

**Jesus means “God helps” or “God saves”.**

**Jesus was a Jew.**

**Jesus was male.**

**Jesus experienced every human need and limitation.**

**He grew in wisdom as well as stature – Luke 2:52. Wisdom was given by the Holy Spirit.**

**On the cross he felt completely separated from his God – Matthew 27:46.**

**He hurt, he played, he attended parties, and felt lonely and abandoned by God and his friends.**

**Jesus was tempted to sin – Hebrews 4:15. He had the same doubts, pressures, fears, desires as us otherwise how could he sympathize with our weaknesses?**

**BUT Jesus was without sin – Hebrews 4:15. He knew no sin to be made sin for our sakes.**

**He dared to forgive sins. He even preached that undeserving sinners will be included, forgiven and saved.**

**Jesus was willing to risk his good name and his moral integrity to be with and for undeserving and unworthy sinful people. He cares for people who are enslaved and dehumanized.**

**He was a radical preacher – He claimed that what he said and did was what God says and does. He was offensive socially, politically, morally and religiously.**

**Jesus was a friend of the wrong people socially and politically. He had women friends, talked openly to women and included women among his disciples. He was a friend to the poor and oppressed and had harsh words about the rich who oppressed them.**

**He was rejected, suffered, persecuted and died and was deserted by his disciples.**

**He was a lowly son of God, God-with-us. He was born in an insignificant town, a stable, with a father who was a common laborer, a child of poor people.**

**To know Jesus is to know God; to see, hear and experience what God does!**

**He came not to fulfill his own needs, desires and ambitions but to serve with compassion and justice in the world.**

**God became little, weak and powerless in Jesus so that human life may be affirmed, protected and defended.**

**God does not want religious people.**

**If you want to know how to live in this world look at Jesus as your example.**