



Faith Inclusion Network's
Community for ALL 2023
Virtual Conference

MARCH 10-12

Tickets available at
faithinclusionnetwork.org

Biblical Perspective on Disability

*What does the Bible say about disabilities?
This presentation examines key Old and New Testament
Scriptures that help the Church to understand its
moral, ethical, and spiritual responsibility to
individuals with disabilities. Fully understanding this
perspective on disability provides insight into the
purpose of the Church and its divine alignment.*

VIRTUAL

GUEST PRESENTER



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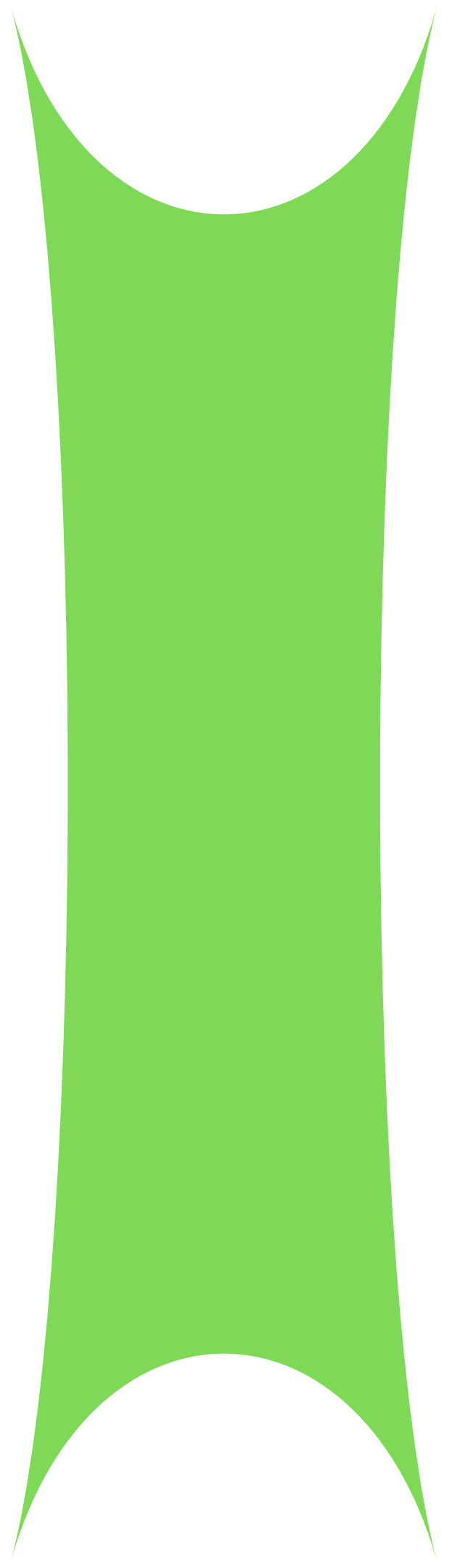


IT'S 2023 ...

**Why are we having
this discussion?**

BECAUSE ...

- The Church has not fully engaged in the discipleship of individuals with disabilities.
- Negative connotations still exist surrounding the community of the disabled.
- Misnomers, misconceptions, truths, beliefs, and learned behaviors permeate our belief system.
- Cultural attitudes have been formed from passages in the Bible.
- There is a relationship between disability/sickness, and sin that has led to the development of an attitude of pity to those who are disabled or sick instead of acceptance and empowerment.
- The Body has not readily empowered the family community by depicting individuals with disabilities who play a vital part in the history of God's people and the Church.



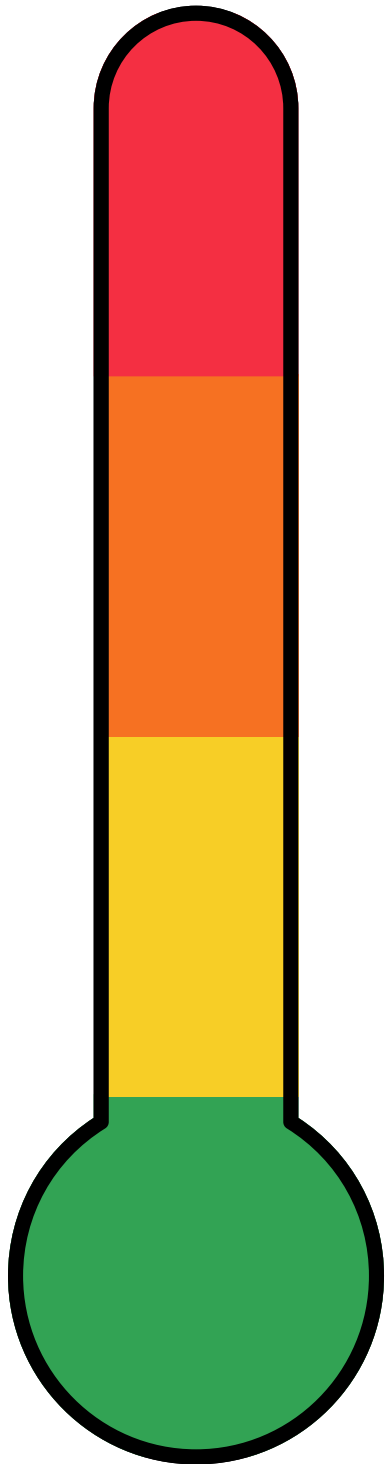
What does research show?

