Christians believe that Jesus is God as a human being.

Christians believe that God’s special word comes to us as a human being in his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is God’s *living* word because in him God went beyond written or spoken words and actually *lived* who he was. By finding out about Jesus, we can come to understand what God is really like and what he has done to make it possible for us to live forever with him.

Christians believe that Jesus is not God pretending to be human – he is totally God and totally human at the same time. He did not have a human father – he is God’s Son, with a human mother. Jesus was born a human baby and experienced the ups and downs of an ordinary human life. He felt tiredness, hunger and thirst. He was **tempted**. He laughed and cried, felt love and anger and sadness. In all those ways, he was just like us.

But Jesus was also God as a human being. When he was **tempted**, he did not give in. He had power much greater than any normal human being – power to stop a storm, heal sicknesses and injuries, and even to bring dead people back to life. He always showed love and compassion in his dealings with others. He did not **sin**. And even death could not hold him. The greatest demonstration that Jesus is Godis his resurrection.

Christians believe that Jesus chose to give up his equality with God so that he could become human, and that his life demonstrates a choice to serve rather than to be served. He perfectly lived out the priorities he taught – love for God and others. After his resurrection, and at the time of his ***ascension****,* Jesus promised his first followers that he would be with them always. Christians believe that this promise is also true for all his followers from that time on.

1. WHAT IS SOME BIBLE EVIDENCE FOR THIS CONCEPT?

The following Bible verses support the Christian belief that Jesus is God’s living Word to human beings.

*The angel said... ‘You will be with child and give birth to a son...’ ‘How will this be,’ Mary asked... ‘since I am a virgin?’ The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of God will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God...’* **Luke 1:30-32a, 34-35 (NIV)**

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.* **John 1:14 (NIV)**

*Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen... God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son.* **Colossians 1:15a, 19 (CEV)**

*In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...* **Hebrews 1:1-2a (NIV)**

*Jesus... being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.* **Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV)**

*Jesus came to them and said... ‘I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.’* **Matthew 28:20b (CEV)**

1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IDEA FOR CHRISTIANS?

Jesus is the central focus of Christian faith. He is not seen as simply a great teacher or a good example, but as God himself living a human life. Christians believe that the four ***gospels*** record his life, death and resurrection provide true and trustworthy information about God. On the basis of this belief, Christians commit their lives to loving and trusting Jesus and to learning to be more like him, with God’s help.

*We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.* **Hebrews 12:2 (CEV)**

**In one sentence, what do you currently believe about Jesus? Why?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

**Write three sentences explaining in your own words why Jesus is central to Christian faith.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |