

**Chrissy Teigen's Openness About Her Miscarriage Helps Others
*The Wired Word* for the Week of October 18, 2020**

**In the News**

Model and cookbook author Chrissy Teigen, 34, recently revealed on social media that she had miscarried, losing the child, a son, that she and husband, the singer John Legend, 41, had been eagerly awaiting to join their family, which includes two other children.

"Driving home from the hospital with no baby," Teigen wrote on Twitter. "How can this be real."

Miscarriage, the spontaneous loss of a pregnancy before the 20th week, is far more common than the usual lack of discussion about it might lead us to believe. According to the Mayo Clinic, about 10 to 20 percent of known pregnancies end in miscarriage, and the "actual number is likely higher because many miscarriages occur so early in pregnancy that a woman doesn't realize she's pregnant."

Another reason the actual number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage isn't known is because until recently, many families said little about such losses and bore their grief in silence. A kind of social taboo about discussing the loss was common.

TWW team member Joanna Loucky-Ramsey said that her mother was one of nine children, but that she was vaguely aware that there was a 10th child, whose gender she never knew, either because it was a stillborn or miscarried infant. "In those days, such things were not openly discussed," Loucky-Ramsey said. Her grandmother "was certainly busy enough with a farm and nine children to raise, but still, my mother was at least aware of a hidden sorrow that Grandma bore."

Some of this silence was because of shame -- with women feeling that somehow they had caused the spontaneous end of their pregnancy. But according to the Mayo Clinic, it is rarely true that the woman did anything wrong. Most of the time, miscarriage is due to some mishap of biology. "Most miscarriages occur because the fetus isn't developing normally," says the Mayo Clinic.

Today, the silence about miscarriages is giving way. Teigen and Legend are among several celebrities who have spoken out in recent years about pregnancy loss. Others include former first lady Michelle Obama, singers Beyoncé and Celine Dion, actresses Brooke Shields and Kirstie Alley and actors Hugh Jackman and James Van Der Beek.

What's more, October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.

Jennifer Handt is a writer who has had six miscarriages. In her article for *Cognoscenti* (on the WBUR site in the list below) she said she identified with Teigen's loss. "I've sat in that same place, and the heartbreak of the moment is nearly impossible to put into words," she said.

Handt commented that Teigen's willingness to speak of her lost pregnancy shows "what happens when women are given the space to speak their truth. Some ask why [Teigen] shares so much; the better question is, why wouldn't she? Because she has spoken up, she and her ... family are now swimming in the kind of solidarity and propping up that follows tragedy, from ... generally good people who do, in fact, still exist in droves. They will get what they need to make it to their first next day that doesn't feel like a living nightmare. They will hear from others who made it through this kind of loss alive."

The help goes both ways. Patricia Walters-Fischer is one who read Teigen's sad news. Though it's been nearly 20 years since Walters-Fischer suffered a miscarriage at 19 weeks, Teigen's post still offered her some comfort.

"It's not just today that the loss happens," Walters-Fischer told *USA Today*. "She will remember the birthday ... We plan that child's life to the age of 18 ... Those moments continue to mentally happen."

Walters-Fischer also said that Teigen's story will help women who are struggling with blaming themselves after a devastating loss.

Teigen and Legend had learned earlier that the child in the womb was a boy. After the miscarriage, Teigen wrote on Instagram, "We are shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we've never felt before. We were never able to stop the bleeding and give our baby the fluids he needed, despite bags and bags of blood transfusions. It just wasn't enough," she said.

"We never decide on our babies' names until the last possible moment after they're born, just before we leave the hospital," she added. "But we, for some reason, had started to call this little guy in my belly Jack. So he will always be Jack to us. Jack worked so hard to be a part of our little family, and he will be, forever."

More on this story can be found at these links:

