

Discuss the four reasons God became Man, the incarnation.

Four reasons the Word was made flesh. Based on The Catechism of the Catholic Church's teaching on the Incarnation # 356-460.

## I. WHY DID THE WORD BECOME FLESH?

**456** With the Nicene Creed, we answer by confessing: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man."

**457** The Word became flesh for us ***in order to save us by reconciling us with God***, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins": "the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world", and "he was revealed to take away sins":<sup>70</sup>

Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in the darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Savior; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state?<sup>71</sup>

**458** The Word became flesh ***so that thus we might know God's love***: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."<sup>72</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."<sup>73</sup>

**459** The Word became flesh ***to be our model of holiness***: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."<sup>74</sup> On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: "Listen to him!"<sup>75</sup> Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law: "Love one another as I have loved you."<sup>76</sup> This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example.<sup>77</sup>

**460** The Word became flesh to make us ***"partakers of the divine nature"***:<sup>78</sup> "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God."<sup>79</sup> "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God."<sup>80</sup> "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."<sup>81</sup>



# JOY STORY

## RELATED SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

### Finding the Hail Mary in Scripture:

Luke 1:27; Luke 1:41-43; Luke 1:48

### Mary's Obedience:

Luke 1:38

### Mary's Influence on Jesus:

Luke 2:51; John 2:3-10

### Why We Consider

#### Her Our Mother:

Revelation 12:17

## RELATED CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES:

### Mary as Our Mother:

967-970

### Devotion to Mary:

971

### Why Mary?:

488-489

### Mary's Obedience:

494

### Mary's Virginity:

496-501

### Why "Ever-Virgin"?:

499-507

## SYNOPSIS

In the hands of young Aaron, the nativity figurines (especially the angel) are transformed into first century action figures. After his mother gently guides Aaron away from that activity, the story of Jesus comes to life in that manger and an unusual participant in the scene learns about the important role Mary played in the salvation of the world.

## SUGGESTED USES FOR THIS VIDEO

✝ Use this film at an Advent retreat or during an event about Advent, Christmas, or Mary.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What do you know about Mary?
2. What do think we believe about Mary as Catholics?
3. What do you know about what others think we believe about Mary?
4. Did you learn anything new about Mary in this film?
5. What did Mary continue to do as the others were telling the soldier about her? Why did she do this?
6. Do you have a special devotion to Mary? If so, can you share it?
7. Why is Mary such an important part of the Christmas story?

**NOTE:** Your youth may find it impacting to see how much of the Hail Mary is drawn from scripture, especially if you live in a strongly Protestant area where our Marian beliefs may more frequently be challenged. It may also be helpful to help them construct thoughtful responses to questions from their Protestant brothers and sisters.

Check out these links for some simple explanations as a starting point:

<http://www.aboutcatholics.com/beliefs/mary-in-the-bible>

<http://www.aboutcatholics.com/beliefs/hail-mary-why-not-hail-jesus>

