



Year A – 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time: Be Prepared

***(Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mt 25:1-13** - <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 11/12/2023, 11/8/2026, 11/11/2029

After the reading, conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, we wish to know You and to enter Your wedding feast. Help to open our eyes to the areas in our lives that we can improve, so that we are properly prepared to joyously reside in heaven with You for eternity. In Your name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Why would a loving God not allow some to enter heaven? Does God block our entry or do we?

YouTube Video: The Great Surprise: Jesus' Second Coming with Fr. Mike Schmitz (5:54 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzRiezrSKIA&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Do you like to surprise others? Do you like surprises? Why or why not?
3. What is the difference between a good surprise or a bad surprise?
4. Do you live like Jesus is with you every day? At all times?
5. What are some things that you would like to implement in your life to better prepare for a joyful surprise when you die or when Jesus comes again?
6. Do you think you are a source of encouragement to others? What are ways you could improve at being a source of encouragement to others?

Session Challenges: (Choose one or both)

- Make an effort to say encouraging words to one person each day.
- Commit to doing one thing consistently during the next month that will better prepare you to join Jesus in heaven. Make sure to follow through with your commitment.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Loving Father, You so long for us to join You in heaven. Help us to understand how to become more like Your son, Jesus. We desire to be loved and to love others authentically. Transform our hearts to turn to You continually so that we may hold loving thoughts in our minds. Place on our hearts encouraging words so that we may voice our love to others and build Your kingdom. Open the door to Your heart and pour out Your grace upon us that we may be Your hands and feet in our broken world. We ask this in great humility. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Wis 6:12-16** Sunday Reading 2: **1 Thes 4:13-18**