[Chrissy Teigen's Openness About Pregnancy Loss Gives Strength to Women in Similar Situations. *USA Today*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlqzdVYvVp1uiI0RMeAyHUespd45mJ5wiOsiScHV2EQx045rCHm8WQOXuNeU0MWs-2FnhA5BcJjK-2FMRFmEp4eVMEvnt8F6t2nM9t-2FkSPdo7S8-2BQRq6U7h4Pxeju-2FlVB1WPk5yScUQWrBB4OFbb4AYkhWcTRLTteBXqhjFGq8796-2Fy-2Fwjr6ByMWEdzCwH0EtbCG-2Fvcg-3D-3DwSZq_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH1-2FAiajV2iOmBxEdhq8KahtWCA6ks2fbdDfPjJYIY3JZyoBQMv-2BSOBnsvbKRqJSVtDE5KNbK1Z-2FnMN2yhHXKEdxLg4DBzSRdjh0BnPzyiP-2Bz48sWyE69-2BSzYQ8FyIW0-2BMASE361Lte1f68k-2F8De53eMyuOA83PCozky9creVXKs1NMO3twd1naYjgIuYC-2BeSeRiHxgKSkqHbi2iFIeGXanf4vgDQsHtviPVs9rxgAn6X2)['Grief So Transporting It Feels Almost Sacred': Why Chrissy Teigen's Story Is Helpful to So Many Women. *WBUR*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq-2FodBWQM4jaENI7PUaT-2BT-2FZdiHqV6herlSOtGtFlC59jM096dLUVNgUbCaY1qyD1pySoXvLkd3bjRO1-2BMjDCnUwFaaVEsKhVeKCwAY2Mhp5QKE8JHMAkMBYt5JsmHOm9KQ-3D-3DjrRA_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH1zV9iGBNqBoNnrQGZSvjqA9nCNdGMtbPVh1A-2BbIlnkvAf6WM1HhcEWplJGcAy3TimF2XkT06dAOlNHj0A9E0z2eK-2B6xFUGgKUrRCz2sRNsnq1V6w5wBEasM-2FrS-2FliRnKr3lmJr9B7zS2yMvh38CozXLLp-2F1diJLaYZfP4E2M6jSROMajVxvWaEWx9qGjyi23KkDYzYq4APcXnQS2ynSeD88KJWag-2BS-2F8bFKgkbBDfdZw)
[Miscarriage. *Mayo Clinic*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq4381gFYEKeuntc0T7P5wYR8iWlok4qIzsKwih6h6kLpU8TQ5ulHIVhN6FMdGJqdw2PlukN55AhgGddV5gVQ7w5TLSmwpYQkONmfGGF63SUvKrxisd1Jzy8GQKAdBay-2FyA-3D-3DnM3t_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH1-2BGOc3Wl3-2BT3psNj1p5PNsSv9xa56mkltX71x1A09CqIX0dkTkQwcOjkFEAYpSlhx-2BbkNdoLZfbLTOdqHxlD6is-2BkPwm6I3zUPKtl0DGMdOM337Pmy472dcDbwy7ku-2BpUw5oVN76lVOve0dTBpjeAeF5wmtLdPVRRMDFudkMsPo7LhyXKXEwZqu3lekzTV187nuITDoaXqQlq-2FPRaAKEj8LwToDi9ZQClZlGVDf0nQj4)

**The Big Questions**

1. What do you think is the primary emotion parents experience when a *wanted* pregnancy ends in miscarriage?

2. Is it a good thing that more people are talking openly about the miscarriages they've experienced? Why or why not?

3. How do you think God looks upon a miscarriage? How does he look upon the miscarried individual? How does he look upon the would-be parents?

4. In what ways should congregations and churches minister to people who have had a miscarriage?

5. To the extent you feel comfortable doing so, discuss your own experience with pregnancy loss. Who or what was most helpful and why? Least helpful and why? Did you feel permitted to discuss this with others? Why or why not?

**Confronting the News with Scripture and Hope**Here are some Bible verses to guide your discussion:

**Genesis 4:25**
*Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, because Cain killed him."* (No context needed.)

Eve and Adam named their third child Seth, which literally means "appointed" (see Eve's statement about his name above). But it is sometimes also associated with "compensation," for it appears that Eve viewed the birth of Seth as compensation from God after the death of her son Abel and the banishment of her son Cain.

TWW team member Rev. Jim Berger tells of counseling a couple whose child was stillborn and of telling them that story about the birth of Seth and the "compensation" meaning of the name.  The following year they had a healthy son.  Jim heard through one of their friends that they named him Seth.

On the other hand, this angle might not feel healing to some people because each child is unique, and each child has a right to be him- or herself.

**Questions:** In what sense, if at all, is a subsequent successful pregnancy after a miscarriage a compensation? Can a subsequent child actually make up for a child who did not survive to birth? What about parents who have miscarriages but never a successful pregnancy? What, if anything, might be the Lord's gift to them?

**Ecclesiastes 6:3-5 (NASB)**
*If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things and he does not even have a proper burial, then I say, "Better the miscarriage than he, for it comes in futility and goes into obscurity; and its name is covered in obscurity. It never sees the sun and it never knows anything; it is better off than he."* (For context, read 6:1-6.)

The Bible does not speak often of miscarriage or stillborn babies, but when it does, it sometimes seems to be in the voice of someone who is not thinking about the disappointment and pain felt by the parents of the miscarried child but rather referencing a miscarried fetus to make a comparison to someone who was born. Here in Ecclesiastes, for example, the writer argues that a person who is not content with life is no better off than someone who is never born.

Or consider Psalm 58:7-8, where a psalmist prays for his enemies to be banished from life "like a woman's stillborn child, let them never see the sun" (CEB).

In contrast to those two biblical writers, Job (3:16-19), in the midst of his suffering, wishes *he* was with the stillborn, never having seen the light of day, but instead being spared the troubles of life.

