "good teacher only"?
- What pain in your life do you need to bring to a Savior who actually understands?
- Read Hebrews 4:15–16 — how does the God-man change the way you pray?
- Who would you say Jesus is — in your own words, with Scripture?

A final word

Teens don't need a watered-down Jesus who never offends culture and never demands faith. They need the real One — God who bled, Man who rose, Savior who still knows their name. Teach incarnation without embarrassment and resurrection without apology. Let the game be loud, the card be honest, and the invitation be clear. The God of the universe became one of us — so we could be His forever.