

4 Facts: Man

Jesus was also a human being, so we can know He understands our problems and we can trust Him more



B

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- ▶ Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their **action to take** and **person to tell** went last week.
- ▶ Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- ▶ Start by stating: *"When we take time to get to know people, they sense we understand them better and they trust us more."*
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- ▶ Transition to the Bible by saying, *"This is an important reason Jesus came to live on earth — so people would know He understands them and their problems."*

hear what God says

- ▶ Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
Choices:
Matthew 9:35–37 (story)
John 11:32–36 (story)
Philippians 2:5–8
Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.
Commentary:
Matthew 9:35–37 — Jesus traveled throughout the towns to help meet the needs of the people. He had compassion on them because they were helpless.
John 11:32–36 — Lazarus was very sick. His sister Mary sent word to Jesus to come and help. By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had died and had been in the tomb for four days. Mary wept at the feet of Jesus, and He was deeply moved. Jesus connected so much

with Mary's troubles that He wept also. He then raised Lazarus from the dead.

Philippians 2:5–8 — Jesus, whose very nature is God, did not allow His divinity to prevent Him from becoming a man and experiencing what it was like to be human.

- ▶ Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:
What do you think this passage teaches us?
What can we learn about God or our response to God?
How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "When we take time to get to know people, they sense we understand them better and they trust us more"?

apply that to life

- ▶ State the main lesson: *"Jesus was also a human being, so we can know He understands our problems and we can trust Him more."* Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- ▶ Discuss:
What are some things that prevent us from completely trusting Jesus?
What is one action you can take this week to help you trust Jesus more?
- ▶ Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- ▶ Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- ▶ Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- ▶ Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes and preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- Matthew 9:35–37**
What are some human qualities we see in Jesus' response to the plight of the crowd?
- John 11:32–36**
What can we learn about Jesus from His responses to Mary and the death of His friend Lazarus?

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print [Man Mini Journal](#).

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.