

SMALL PRAYER GROUPS  
Prayer Gathering for September 12

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Father of Jesus,  
your Son, filled with your wisdom and grace, who walked among us without sin  
was mocked, called a liar and killed as a criminal.  
Whenever we struggle as his followers, whenever suffering burdens us,  
help us remember his struggle... his grace... and his triumph.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

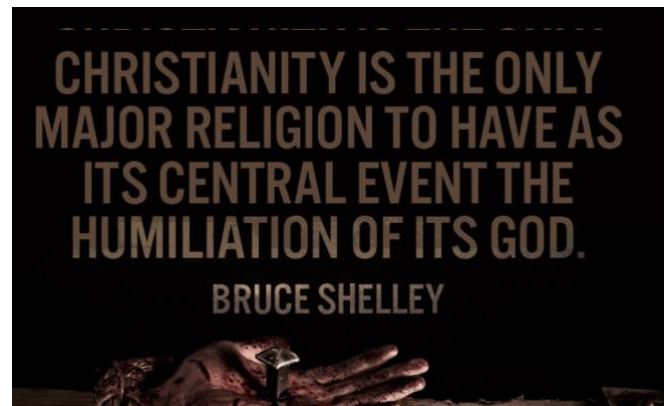
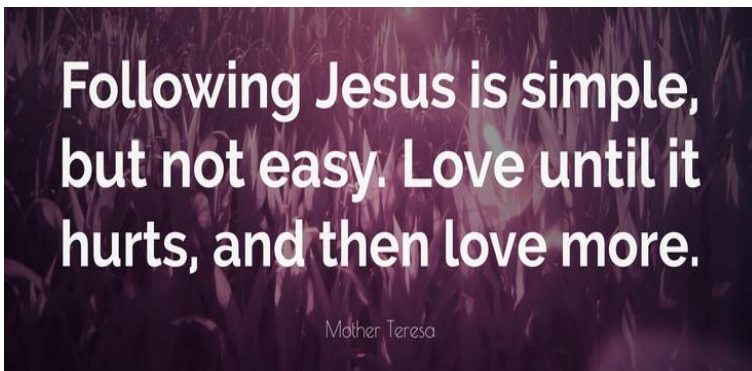
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“Jesus asked his disciples: ‘But who do you say that I am?’”*  
**If Jesus asked you this point blank, how would you answer?**

**How is this answer different than it was 10 years ago?  
How is it different than it was before you joined this prayer group?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself or herself...  
take up his or her cross... and follow me.”*

**Many Christians wish to ignore the part of Jesus’ teaching  
that focuses on the suffering that is required in order to follow him.  
What kind(s) of suffering have you undergone in order to be a follower of Christ?**

*“I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me...  
The Lord GOD is my help, therefore, I am not disgraced...”*

**What spiritual benefit might a Christian gain from surviving struggle and  
dishonor? How does the dishonor Jesus suffered affect the way we perceive ours?**

LITANY OF THE STRUGGLING DISCIPLE

When my ideas are scoffed at...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my anger can't be expressed...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my contributions are not appreciated...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my participation is mocked...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my purity leads to mockery...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my reverence is desecrated...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my values put me on the outside...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my boundaries separate me from the crowd...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When my giving leaves me less for myself...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

When I question if it all is worth it...

**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.**

**Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

## READING 1

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear;  
and I have not rebelled, have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;

my face I did not shield  
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,  
therefore, I am not disgraced;

I have set my face like flint,  
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

He is near who upholds my right;  
if anyone wishes to oppose me,  
let us appear together.

See, the Lord GOD is my help;  
who will prove me wrong?

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus asked his disciples,

*“Who do people say that I am?”*

They said in reply,

*“John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.”*

And he asked them,

*“But who do you say that I am?”*

Peter said to him in reply,

*“You are the Christ.”*

Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them

that the Son of Man must suffer greatly  
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,  
and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly.

Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples,  
rebuked Peter and said,

*“Get behind me, Satan.*

*You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”*

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,

*“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,  
take up his cross, and follow me.*

*For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life for my sake  
and that of the gospel will save it.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Mark, chapter 8*