

The Wired Word

Student Handout

Two-Shot Vaccines Pose Challenges for Inoculating America

Sunday, December 6, 2020 --- from 9:00-9:45am

Hybrid Class

In Person: First Floor Social Hall (Mask & Social Distancing Required)

or

Zoom: Meeting ID: 860 8980 7220 --- Passcode: 195152

Dear Class Member,

Several coronavirus vaccines are now on their way to the public, which many people consider to be good news. But the vaccines will require two shots, which creates difficulties for inoculating the population. Since a vaccine will not be a quick fix for Covid-19, the challenges of persistence, delayed gratification and living a disciplined life will be the topics of our next class.

How To Participate:

We are offering The Wired Word as a hybrid class. You can participate in person or via Zoom. The Wired Word will be from 9:00am-9:45am on Sunday mornings. For those meeting in person, we will be in the old social hall of the church building (located on the first floor). If participating in person, please come with a mask and follow the COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Sunday School: <http://www.sprucc.org/news-a-events/news.html#COVID19Precautions>.

You can also participate in the Wired Word virtually by Zoom on your computer or smart device at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86089807220?pwd=eStWa0ZZK0hOTVdwU0pjZlMrdk5ydz09>

or by telephone (land line or cell phone) by calling: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 860 8980 7220

Passcode: 195152

All Sunday School Classes, including the Wired Word, are cancelled for Dec 27, & Jan 3

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Two-Shot Vaccines Pose Challenges for Inoculating America

The Wired Word for the Week of December 6, 2020

In the News

Mass vaccinations for seasonal flu is a fairly simple operation since resistance comes from a single shot. But the current coronavirus vaccines will require two injections that will be spaced either three or four weeks apart.

The inoculation of the American population will be made more difficult by this requirement, because a host of challenges arise. Health-care workers who work various shifts may be hard to schedule for the second dose. Residents of long-term-care facilities might move to other facilities between shots, and be hard to track down. On top of this, it will be difficult to stay in touch with people passing through jails, group homes and homeless shelters.

According to *The Washington Post*, health-care providers will need to keep track of millions of people who have received one dose and need to return a few weeks later for another. They worry that the first vaccine may make people feel just sick enough that they won't want to get a second shot and go through the ordeal again. In initial tests, 2 percent of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine subjects experienced fever, and a few more subjects came down with intense fatigue.

Health care providers are also concerned that people will create confusion by getting their first dose at one provider and their second at another, moving from Walgreens to CVS, for example. Even worse will be the challenge of keeping good records on people crossing state borders and moving from one health department to

another.

"Two doses more than doubles the logistical challenges of administering the vaccines," said Jeffrey Duchin, a Washington state officer for public health. "The moving parts have to align." A two-dose requirement is a huge challenge for a public health system that aims to vaccinate 60 to 70 percent of the American population. That percentage will be needed in order to reach "herd immunity" (when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease) and stop the spread of the virus.

The first dose of the coronavirus vaccines may give headaches, fevers and other unpleasant symptoms, all of which are good signs that the body's immune system is working properly. But infectious disease experts are concerned that these reactions may prevent people from returning for their second shot.

Fortunately, studies of another painful vaccine, the two-dose shingles shots, have revealed that the vast majority of people come back for their second dose if they have been educated about what to expect. "Motivated people will come back as long as they are properly prepared to do so," said one expert.

A professor of medicine, Dr. Mark Siegel, told *Fox News* that Americans should accept the coming coronavirus vaccines. The rare side effects do not last long, he said, and they are less severe than some of the more extreme symptoms of Covid-19. "We are dealing with a virus here that has very severe side effects in high-risk groups. Not only do I want the high-risk groups to get these vaccines -- and health-care workers and emergency workers -- but to consider those around them," he said. "We have got to vaccinate everybody across the country."

Unfortunately, about half the American population is uneasy about or opposed to taking a vaccine. According to the Pew Research Center, about half of U.S. adults (51 percent) say they would definitely or probably get a vaccine to prevent Covid-19 if it were available today; nearly as many (49 percent) say they definitely or probably would not get vaccinated at this time. Many people have concerns about the safety and effectiveness of possible vaccines, and the pace of the approval process.

Gustave Perna, the U.S. Army general put in charge of vaccine distribution by President Trump, is prepared to send out the vaccines through the country in a quick and orderly fashion, once the federal government approves the inoculations.

More on this story can be found at these links:

[A Shot. A Wait. Another Shot: Two-Dose Coronavirus Vaccine Regimens Will Make It Harder to Inoculate America. *The Washington Post*](#)

[Dr. Siegel: Covid-19 Vaccine Side Effects Are 'Transient' Compared to Severe Virus Symptoms. *Fox News*](#)
[U.S. Public Now Divided Over Whether to Get Covid-19 Vaccine. *Pew Research Center*](#)

Applying the News Story

Reflect on how the arrival of the coronavirus vaccine will challenge individuals and communities to show persistence and disciplined living, at a time in which no quick fix can defeat the virus.