2010 Harris Interactive survey reports that 49% of adults with disabilities attended religious services at least once a month

Research shows that more than half of special needs parents reported that they had kept their child from participating in a religious activity because support was not provided (55.8%) or been expected to stay with your child at a religious activity so your child could participate (55.3%).

Clemson Research Magazine reported that 1 in 3 parents of children with disabilities changed their places of worship because they felt the child was not sufficiently included.

** sources cited at end of presentation

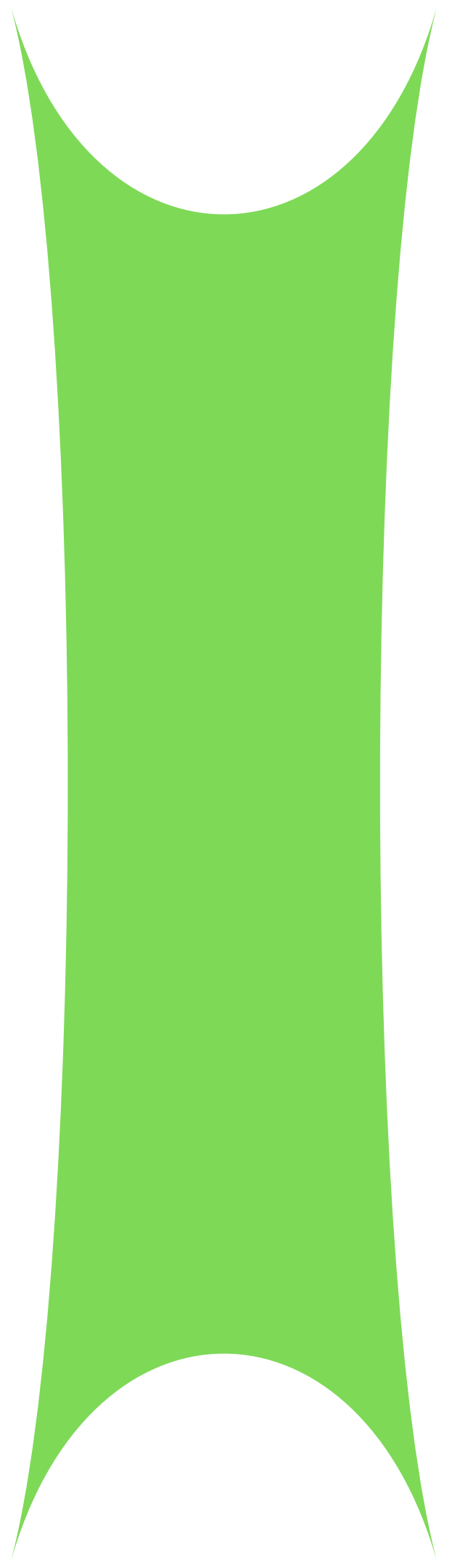


QUANDARY IN THE CHURCH

- Are clergy who are diagnosed with disabilities required to relinquish their roles?

Leviticus 21:17-23

(17) Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God. (18) For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous, (19) Or a man that is brokenfooted, or brokenhanded, (20) Or crookbackt, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken; (21) No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire ...

