



## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS for the Week of June 29, 2025

### WE BELIEVE *Who For Us Became Human*

1. We now live in a “therapeutic age” where feelings dominate and largely determine what goes on in religion, culture, politics, and law. Today it’s not so much “*what I think*” that matters; it’s “*how I feel*.” Would you say you are more of a “thinker” (analytical, attentive to details, logical, studious, reflective, etc.) or more of a “feeler” (emotional, empathetic, compassionate, sensitive to the feelings of others, etc.)? How so?
2. Recognizing your personal tendency to be either a “thinker” or a “feeler” (or somewhere in between!), what are your honest thoughts (or feelings!) about studying the Nicene Creed?  
\_\_\_\_\_ I find it intriguing and engaging!  
\_\_\_\_\_ It’s a bit too abstract and “theological” for me.  
\_\_\_\_\_ What does some 1700 year old religious creed have to do with my daily life and struggles right here and now?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Unless we truly know what and why we believe, we will more likely fall prey to false teaching and/or emotional and spiritual manipulation.  
\_\_\_\_\_ “Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it.”  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Many years ago, Christian Smith coined a phrase that, according to his research, best describes the current religious or spiritual “creed” of the vast majority of American teenagers. He called this “new religion” *Moralistic Therapeutic Deism*. Here are the tenets of this so-called creed according to the results of interviews with some 3,000 American teenagers:
  - 1) A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
  - 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible, and by most world religions.
  - 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about yourself.
  - 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one’s life except when he is needed to resolve a problem
  - 5) Good people go to heaven when they die.

*What would you say are some key differences between this creed and the Nicene Creed?*

4. This Sunday we focused on the portion of the Nicene Creed that says: *“For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.”* What does it mean to you that the message of the Gospel is “for us and for our salvation?” When was the first time you realized that Christ truly died and rose again for “you” personally? How did this impact your life?

5. **Read John 1:1-5, 14.** What do you find most meaningful about this passage? What does it tell us about who God is and what He does?

**Read Philippians 2:5-11.** What do you find most meaningful about this passage? What does it tell us about who God is and what He does?

6. If someone asked you to define or explain the “incarnation,” what would you say?

Why is this doctrine such a central and indispensable teaching of the Christian faith?

How would you respond to someone who denies either the full humanity or the full divinity of Jesus? Why did he have to be *both* in order to redeem us and our planet?

7. How does the incarnation differ from reincarnation?
8. The only two humans mentioned in the Nicene Creed (other than Jesus) are Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor. Why mention these two historical figures in a theological creed? What do you think the early Church Fathers were trying to tell us here?
9. What are your personal thoughts or feelings about the Virgin Birth? Do you find this doctrine embarrassing? scientifically backwards? Or miraculous and necessary? Why?
10. **Read Hebrews 2:14-18 and 4:15-16.** What does it mean to you to have a Savior and a High Priest who “shares in our humanity,” and who “has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet without sin”?