



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Exodus 22:20-26

God specifically highlights the vulnerable: the alien, the widow, and the orphan. Who represents these groups in our modern society?

How does remembering our own past struggles or our family's history change the way we view people who are currently struggling?

Psalms 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

The psalmist uses heavy, defensive imagery (rock, fortress, shield) to describe God. Which of these specific images resonates most with your current season of life, and why do you need God to be that for you right now?

What are some words or phrases that link the 1st Reading and the Psalm?

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

St Paul mentions the Thessalonians "turned to God from idols." What are some subtle, modern idols that tempt us to put our trust in something other than the "living and true God"? How do we actively turn away from them?

How do we typically react when living out our Catholic faith becomes difficult, inconvenient, or socially uncomfortable? What does it look like to possess a "joy" that coexists with suffering or trial?

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.

Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus says to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What is the difference between loving God with our emotions (heart) versus our intellect (mind)? How do we balance both in our Catholic faith?

The Pharisees approach Jesus to test Him. Why do you think they were so obsessed with ranking the commandments, and how does Jesus' answer challenge their legalistic mindset?

In our current culture, it is easy to love people who agree with us. Who is the "neighbor" in your life right now that you find hardest to love? How can you show them Christ's love this week?