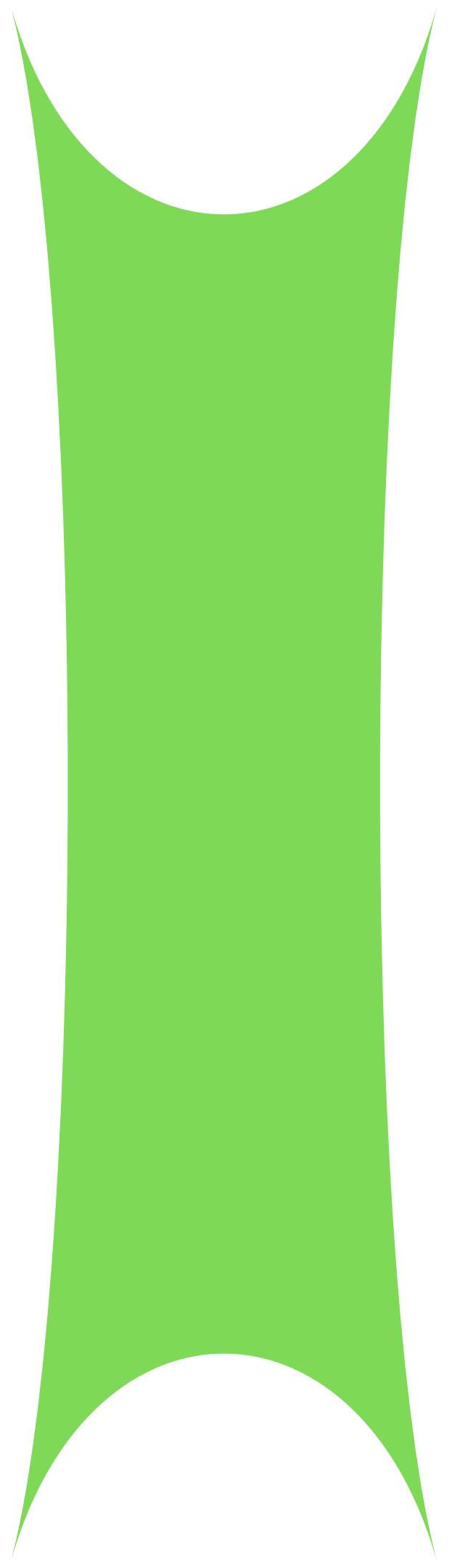


QUANDARY IN THE CHURCH

- Who's to blame for disabilities and suffering .. the child... the mother or the father who gave birth?

John 9

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. (2) And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? (3) Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

