

# The Big Question

What's the difference between God and Jesus?

## The Big Answer

Jesus, God's Son, lived on Earth so that I can know how much God loves me.



### Parent Connection

Of all the things Jesus did that upset the religious leaders of His day, nothing offended them more than when He claimed to be equal with God. For example, consider what He said to the paralyzed man who had been let down through the roof. "Son," Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven." This was viewed as going far beyond boasting; this was blasphemy. "Who can forgive sins," the teachers asked themselves, "but God alone?" So Jesus proceeded to show the extent of His authority by healing the man's body as well as his soul. The man got up and walked, and people were astounded.

Children who have heard the wonderful stories of Jesus do not have the same trouble as those teachers, for they not only believe that Jesus is equal with God, they believe that Jesus is God. They tend to use "God" and "Jesus" interchangeably. Where children tend to struggle is in distinguishing between the two. It helps to explain simply, "God the Father is truly God, and Jesus, who is God the Son, is also truly God. We know that Jesus was a real man who had the same kinds of experiences and problems that all people have.

To help the children understand this a little more, we took an apple and cut it into parts. Then we asked the children what were the three parts. They responded with the PEEL, the FRUIT, and the CORE. (One child said "...and the stem, but he didn't like to eat the stem") Then we asked the children the difference between the three parts. The responses were precious. They responded that the PEEL protected the apple, the FRUIT was good to eat, and the CORE was inside and contained seeds that if planted would grow other apples. Then the question was asked "Was the PEEL, the FRUIT, and the CORE still an apple?" The response was yes, they just did different things. We talked that God is the Father—He holds everything together—just like the PEEL. Jesus is God's Son—who came to earth to point us to the Father. His deeds are good—just like the FRUIT is good to eat. Then we talked that the CORE is inside the apple—just like the Holy Spirit is God in us. We talked that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are three, but yet one.

Jesus was also really God because the Bible says that God became a man." So, yes, Jesus really lived on earth. Yes, Jesus really did miracles. Yes, Jesus felt sadness and loneliness as well as happiness, just like we do. Yes, Jesus really was perfect. Yes, God became one of us to show us how very much He loves us. Our children are thinking and asking great questions. **So parents, grandparents, how do you answer the question, "What's the difference between God and Jesus?"**

Jesus, God's Son, lived on earth so that I can KNOW how much God loves me. Do you KNOW how much God loves you? Share that with your child.

