

# Small Groups

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## *Discussion Questions for September 6, 2015 – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The message in the second reading began with “*My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.*” We all know what it means to “show partiality”. We may have even done it or had it done to us. In some cases, it’s acceptable, like when a dignitary visits your town. But in the Church, we should try our best to welcome everyone and grow with everyone, no matter who they are. This kind of welcoming can take on many forms. We could reach out to the struggling parents with their first newborn, we can offer to drive an elderly neighbor somewhere, we can try to learn to communicate with someone from another country. All of these are ways of showing love and compassion. Isn’t it time we put away our selfishness and began to look to the needs of others, and not just the ones who expect it from us or can repay us?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Related to the paragraph above, what are other ways you can think of to not show partiality?
2. Read the Gospel aloud. Why would Jesus tell the people who were healed not to tell anyone?
3. This week, spend at least 5 minutes each day (the Saints and the Church recommend early morning or late in the evening) alone and in quiet prayer with the Lord. Start with “Jesus, be with me.” From there, ask for his word to come into your heart. Be silent. Bring back your impressions of this week long prayer to the group next week and discuss it.
4. If you could ask Jesus for one thing, what would it be? Discuss what each of us could do either individually or together in order to help.

### **Closing Prayer**

God of the nations, God of all, please be with us at this moment that you have made. Lord, Jesus, we desire to know you and to love you and want to share with everyone all the good you are. Please help us this week as we begin a journey of prayer with you and work at be still and silent in your presence. We know that you are in the tabernacle of our church, please make our hearts a tabernacle of your love. Let us reach into this tabernacle as we pray to you and listen for your word. You know we fail, you know our weaknesses, yet you love us anyway. Let us have that same kind of unconditional love for the least of our brothers. Let us see your greatness in their lowliness. We ask all of this in your holy name. Amen.

“The Lord God opens my ear that I may hear.” (Is 50:5-9a)