**Questions:** Do you think Job, the writer of Ecclesiastes and the psalmist who wrote Psalm 58 ever personally experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage? Why or why not?

**Psalm 127:3 (CEB)***No doubt about it: children are a gift from the LORD; the fruit of the womb is a divine reward.* (For context, read 127:3-5.)
**Luke 1:13**
*But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.* (For context, read 1:5-20.)
**Isaiah 54:4***Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.* (For context, read 54:1-8.)

As mentioned in the "In the News" section, miscarriage is a natural process, often occurring because the fetus isn't developing normally. Yet some women who miscarry say they feel shame about it, even though they are told by doctors that they did nothing wrong. We offer these three Bible verses together because they perhaps shed some light on the sources of that shame.

The Psalm verse rightly says that children are a gift from God, a "divine reward." But what parents who miscarry can hear from that is they weren't deserving of that gift or reward.

The verse from Luke speaks of a successful pregnancy as an answer to prayer. So does that mean that a miscarriage is because the parents did not pray enough?

The Isaiah verse is from a longer passage where the fallen city of Jerusalem is addressed as if it were a mother who has suffered much loss, but who is now promised redemption by God. In verse 4, God tells this mother/city that when redeemed, she will forget the shame of her youth and the disgrace of her widowhood. Well, assuming a woman has done nothing to hasten her husband's death, why should widowhood be a disgrace? But God is speaking about how a woman might *feel*, rather than about any actual guilt. Likewise, while the "shame of [her] youth" is not specified, it could well refer to what she felt after miscarrying.

**Questions:**Where do we learn to be ashamed of that which we cannot control? Does picturing a live birth as a reward or an answer to prayer set one up to feel shame when a pregnancy ends through miscarriage? What effect does shame have in helping parents deal with the grief of a miscarriage? Can our own understanding of the Bible lead us, as it did in biblical times, to assume someone's loss must be because they sinned?

**Psalm 139:13-16***For it was you who formed my inward parts;
  you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
  Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
  when I was being made in secret,
  intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
  all the days that were formed for me,
  when none of them as yet existed.*(No context needed.)

Here, a psalmist sings praises for God's care for him while still *in utero*, and for God determining for that individual the days of his or her life.

We can understand this to mean that God has the same care for those in the womb whose allotment of days does not extend beyond the womb.

**Question:** What reasons do we have to assume that miscarried fetuses remain with God? (See Ezekiel 18:4.)

**For Further Discussion**

1. Read the information from the Mayo Clinic in the links list above titled "Miscarriages." Then discuss together what does and what does not cause them.

2. For more information about Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, [visit this site](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq0-2B9-2BgOQB2aZ4zvvn3mLEUdxwJ3ont4SDBzm6HP4OdCTe4Q1DF9U7zo7cZapvqB4RLUhQvlCSuYGXfwT1xA77ucj4v8kTdjyCQFDOa106WYqloVrCy8zaxJ-2F-2Fz6qBb34xcb6WbZYBkeRAgiqgt6fZdmzyQs8An10rOiTCGXaAoG5MB-2BJwepB-2BPDDwlnX8BzTCDMfzsnLfyaqgu41zHVHRuqRlH3uR4NrmOPrvCaVtbYMCpfChmdqvA4s2csxBmva3w-3D-3D5h83_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH1zxEhbX1F2K7OGGDHCEnG8BXPWSBzW-2BBC5pvlgM7zxaLcCr3-2BeHLIxYi4JBpza1l6hXNIJuM1042TTf5yKH0U8yrnmQLROS9Y4z4m1SZVrIvoLyePbBItfJFhtlJ2MRHrEoBstXUct-2BFvNqkj-2Bjtvo6jlXMNAMkMjAIec-2Fj5VNFIsyXgrJIYVUgp-2FMXWxNu1QU7Ok8Ppj4fWHnx6TLAMK2afYSxxkqJ7EfpzgJ6GoOlS).

3. Respond to this, from a TWW team member: "We lost our first two children through miscarriages. Not at all a fun time, and harder on the mother than the father. I don't recall a sense of shame ever. The lack of an expected blessing can come across as a feeling of being cursed, which is not reality, but it still can feel that way. I think that a more prominent feeling, however, is guilt. Although almost never based on facts, the sense of 'what did I do wrong?' can be very powerful and debilitating. The overall strongest feeling is probably sadness, which can easily slide into depression and worry."

