



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Through the prophet Isaiah, God calls on us to do what is right and just. What does it mean to live this out in our workplaces and families?

The reading suggests that loving and serving the Lord will lead to genuine joy and authentic prayer. Have you experienced this in your life? What are ways we can love and serve the Lord as an act of prayer and worship?

Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

The Psalmist links God's blessing directly to God's "way" becoming known upon the earth. How can you use God's blessings in your own life to help others learn about His salvation?

The Psalmist believes that God's ruling with equity (fairness) is a reason for the nations to "be glad and exult." What does this teach us about God's justice?

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

In verse 14, Paul mentions that he hopes to make his fellow Jews "jealous" so that some of them might be saved. In what ways can the joy, peace, and fruitfulness we experience in our Catholic faith provoke others to want a deeper relationship with Christ?

How does God use our human limitations, our failings, and our "disobedience" to ultimately lavish His mercy and grace upon us all?

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth
of your love,
so that, loving you in all things and above
all things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus is God and knows the woman's needs. Why do you think He delays responding or initially ignores her cry for mercy? How does this relate to times when God seems silent in our own prayer lives?

The woman's persistence mirrors the prayer "Lord, have mercy" (the *Kyrie Eleison* used in Mass). In what areas of your life are you struggling to pray persistently for healing or mercy?

The woman displays humility despite being treated harshly at first by Jesus. How can humility give us the strength to remain faithful, even if we face challenges on our faith journey?