1. **Romans 1:28-32**

* Name one or two forms of “evil” Paul mentions here, that either surprised you, or stood out to you and explain why.
* **James 3:1-5, Matthew 12:36-37**
* How serious of a concern are “gossips”?
* **St. Thomas Aquinas (1224 – 1274 AD) Summa Theologica** *Article 2: Whether Backbiting is a Mortal Sin**(Romans 1:30)*

“Sins of word should be judged **chiefly from the intention of the speaker**. Now backbiting by its very nature aims at blackening a man's good name. Wherefore, properly speaking, to **backbite is to speak ill of an absent person in order to blacken his good name**. Now it is a **very grave matter** to **blacken a man's good name**, because of all temporal things a man's good name seems the most precious, since for lack of it he is hindered from doing many things well. For this reason, it is written **"Take care of a good name, for this shall continue with thee, more than a thousand treasures precious and great."** Therefore backbiting, properly speaking, **is a mortal sin.** Nevertheless, it happens sometimes that a man utters words, whereby someone's good name is tarnished, and yet he does not intend this, but something else. This is not backbiting strictly and formally speaking, but only materially and accidentally as it were. And if such defamatory words be uttered for the sake of some necessary good, and with attention to the due circumstances, it is not a sin and cannot be called backbiting. **But if they be uttered out of lightness of heart** or for some **unnecessary motive**, **it is not a mortal sin**, unless perchance the spoken word be of such a grave nature, as to cause a notable injury to a man's good name, especially in matters pertaining to his moral character, because from the very nature of the words this would be a mortal sin. And one is bound to restore a man his good name, no less than any other thing one has taken from him, in the manner stated above when we were treating of restitution.**”**

* **Sirach 41:11-13**
* Look closely at the quote **St. Thomas Aquinas** uses and name which verse in **Sirach** matches.
* **Pope Francis** September 2013 Homily

“Those who live judging their neighbor, speaking ill of their neighbors, are hypocrites, because they lack the strength and the courage to look to their own shortcomings. The Lord does not waste many words on this concept. Further on he says that he who has hatred in his heart for his brother is a murderer.”

* What effect does this specific form of gossip (backbiting) have on a “good name”?
* **Catechism 2488-2489**
* **Matthew 18:6, Mark 9:42, Luke 17:2**
* How serious of a concern are “scandalmongers”?
* Reflect on the **Gospel** readings and **Romans** **1:32**, what do you believe has the greater negative impact on society, oneself committing these “evil” acts or one who gives “approval to those who practice them”, please explain your thoughts?
* **Catechism 2284-2285**
* Please share two things that stood out to you from this study with the group.