**Responding to the News**

Jennifer Handt, the woman who has had six miscarriages, offers three pieces of advice in the closing paragraphs of [this article](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq-2FodBWQM4jaENI7PUaT-2BT-2FZdiHqV6herlSOtGtFlC59jM096dLUVNgUbCaY1qyD1pySoXvLkd3bjRO1-2BMjDCnUwFaaVEsKhVeKCwAY2Mhp5QKE8JHMAkMBYt5JsmHOm9KQ-3D-3DHuSz_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH14c-2F43qfGTKPavWE1IxYP14G88AeevxLyBimbrHlAYU1ZdNPK5GE5nsjHkjbf8PG5ifmrdU3S9nphhdcRVTuOo8dCcMuBygoeentXWGHoD0JWaO0DG-2FERXtZBn4M0L4N-2F87DJPk0-2B-2BfmJEKmrUVS3yzk-2F-2FOoHTGNa-2B-2Fc2KdCC2mcUO-2BKswRCrp3OkDs4mbhs3TL1KW21u-2BK4gfD2DA3Tyr6y6-2FM0LhVnAiKwP1cLMMF-2F). Read them, and decide how you might apply them when someone you know miscarries, has a stillbirth, or loses a child following birth.

**Prayer**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commit all those who do not survive till birth or die shortly thereafter. Be present with comfort and hope to the grieving parents and other family members. In the name of the Good Shepherd. Amen

**Ireland Lacrosse Makes Way for Iroquois Nationals to Compete in 2022 World Games
*The Wired Word* for the Week of October 18, 2020**

**In the News**

Any time a sport is featured for the first time in an international venue, people sit up and take notice. Lacrosse will debut at the World Games scheduled for 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama, with teams of six instead of the usual ten.

One qualifying men's team, Ireland Lacrosse, made news last month by giving up its berth so a team indigenous to northeastern United States could participate. The new eight-team roster for the lacrosse tournament includes: Australia, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, the Iroquois Nationals, Israel, Japan and the United States.

When the list of invitees to the 2022 World Games (WG 2022) was originally announced, the Iroquois Nationals, ranked third in the world, was excluded. That's because officials for World Lacrosse (WL), organizers of the WG 2022, were following International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules, which did not recognize the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (to which the Iroquois Nationals belong) as a sovereign nation.

The announcement unleashed a firestorm of outrage on social media, followed by weeks of negotiations with officials from WL, IOC, WG2022, The International World Games Association, and other invested partners in the sporting event, to rectify what many saw as an unjust decision. In mid-August, the coalition announced that "teams representing the Haudenosaunee Nation" would be eligible to compete, as long as the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Canadian Olympic Committee, US Lacrosse and the Canadian Lacrosse Association had no objection. Those organizations all voiced support for inclusion of the Iroquois lacrosse players.

"The Haudenosaunee are at the center of our sport in Canada," stated Shawn Williams, president of the Canadian Lacrosse Association. "They are coaches, teachers, players and administrators in communities throughout Canada and generously share with the rest of the Canadian lacrosse community their wisdom of the game at both a technical and spiritual level.

"The CLA therefore is not simply standing up for Team Haudenosaunee based on a moral argument," Williams added. "We are standing up for our sisters and brothers and teachers."

The final hurdle to include the indigenous athletes was crossed September 3, when Ireland Lacrosse voluntarily withdrew from the WG 2022 tournament "to ensure that there are no barriers to the Iroquois Nationals entry." The Irish team was the last of the eight teams to qualify for WG 2022.

Michael Kennedy, chief executive officer of Ireland Lacrosse, stated, "as much as our players would have been honored to compete, we know the right thing is for the Iroquois Nationals to represent our sport on the international stage."

"None of us would be going to Birmingham, Alabama, in the first place if it wasn't for the Iroquois and giving us the gift of their [medicine game](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq799zBgkfEcETgYQlALz4lSbLRTOnee0AtqApM-2F3XrQcjZE-2Ff63hRowKCDnlRvr42A-3D-3Dn9Cy_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH13KzB2mkkLFVIQMfQ3cn6ndkM4-2BtJsgVmIoZsBf2H3EjzTvaBDkvzzRk2mve-2BQXIyWWgCWH3pH4hksVQA7iImTyFdmRK5rIafgecsGAxbgfBDOKuWnPnnDPTJBIHecekYZ-2Fanp7R-2BInoEwHBHnHCIb1ktFSeZAiPIDP6I62CFCXPDWKY6Cqz4s-2F-2FErMyFGwk8G8XEfTlVRC1aPRlbJ0Q8F-2BwNvsPIitosvv5JUPaThkL)," commented Sonny Campbell, a member of Ireland Lacrosse. "We support them, and if it means we'll give up our spot, then so be it. But the Iroquois, they need to be there," Campbell added.

The Haudenosaunee view the sport as a gift from the Creator, to be played for his pleasure and for the healing of people.

Kennedy told World Lacrosse "Look, guys, I'm going to make this very easy. We want the Iroquois to take up the position which is rightfully theirs."

