



**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS
for the week of June 15, 2025**

WE BELIEVE
One God the Father Almighty

1. Name at least one admirable trait that you learned from your father.

How much does the old saying, “*The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree,*” apply to you when it comes to any similarities you share with your Dad? Are you ...

_____ A chip off the old block?

_____ A grafted branch?

_____ A weeping willow?

_____ A mighty oak?

_____ Deadwood?

_____ Other? _____

2. **Read Psalm 103:13-19 and Romans 8:14-17.** Throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, God reveals himself as a loving Father. Do you find this comforting or uncomfortable? Inviting or repelling? Why?
3. This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed – an ancient statement and summary of the Christian Faith written in Nicaea in A.D. 325 (and revised and expanded in Constantinople in A.D. 381). This creed is revered and recited by both Protestant and Catholic Churches. In your opinion, how necessary or helpful are such creeds? Do you tend to *agree* or *disagree* with those churches that say: “We have no creed but the Bible”? Why?
4. The Nicene Creed is Trinitarian in its structure – i.e., it is intentionally divided into three major parts focusing on God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The first phrase of the creed focuses on God the Father: “*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is – seen and unseen.*” Why do you think the early church fathers would begin by saying “we” believe rather than “I” believe? What makes this so significant?

5. What's the difference between saying, "*We believe in,*" rather than "*We know that ...*"?

In your opinion is belief, or faith, just "a blind leap in the dark?" Why or why not?

6. Although the ancient Israelites would often refer to God as the Father of their nation, they intentionally avoided addressing him with such an affectionate term. Instead they called him "Hashem" (i.e., "the Name"), or "Adonai" (Lord). Jesus was the first person to ever address God directly as "Father," or "Abba" in Aramaic. Abba was the intimate term of endearment used by Jewish children to refer to their earthly fathers. Why do you think so many religious Jews were offended when Jesus used this name for God Almighty? (cf. **John 5:16-18**)

What do you think Jesus was trying to reveal to us about the nature of God by calling him Abba?

7. Some people (and especially in our contemporary culture) are offended by the traditional name for the Trinity (also used in the Nicene Creed) – namely, "*the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*" They suggest a more inclusive designation might be: "*Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.*" What do you think? What are the pros and cons of coming up with new names for the Trinity?
8. An ancient heretical group at this time known as the Gnostics believed that an evil, lesser god was responsible for creating the material world that we live in. The true God, they claimed, was pure Spirit, and therefore, his desire was to help us escape from the prison-house of our material world and material bodies. Other groups (both then and now) insist that the earth itself, and all created beings who dwell in it, are inherently divine because all life was birthed from the "womb" of God's very being. How does the Nicene Creed act as a biblical corrective to both of these teachings? And why is this so significant?
9. No other religion teaches that God is eternally Father. Islam, for example, would consider such a thing to be blasphemy. According to Muslim teaching, all creatures stand in relation to God – not as children to a parent, but as slaves to a Master. But according to **Romans 8:14-17** the Spirit we have received does not make us slaves, but rather sons and daughters of God – to whom we now cry out: "Abba, Father!" Some adult men and women are still trying somehow to win their earthly father's approval. What does it mean to you personally that God the Father now says to you and me: "*You are my beloved son ... You are my beloved daughter! With you I am well-pleased!*"