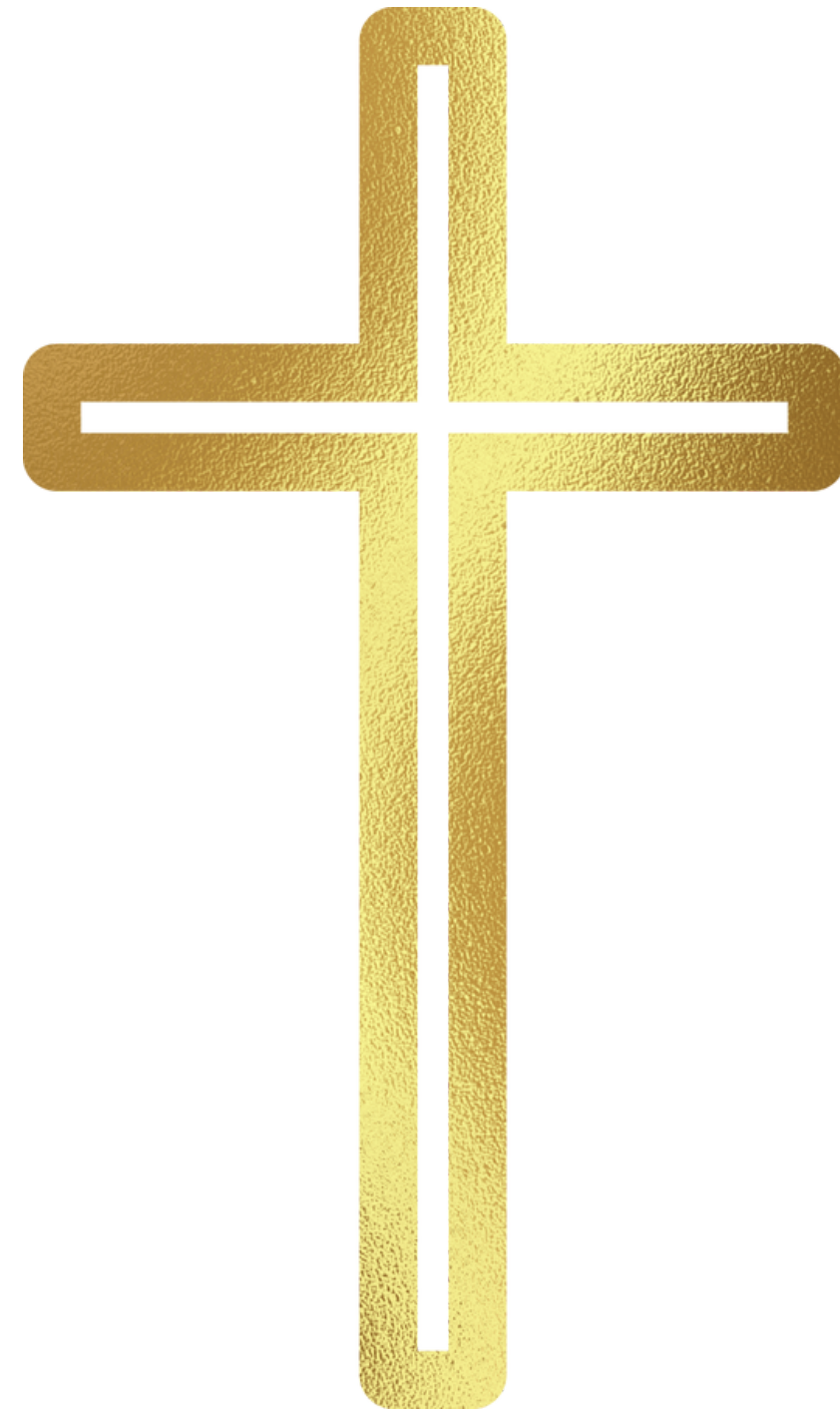


Jesus' redemptive message is universal.

2 Peter 3:9

Jesus uses
Believers' lives for
His glory.

1 Corinthians 1:27-
28



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

The Body is not complete without individuals of all abilities.

1 Corinthians 12: 18, 22

“God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be... those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.”

Ephesians 4:16

“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

Helping individuals with disabilities is seen as integrous.

Proverbs 31:8-9

"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Jesus wanted the church to be full with all people, so everyone could have the opportunity to know His redeeming love

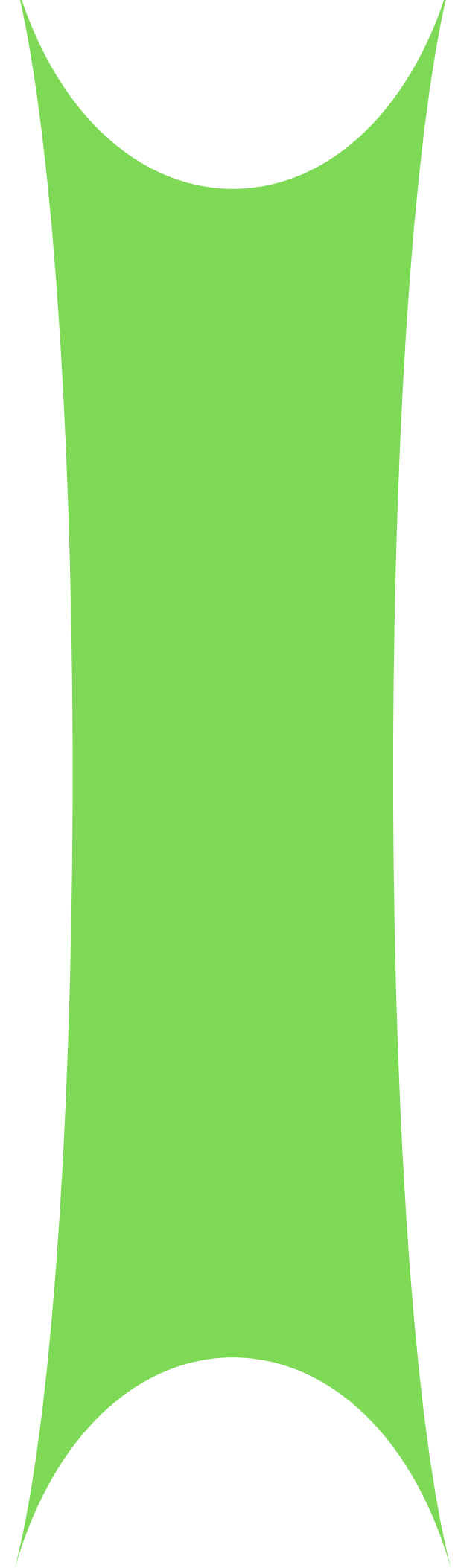
Luke 14:21

“Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the towns and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.”

No one is excluded from receiving God's gifts.

1 Peter 4:10

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifest grace of God.”



REFLECTIONS

Take time to reflect on knowledge we learned in our session. Ask the Holy Spirit to give insight for how it will be used.

NOTES:

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

Source cited:

Abrams, Judith et al. "Judaism and Disabilities," in Encyclopedia of Medicine in the Bible and the Talmud Northvale, 169.