Kennedy said that Native Americans are the heart and soul of the sport, which was invented by members of the [Haudenosaunee Confederacy](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq-2F0qE2K0oRVK1rCmgFcQyBiQPAqcSRce8PnfepgKh0BwsS2mNQkdS42BNzyS3R85jw-3D-3DGTbs_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH14krKfcI6E2TtPx8ArV-2Ftt4MfzFhxmaXvTrGRX3At3vBwv-2FcXj5rIdk-2BcUKP3l87KouMRqXNg-2FCZ4-2Fwh9WlvKTiaQmfxpnA1xmi535ea7QxcrdJ2M-2Frzj-2BlMVVyK-2By27uTgscd4X8oD-2Ffyvr9tb2P0X-2F1RtuTPOpZvlFXr02m9t4ffyXg4NXh5PMA9P0o0JcpJFtGkyO-2FbE1RpZ1-2BymbJqg-2BPN0dNagngiRtYxemYsuN) (which means "People of the Long House," aka the Iroquois Confederacy or the League of Five Nations) which unites the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga and Seneca peoples.

The sport is making its debut at the WG 2022 and Kennedy said that it would be wrong for the tournament to go ahead without the Iroquois Nationals in its first-ever appearance at the World Games.

"There was so much more to be gained for the sport as a whole than for Ireland to gain from that one tournament," Kennedy remarked, adding that it was worth the short-term pain for the good of the game.

The Iroquois Nationals Board put out a statement saying: "Words do not do justice in expressing the depth of our appreciation for the tremendous sacrifice of Ireland Lacrosse. Their genuine concern, empathy, and selflessness demonstrates a true understanding of the ideals of our Medicine Game. We are honored to share the world lacrosse stage with our Irish brethren. ..."

"We are storytellers, but today we are without words as we contemplate the generosity of spirit shown by Ireland lacrosse," the statement said. "All we can say is: You are in our hearts. You are part of the spirit of lacrosse. We will never forget that. *Nyawenha, Go raibh maith agat.*[which, being translated, means] Thank you."

Lyle Thompson, an Iroquois Nationals player, said he "felt bad because they're sort of sacrificing and giving up their opportunity," adding that the Iroquois Nationals were determined "to put together the best team the world has ever seen, and representing not just the Iroquois Nationals, but Ireland Lacrosse also."

"Our goal is to share lacrosse with the world, as a vehicle for peace, friendship, and healing," Leo Nolan, executive director of Iroquois Nationals, said. "On this foundation, equity, justice, and unity can be firmly seated."

More on this story can be found at these links:

