



The Human Robert Morris

Focus Jesus understands all that we go through because He took on the full identity of a human being. During His time on earth, He understood what family relationships were all about, experienced work issues, and suffered the depths of emotional and physical pain. There is nothing we endure that He has not endured. Jesus is a merciful and faithful High Priest who can sympathize with all our weaknesses, yet He never sinned! We are invited to come boldly to His throne where we may obtain mercy, grace, and help in our time of need.

Fun Ask each member of the group to share three things about themselves: two statements that are true and one that is false. Ask the rest of the group to select which statement they believe is not true. Encourage everyone to join in this humorous exercise.

Review Key Scriptures: Hebrews 2:14–16 (NLT)

Jesus came to us in human form because only as a human being could He die and break the devil's power, who had the power of death over us.

1. Jesus understands relationships.

Mark 3:21, 31–35

Jesus had brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles, so He understands family relationships perfectly. He knows that those closest to us do not always understand our destiny. Jesus also understands how friendships can ebb and flow. He was born into a family, grew as a toddler, developed as a child, and finally matured as an adult. Regarding relationships, there is nothing going on in our lives that Jesus does not understand. As the bride of Christ, we have been unfaithful; as His children, we have been disobedient. He was human just like us and knows there can be many ups and downs and heartbreak in relationships. Jesus can identify with us because He was one of us.

2. Jesus understands work.

Mark 6:3

Jesus was a carpenter longer than He was a preacher. He understands what it is to work hard, be tired to the bone, have calluses and blisters on His hands, encounter dishonest people, pay taxes, and see the highs and lows of the economy. He was a man who knew all about work and all that you might be going through at work!

3. Jesus understands pain.

Isaiah 53:3, 5

Jesus knew emotional pain from being despised, rejected, ridiculed, and mocked by those who misunderstood or betrayed Him. He also suffered the loss of His earthly father. Jesus knew physical pain from being scourged and beaten, nailed and tortured on the cross by those who hated Him or were ignorant of His purpose. He was a man who withstood pain, and He understands the pain you may be experiencing, whether emotional or physical.

Group Dynamics We were reminded that Jesus had a job while He lived among us. Ask everyone to share what their favorite job has been so far and why.

Discuss

1. Why do you think God's plan for redemption called for Jesus to be born as a human?
2. Jesus had a family that included brothers and sisters. Discuss what might have motivated these family members to take the action they did in Mark 3:21. Share how you imagine the conversation went as they traveled to confront Jesus.
3. Have you ever identified with someone because of a common experience? When applying this to prayer, have you ever felt that your common experience made you a better intercessor? Why?
4. Read Hebrews 2:17–18. *Propitiation* deals with forgiveness from God's perspective and means to satisfy the justice, judgment, and wrath of God. Keeping this definition in mind, explain why Jesus had to die on the cross for us.
5. The High Priest who sits on the throne of grace was once a human. Therefore, what we can expect to find at His throne? See Hebrews 4:15–16. Why?
6. Take time to silently come before the throne of grace, remembering that Jesus died for you. Lay all of your worries and concerns at the feet of our faithful Savior! If you have not asked Him to come into your life, you'd like Him to, do so now. When you repent of your sins, Jesus forgives you.

Take Home

- Jesus can identify with all we are going through because He was a human too.
- His family did not always understand Him or His purpose.
- His friends deserted Him.

- Jesus was tempted, yet did not sin.
- Jesus sits as a High Priest who is sympathetic to all that tempts us in this fallen world.
- We can come boldly to His throne where we will find mercy, grace, and help.

Pray Lord, I am grateful that You were born a human and can understand my weaknesses and temptations. I know You understand how difficult it is to live in this fallen world. Thank You for being my Savior and for Your mercy and grace! Help me to be an overcomer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Each week select a scripture that will encourage, edify, and bless the members of your group and email it to them. A timely word is so appreciated!