The Big Questions

1. Are you planning on getting a coronavirus vaccine? Why or why not?
2. When has an unpleasant experience been beneficial to you? When have you had a bad reaction to a situation, and avoided similar situations in the future? Would you do the same again?
3. When have you faced a challenge and been rewarded by your persistence?
4. Quick fixes are popular, but some lasting benefits require patience. When have you experienced delayed gratification, and why are you glad you waited?
5. Discipline is an important quality of a disciple of Christ. When has personal discipline been a challenge to you? A benefit to you?

Confronting the News With Scripture and Hope

Here are some Bible verses to guide your discussion:

2 Kings 13:18-19

[Elisha] continued, "Take the arrows"; and he took them. He said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground with them"; he struck three times, and stopped. Then the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Aram until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Aram only three times." (For context, read 13:14-21.)

When the prophet Elisha fell sick, he was visited by King Joash of Israel. Elisha told Joash to draw his bow and shoot an arrow out the window. Joash did this and Elisha said, "The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" (v. 17). Then Elisha ordered Joash to take the arrows and strike the ground with them. He was disappointed that Joash only struck the ground three times, instead of five or six times. Because of this failure, Elisha predicted that Joash would "strike down Aram only three times." Then Elisha died and was buried. In a curious end to the story, a dead man was thrown into the grave of Elisha and "as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he came to life and stood on his feet" (v. 21).

Questions: When have you undertaken a challenge and failed to persist in your efforts? What caused you to fall short? How would you do things differently today?

Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (For context, read 40:25-31.)

The prophet Isaiah offered comfort to the Israelites as they prepared to return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, and then reminded them that God "is great in strength, mighty in power" (v. 26). When the people wondered if their ways were hidden from God, Isaiah assured them that God "does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable" (v. 28). Then the prophet predicted that "those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles." To wait for the Lord means to wait for God to act with help and healing, trusting God to work for good in human life.

Questions: When, in your life, have you waited for the Lord, and what was the result? Would a quick fix have been better or worse for you? Discuss.

Luke 11:5-10

And [Jesus] said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (For context, read 11:1-13.)

Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer, and then counseled them to be persistent in prayer. He asked them if they would respond to a friend asking for bread in the middle of the night, and predicted that they would offer the bread in response to persistence, not to friendship. In a similar manner, said Jesus, God will respond to our persistence, predicting that "for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

Questions: What kind of persistence will be needed in order for the coronavirus vaccine to be distributed effectively? How can people be encouraged to participate in multiple doses, even if they do not feel "friendly" toward the vaccination program?

Romans 5:3-4

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope ... (No context needed.)

The apostle Paul spoke of the results of being justified by faith -- that is, being made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Not surprisingly, he said that we could "boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God" (v. 2), but then he went on to say that "we also boast in our sufferings," knowing that suffering leads to endurance, character and hope. While most people, in the time of Paul and in our time today, are anxious to avoid suffering, Paul understood it to be one of the keys to gaining a number of valuable qualities.

Questions: When have you experienced a time of suffering, but then found that it led to personal growth? What kind of pain or hardship will you be willing to endure in order to gain protection from the coronavirus?

For Further Discussion

1. "There's a saying in public health," says [Dr. Tom Frieden](#): "your right to swing your fist ends at my nose. And your right not to take steps to prevent infection ends when you spread an infection that could kill people around you. Covid preys on division -- we must work together." Discuss.
2. The word "disciple" comes from the Latin word meaning "student." The word "discipline" is from the Latin word meaning "instruction and training." Discipline is derived from the root word *discere* -- "to learn." How are "disciple" and "discipline" related in your experience as a disciple of Christ? What kinds of instruction and training are important to discipleship?
3. Are you among the 49 percent of Americans who say they definitely or probably would not get vaccinated at this time? If so, what are your concerns or sources of resistance? What is your personal plan for staying safe in this pandemic? Are you among the 51 percent of Americans who plan on getting the vaccine? Explain your choice.
4. The apostle Paul begs us to live "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). What does this mean to you as we face the coronavirus together? How can you show these qualities to your neighbors? Be specific.
5. A friend of a TWW team member told recently of meeting a man who declared he wasn't planning to take the vaccine because he was sure that Bill Gates had planted some kind of chip in the vaccines to inject in us all. The friend said such a move wasn't necessary because the cell phone the man had in his pocket and carried with him constantly already had him "chipped." Where do you suppose such notions about the vaccines come from?

Responding to the News

Make a plan for your own participation in efforts to fight Covid-19, in light of the challenges of living a disciplined life that includes persistence and delayed gratification.

Prayer

We thank you, God, for the gifts and efforts of scientists who have developed vaccines for the coronavirus. We ask you to give us the strength and wisdom we need to make good choices in this time of pandemic. In Jesus' name. Amen.