[Iroquois Nationals Call for Calm After Team Excluded From 2022 World Games. *Windspeaker*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq5V-2BoLPYVvKmmngJ7pCuOFq4beD9Ij67glbyMo4ZeMznR7N5shoDR-2B84TtBii9Gjjv71rKpiWAC30PYS616nS-2FbUPS5wAT7Tb1bXmTypxEs0AkZjrUZkCU8RQTj9Tc85-2Bw-3D-3DxNmA_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH1xPK6EwAhXf47yXl066IYrLKGonsnkmrBriXnjGJUaG-2FnusrpOGeAxdil6Ox04JyFgna6jhVpOwJM1mqY6I5kxRvG9UZnFjYVGuY-2BLZU5w9sfCRhoENf2YHDiYbnJdk0RfaYya9fQ-2F8QGo-2Bj4FYRBdsQ7kOHwE01vhcDzwIhd0aVR4-2Bd4cVWpdziEx-2BeEIdbjjbv3rCbz8gJn6cKS80zPsBgcqZufZKcEq-2Bxf01mhoag)
[Irish Lacrosse Team Pulls Out of World Games and Offers Spot to Native American Team. *Irish Central*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq3vIMYhx0Bgi10-2FLX8rTyxCPdFC6e7g0xvR1MgEj2OZmvExPlsJI9y3P772P5eCJAgoObarv-2BIvxMBt-2FSn-2FpmcUaGwXbM7jz-2FapjPcdPWhurjbkj_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH16k0Ub5VhQ0QxoqwcxlPhdjlO4C7m2E7jryl8JMRXWut60k3hpZ8auanQcu2WxLbB3cTnTcPa0i65kz2DqfNZ-2FXq6-2FiWQ7xh0HxByulpAm8X7lvBQuICX5k-2Bw1LHqr9mBu9rvCK31JqKKmX3pv76ImmjG9jhp426EfhA73nA6F-2FEaEA1KmFkEoqMKov1LHXSVeVIGn48TpEIKS79KZ2qD6kFSGZ5HzVez4pM-2FOyzfCJG)
[The Iroquois Nationals, Ireland Lacrosse, and Diplomacy in Sports. *The Scarlet*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq8Lzhf2qMxm1AtoL5sPg9fYto6VDGzXAMT9ifBt3l4e41yROMldKT6dHtG3bNjjxspu9FlMmQh3ib-2BG21L0OolwB8wa-2FnjijFP2ecvbMh5FGv5h2XO3AsjJUAtwBouMHKA-3D-3D7wcA_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH1y2UqwSUP73y2fhD8ZJrwHcpfLtCxu4wjWBoT423yXLjToHEMsx3KCQyAkxrrBZp2DVGJNJf8zI1CXMbSUtaQNSV4MkiTqg8zsJ-2FZqM-2FK9kSA4zeL-2BOWsumD6chEzJAGnth2sRB2ZTqc5l0JTZNr33jZB1UpU1WQNFaLdU5SG144OeXFipP1Dp88hspfF2g-2B3dsGkkWr2yMtlmOoWRW4IXsMXkcvheU6FbFJdCQj2v9I)
[Ireland Lacrosse Sacrifice Place in 'Medicine Game' Tournament for Greater Good. *RTE*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlqxc-2Bl4oRQFwXz-2Fd9O15LeRYJvCtX-2BgWXVqgPuODa30EMiG8bIn1S3KZpjQmURLwrk9Zcj0c3cjPnI7m-2Bl8G3q4TkdHOoZS-2Bmd5zLp5uokp7pJba9Se5gEmCNoQJp1HoP1SpmgvrRrXFmCDHU1t2zXHw-3DWLUM_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH13-2Fu6oWJP4Zr2izUwqt-2BZHok8-2Fs87y-2FhlCKod3LceHNPymRqUeT6PP-2BuWk1-2BuEm8eDPgpvlIy66FPGL3Yzgk-2FmYGlKKOKtivyRMMog-2FWy3bueFR-2BqkEmk0S7EbrFTBAIvvabbO5gLQN5PQr6n5asir4Z6T-2BCZm0TL6WzzkXMj2aSluCvtOfNljRYPx2La63TXiu1xJcb-2Fm2RO7XoDe2VsLxrvd2kBF6e5pkBQxLB47Ec)
[Iroquois Nationals Accept Invitation to the World Games 2022. *US Lacrosse Magazine*](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=FXq18njYKHucetmqt-2BDlq1rQZb-2Fbubk-2BlNgaRZKJ0agYfG5YsDFyPIlZXpHHcxugTNI9BoAct8eWtsiKrskxAkdz9OiQAIrJDP5dQi0tKtnCopoGxWyP8CeXFtwZXsmjuJYIaspfHszgmWq1NfA8Nsa1F-2BgSih0FWeHoJipYJKE-3DwZy6_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH10sVTj7mvpdDLmXlK1OqJnExT2ncN4FkdP2zP4hPCgKPUeoN0W3gkNMy9ab3rDivrQODyYCmIr9ODuygxrzKqJw43gt55Q3LztAbyUzI1adF2BiAASdf77AWBU3-2B141Pae5zvkbRWV8h4PijdVskySDk4Q8iPYcx-2FsIea0PzsHUi9dJCms-2FxfkBmj873PHae-2BcSxgyii1V18BNdUxv49-2BmXa-2Fk5gTtbC6Xg4QIVpcPHw)

**Applying the News Story**

In addition to today's news article, this lesson from May 31, 2020, found in *The Wired Word*archives, may be of interest: "The Irish 'Pay It Forward' to the Navajo and Hopi" (It's available in the "Choose a Different Lesson" list on the TWW website at [www.TheWiredWord.com](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=p7UIwXTJqWZjvaMKDrDFtuJHNtqVbahmRIoRMbpMBT-2FTroS3UEJoWfVYmNybkW80_o2s_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH18eyGGAwNliIoyeeORzwwAnFNCJ6Z7API-2BWnrqRi9fLdipDeFnZ4eF2WbC9yRMQ3oinihaOEcSXY9PUJQLxGK20xyO6olrlcIk0U7-2BJ5wt4HZTYAKPFe6vdVVk1ZO-2FO1juSgpyQO5ThpzgFxLjf-2FeZk1vzenMwlZvHTJONikBy1EerZbjY5voNYe4erwk-2BT3xxvoM7Wv3sxMm3jdcXloSUZxwKsjSKnZykjEHRhltMgH)).

In that lesson, we referenced Naomi O'Leary, European correspondent for the *Irish Times*, who observed that because of Ireland's history, "Irish people identify with the oppression and dispossession of Native Americans. When Native American people talk about the importance of preserving their land, languages and culture, that's something Irish people strongly identify with because our own heritage was nearly wiped out by colonialism."

The Irish Lacrosse team's action is just the latest example of how empathy for others can shape relationships in a positive way.

**The Big Questions**

1. What is the best example of sportsmanship you recall? What made it so remarkable, in your view?

2. When, if ever, have you been on the receiving end of a generous act that cost the giver something significant? How did you react to the person who showed you such generosity? How did the experience affect your relationship?

