

# Small Groups

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## *Discussion Questions for November 15, 2015 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The Gospel for this week comes from Mark. It's one of those readings that can get people to ruminate and agonize over when the "end times" will be here. Is it soon, they wonder. What will the "tribulation" look like? What natural ways could the Moon not show its light? And the speculation goes on and on. Although these are interesting to think about, the main point is what Jesus says at the end of the reading, "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." His point is for us not to worry about it. Nothing we can do will hasten it or prevent it. But what we can do is look to our own lives and see how we can best prepare for the end, whether it comes at our death or at Jesus's Second Coming. In fact, it's not a coincidence that this reading appears just before we enter Advent. The readings and prayers should prepare us, in our hearts, for the coming of Our Savior.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Do you feel that, were your life to end tomorrow, you have done all that God has asked of you? Why or why not?
2. Prayer is a great way to prepare for the events mentioned in this week's readings, but discuss other ways that you could prepare for Jesus's return to earth?
3. We are all saddened and hurt by the events in Paris in which so many innocent lives were taken in hate. Take a moment to pray for everyone involved. Be sure to include the families of the people who were killed as well as the men and their families who did the killing.
4. As things change rapidly in our world, discuss methods of prayer that have helped you to cope. After discussing this, read the Closing prayer aloud and take a little time after to discuss this prayer and what you know about St Francis de Sales.

### **Closing Prayer**

Prayer of St. Francis de Sales  
For Complete Trust in God

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life with fear. Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God to whom you belong will in his love enable you to profit by them. He has guided you thus far in life, do you but hold fast to his dear hand, and he will lead you safely through all trials. Whenever you cannot stand, he will carry you lovingly in his arms.

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same eternal father who takes care of you today will take care of you tomorrow, and every day of your life, either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then, and put aside all useless thoughts, all vain dreads and all anxious imaginations. Amen.