

**Human Prenatal Development – Investigation 4:
Faith and Reason Reflection Worksheet**
Answer Key

1. *How can the placenta be seen as a symbol of God’s ongoing care for life during development?*
The placenta provides food, oxygen, and protection to the growing baby, much like God provides for our needs at every stage of life. It shows that life is supported not only at creation but continuously.

2. *Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25:40, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me.” How might this apply to the way we view and care for unborn children?*
Unborn children are the most vulnerable among us. Caring for them—by supporting mothers, speaking up for life, or learning about development—is a way of honoring Christ Himself.

3. *The Catechism teaches that parents are the “first and principal educators of their children.” How does the support a mother gives during pregnancy reflect this role?*
Even before birth, a mother provides everything the child needs to grow. This physical care is a kind of teaching—showing love, sacrifice, and responsibility from the very beginning.

4. *St. John Paul II wrote that the human person “cannot live without love.” How does this truth apply to a child growing in the womb?*
Even before birth, a child depends completely on love and care. The physical environment provided by the mother, through the placenta and womb, is an expression of love that gives the child life and safety.

5. *Choose two virtues and explain how learning about prenatal support systems can help you grow in that virtue.*

Examples:

- **Stewardship:** Understanding the placenta’s role shows me how life depends on careful care and reminds me to care for others with the same diligence.
- **Compassion:** Seeing how vulnerable a baby is in the womb helps me feel more empathy for others who rely on support and protection.
- **Gratitude:** Learning how much support we received before we were even born helps me appreciate my parents and the gift of life.