3. When have you felt most excluded in your life? To the extent that you are able, share the reason for your exclusion. What, if anything, did a faith community or others do to draw you in?

4. What, if anything, has your faith community done to ensure that groups who are undervalued, unseen, and excluded are invited to "sit at the table"? In what ways does your faith motivate you to include such people in meaningful ways in community life?

5. How have your own experiences with adversity prepared you to see the life situations of others with greater compassion and generosity?

**Confronting the News with Scripture and Hope**Here are some Bible verses to guide your discussion:

**Proverbs 3:27-28**
*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it" -- when you have it with you.*(No context needed.)
**Proverbs 11:24-25**
*Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.* (No context needed.)
**Romans 13:8***Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.* (For context, read 13:8-10.)

These texts all speak to what we owe to others, or what is due to them. It sounds like the language of contracts, philanthropy and banking, but there is a deeper principle here. It is not only money that may be given or withheld, but "good" (Proverbs 3:27), "water" (Proverbs 11:25), and "love" (Romans 13:8).

**Questions:**What did the Ireland Lacrosse team think was due to the Iroquois Nationals? What "good" were they willing and able to release to the Native American team? In what sense might they "grow all the richer" because they gave freely and generously? In what sense have they "fulfilled the law"?

When have you been tempted to withhold good from someone? Should you always give to others, or are there legitimate reasons not to give what you have? Explain.

**Romans 12:1-3**
*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God -- what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.* (For context, read 12:1-5.)

Paul has just completed his account of how God has shown mercy to Jews and Gentiles alike. Based on the extraordinary generosity of God to sinners, he appeals to the Roman believers to live sacrificially and to think humbly about themselves. Living in this way is possible, he says, "by the mercies of God."

Thinking humbly about ourselves requires relinquishing the world's way of thinking, which is self-seeking and self-promoting, and renewing the mind, so that we adopt the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). To think the way Jesus thinks requires a complete paradigm shift, a transformation or reversal of the way we have acted and thought about things before.

In a similar way, Paul urges the Philippians to adopt Jesus' way of thinking in Philippians 2:3-5, where he says: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus ..." Then he speaks about Jesus' willingness to humble himself, not regarding his equality with God as something to be exploited, but instead emptying himself of his privileges and serving others (Philippians 2:6-8).

**Questions:** When, if ever, have you found it difficult to humble yourself and to look out for the interests of others rather than to your own interests? How can we learn to think about ourselves and about others the way Jesus thinks?

What joys and blessings can come from selflessly serving others?

**2 Corinthians 9:5-8**
*So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion. The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.* (For context, read 9:1-15.)

In this chapter, Paul wrote about his pride in the Corinthians' eagerness and zeal to give to the saints in Jerusalem who had fallen on hard times. He emphasized that people should not be guilted into giving or pressured by peers to "sow" into the lives of others or to share with others. Instead, each person should decide what to give, and give that cheerfully (some translations say, "hilariously").

We are able to give generously to others when we realize that we serve God who is lavish in generosity. God "supplies seed to the sower and bread for food," (v. 10) although God has no obligation to do so. When we give generously, we reflect the way God acts toward us.

Our generosity produces several blessings: enriching the givers, "many thanksgivings to God ... [and] supplying the needs of the saints (vv. 11-12), "glorifying God" (v. 13), and deeper love and prayers for the givers from those who are recipients of their gifts (v. 14).

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 expresses a similar thought. There, the people of God were instructed to "not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted," mean-spirited, hostile or stingy toward anyone in need, but to willingly offer whatever they can to help a needy neighbor. Rather, they were to "[g]ive liberally and be ungrudging" when giving, which would result in God blessing them in all their work and in all their endeavors.

Ireland Lacrosse seemed to express genuine pleasure in giving up their spot in the tournament so that the Iroquois Nation could participate. While no doubt they would have loved to compete on the world stage in that venue, they exchanged that opportunity for something they valued more.

**Questions:**What is it that Ireland Lacrosse appears to value more than their own place, position or privilege? What blessings do they stand to gain because of their generosity?

Why do some people who have an abundance feel that they "always have enough of everything," while others feel like they never have quite enough, no matter how much they earn or accumulate? What makes the difference between giving with reluctance or even resentment, and giving with joy?

What are some of the blessings God has provided to you "in abundance"?

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**

*As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.*(No context needed.)

Some of us might be inclined to think that these instructions to those who have worldly wealth "in the present age" don't really apply to us. After all, we don't have Lear Jets or vacation on private islands. But whether or not we have large homes or bank accounts, we may be rich in other ways.

Ireland Lacrosse understood that they had a wealth of opportunity and privilege that members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy did not have due to the fact that their nationhood has not been affirmed by all. The Irish players were not haughty about their position, nor did they "set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches" of some possible World Games 2022 medal, but instead determined "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share."

