



## Scripture Resources for Organ and Tissue Donation

### Judaism and Christianity

*This section offers you sacred text that can be used as a guide to organ, eye and tissue donation. Transplants are not specifically mentioned in most sacred texts because they are a very recent development. However, there is nothing that would prevent them.*

*The timeless content of the texts speak to donation in principle. The following references can guide our thinking and actions on organ and tissue donation.*

**Old and New Testaments Scriptures:** The following scriptures are selected because of their message of giving, healing and understanding of the relationship between human beings. They could be used as calls to worship, responsive readings, affirmations of faith, etc. Be creative; use these or other scriptures in your formal and informal worship gatherings to share the good news of God and the blessing of God on healing. This list is not meant to be exhausted but is meant as a starting point for worship resources and possible sermon ideas.

Psalm 8	Psalm 100	Psalm 116	Deuteronomy 30:15- 20
1 John 4: 7-12	Matthew 10: 1-8	Matthew 25: 31-46	Mark 3: 1-5
Psalm 23	Psalm 103	Psalm 121	Luke 6: 37 -38
John 14:12	Luke 3:10 - 11	Romans 8: 28 - 39	John 3: 16- 17
Psalm 34	Psalm 107	Psalm 145	11 Corinthians 9: 6- 8

**Judaism:** We do the best homage to our dead when we live our lives most fully, even in the shadow of our loss. For each of our lives is worth the life of the whole world; in each one is the breath of the Ultimate One. In affirming the One, we affirm the worth of each one whose life, now ended, brought us closer to the Source of Life, in whose unity no one is alone and every life finds purpose. (Rabbi Richard N. Levy)

#### *Unison Reading:*

Birth is a beginning and death is a destination. And life is a journey:  
From childhood to maturity and youth to age;

From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing;  
 From foolishness to discretion and then, perhaps, to wisdom;  
 From weakness to strength or strength to weakness. And, often, back again;  
 From loneliness to love, from joy to gratitude, from pain to compassion,  
 From grief to understanding, from fear to faith;  
 From defeat to defeat to defeat. Until looking backward or ahead,  
 We see that victory lies not at some high place along the way,  
 But in having made the journey, stage by stage a sacred pilgrimage.  
 Birth is a beginning and death is a destination.  
 And life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage - to life everlasting.  
 (Rabbi Alvin Fine)

**Biblical Principles Supporting Donation:** Organ and tissue transplants are not mentioned specifically in the Bible because they are a very recent development. However, there is nothing in the Bible that would prevent them. The timeless content of the scriptures speaks to donation in principle. The following scriptures can guide our thinking and actions on organ donation. \*

Genesis 2: 20 - 30	The first transplant: A rib taken from Adam to create Eve.
Ezekiel 37	The Valley of Dry Bones, "These bones shall live."
Matthew 5: 7	"Blessed are the merciful."
Matthew 7: 7	"Ask... seek... knock."
Matthew 7: 12	"Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."
Matthew 10: 8	"Heal The Sick, ... freely ye have received, freely give."

\* Contributed by Mid- America Transplant Services

## Religious Scriptures and Quotes: Hindu, Buddhist, Islam and Sikh

### Hindu

*"As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, the soul similarly accepts new material bodies giving up the old and useless bodies."*

### Bhagavad-Gita Chapter 2:22

*"Of all the things that it is possible to donate, to donate your own body is infinitely more worthwhile."*

### The Manusmriti

## **Buddhist**

“Whoever would care for me, let him care for those who are sick.”

### **Mahavagga VII. 26. 1-8 Kucchivikar-vatthu**

*“The gift of the body is a very great benefit and a boon like what you’d call a karmic boon, a karmic advantage to a person. It’s considered a really marvelous thing.”*

**Robert Thurman – chair of religious studies and Jey Tsong Khapa professor of Buddhist studies at Columbia University, New York City; president of Tibet House; Buddhist monk**

## **Islam**

“Whosoever saves the life of one person it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind?”

### **Holy Qur’an chapter 5 vs. 32**

## **Sikh**

*“The true servants of God are those who serve him through helping others”*

### **Guru Nanak Guru Granth Sahib**

*“Where self exists, there is no God*

*Where God exists, there is no self”*

### **Guru Nanak Guru Granth Sahib**