**Questions:**What is the nature of the "good foundation" Ireland Lacrosse is storing up for themselves for the future? What might be built on that good foundation?

What is "the life that really is life" that the rich are urged to grasp, and how does that life differ from material wealth?

How are you pursuing "life that really is life"?

**For Further Discussion**

1. Comment on this, from *Beyond Racial Gridlock: Embracing Mutual Responsibility*, by George Yancey: "To be a child of God means I have to die to my sins (Romans 6:11). One of my biggest sins is feeding my own selfish desires. Part of dying to my selfishness is learning to see things from other people's perspectives."

2. Some of the examples in this lesson are about individuals giving up something for other individuals. In this time of heightened awareness of systemic social problems in the United States, what does your faith move you to do to ensure that whole groups of people aren't being denied basic sustenance, wealth, status and respect so that another group of people may keep its hold on those things?

3. What connections have you experienced on a cultural, ethnic, international or religious basis? What group has come to your notice that you feel a connection to? How will you work to share challenges together?

4. Who have you known who had the ability to bring folks together? To what do you attribute their success in building bridges among diverse groups?

5. How does Jesus, who comes from a different cultural and religious background from most of us, bring all people together? How much of your political and cultural baggage are you willing to shed to become a true disciple of his?

6. Select one or more of the following quotes to discuss.

* Life is an exciting business, and most exciting when it is lived for others. - Helen Keller, the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree
* Only a life lived for others is a life worth living. - Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist
* Successful people are always looking for opportunities to help others. Unsuccessful people are always asking, "What's in it for me?" - Brian Tracy, author and public speaker
* Love seeks one thing only: the good of the one loved. It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care of themselves. Love, therefore, is its own reward. - Thomas Merton, American Trappist monk, mystic and social activist
* This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really love: the more they give, the more they possess. - Rainer Maria Rilke, poet and novelist
* Every unselfish act of love whispers God's name. - Bob Goff, "recovering lawyer" and best-selling author
* Witnessing a selfless act brings tears to remind us how we should be treating others. - Bryant McGill, author and human rights activist
* Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. - Mother Teresa, Nobel Peace Prize winner and servant of the poorest of the poor
* Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self. - St. Francis of Assisi

7. Discuss this story about [the power of a selfless life](http://url6748.thewiredword.com/ls/click?upn=p7UIwXTJqWZjvaMKDrDFti0sX57OIAZc2XNMKAd3ZmhKuNw9g-2Bz1Qs0UgX7DED-2FJkXYJ9L9pLLPTxtjF6N7oGXac3RJYckUFvA436hwbrWdy5psTnzz2yl26B4WkFPFSxlFI_2Bkgba3oAouSOj-2BLDiRS8b3L-2Brhg-2FgPERpG5-2Ff-2FE8Qr4vijYdYV85HlFKYbm3wRaJr-2Bq5rRiZNGEJq5t17erU4qASCde8Ewq5LLYdP0J-2FvM7WoKAiISkucS54QDLi-2BzEBff5nlSSWFCDnbOtkFhyzAUWrrmJZbApvcyMDi6Wy0m7aucIyUtwSIGxxXkAfAQibVpcy-2FKul5-2F-2FNqOe-2BfbFxL87YE-2FBr-2Fm8LWnTvKyhkAuICHru1f2TOkk9xz1L7W0KPKXIEq-2FYwlMj-2FevdUUlH11ORmkusPzCJpJLxX-2FJdupuclQBvuGNONtUEa1EurHilQK4DqW7MDBGULCKTX3hQ67dhD4D4QS6iEj99fUCZyY-2FpqgJ07wuPEFxLk-2FQA-2FypJf2cPw0N9aBwD1oh-2FfjTqltY-2BYJp90879yj8-2FT6O0ipgmXnvvhiXo-2BWJPqV11YYcjmo0S61v4VzZ8nHi8PWWF5SFNIzV4jx2cUAGrtSIKoPUko-2BahJby-2BadBKzJClQMCw).

8. When giving of yourself or your resources, are you apt to do so more in times of abundant surplus, or in times of poverty and want, such as this pandemic? Is the nature of your giving qualitatively different, depending on your circumstances? Why or why not?

9. Do you expect anything in return when you give to others, such as praise or profit?  Why or why not?

**Responding to the News**

Brainstorm how you might encourage one another to live less for self and more for others.

**Prayer** suggested by Psalm 119:33-37; Mark 12:28-34

Teach us, O Lord, your ways. Give us understanding, that we may keep your law of love wholeheartedly and joyfully. Turn us away from the pursuit of selfish gain and vanities. Lead us in the path of your greatest commandments, to love you with everything we are, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, that we may find life in your ways. In the name of Jesus, who perfectly demonstrated your love, and the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to love as he loved us. Amen.