



Irresistible Church Training

For Disability Ministry

Presented by



We've Got This! Presentation Outline

How to Use:

This script lays out suggested talking points and content pulled directly from the specific book/resource highlighted. Here are a few things to know before you begin to use these scripts:

1. **Bold Type** is what you say. *Italic type* are suggestions and instructions.
2. The script is laid out with wide margins for easier reading without too much side to side eye movement. Sentences and paragraphs are broken up by phrasing and suggested pauses. = indicates a thought, phrase, or slight pause. • indicates the next slide.
3. In the *Italics* you will find suggestions for customizing the material with personal stories or examples, local resources, churches, or people who have made a difference...
4. The slides combine the Irresistible Church logo and the Joni and Friends logo (*new Logo will be replaced in 2019*) on a themed slide to create a consistent branding throughout the presentation. Please do not change this formatting.
5. The first 3–5 slides will be similar in each presentation to allow you consistency in introducing yourself, the topic, Luke 14, and a definition of an Irresistible Church. If you are doing more than one session in a day, we suggest you present these slides in the first session and eliminate them in later presentations on the same day. (*You could also use them to encourage participation, or “test” the audience and ask them to describe the Luke 14 Mandate or to define an Irresistible Church*)
6. We have added suggested resources for each participant, for a book sales table, and have added a video presentation about Joni and Friends. If you are doing several presentations during the day you could replace the video *It's Personal* with video highlights of your local ministry. It is important that we take the time to offer ourselves and our resources to the churches we serve.

We've Got This Presentation Outline:

Main objective: To provide a model for planning and implementing a 3 to 4 hour respite event.

Supplies: *Bible* with all passages marked, copy of *We've Got This!* book, Respite FAQs handout, Disability Etiquette handout, PowerPoint handout, and pens for each participant.

Before your event: Set up a resource table that contains books and resources for sale. Include Joni and Friends ministry brochures and any local area ministry brochures. You might even want to include those on the participant tables with any notes you want to provide for the meeting.

Suggested resources for sale with *We've Got This!*:
Joni: An Unforgettable Story (book), *Beyond Suffering Bible*, *Real Families, Real Needs*, *Another Kind of Courage*, Irresistible Church Series books, *Same Lake, Different Boat*

 THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH 

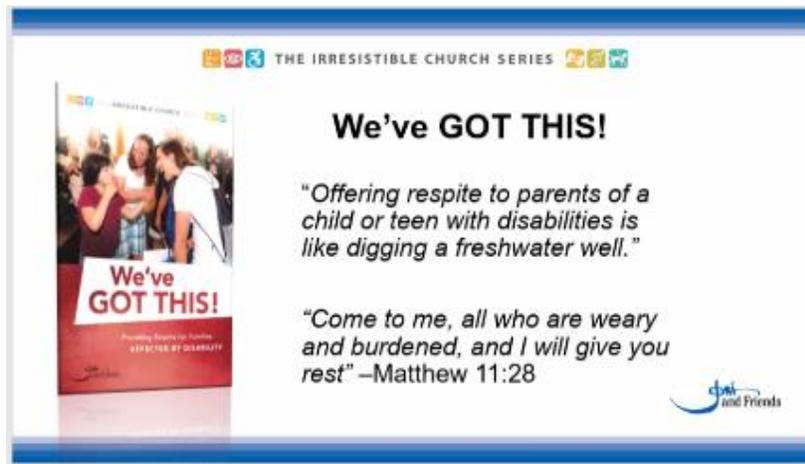

**Irresistible
Church
Training**
For Disability Ministry



SLIDE 1:

(Use this slide while people arrive. You can choose to play some music in the background while the class arrives, gets settled and prepares for the session. If you want to add music to this presentation here is how you do it. Go to Insert, Media, Audio/Audio on my PC. Choose the song and it will add a small music icon that you can place in the corner. You can customize the settings by clicking play back. Here's how you do it. Click the music icon on the slide, then click playback from the menu. All your options are here.)

SLIDE 2:

The slide features a blue header with the text "THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES" and social media icons. On the left is a book cover titled "We've GOT THIS! Providing Respite for the PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES". The main text on the slide reads: "We've GOT THIS!" followed by the quote "Offering respite to parents of a child or teen with disabilities is like digging a freshwater well." Below that is the quote "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" -Matthew 11:28. The "dai and Friends" logo is in the bottom right corner.

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES

We've GOT THIS!

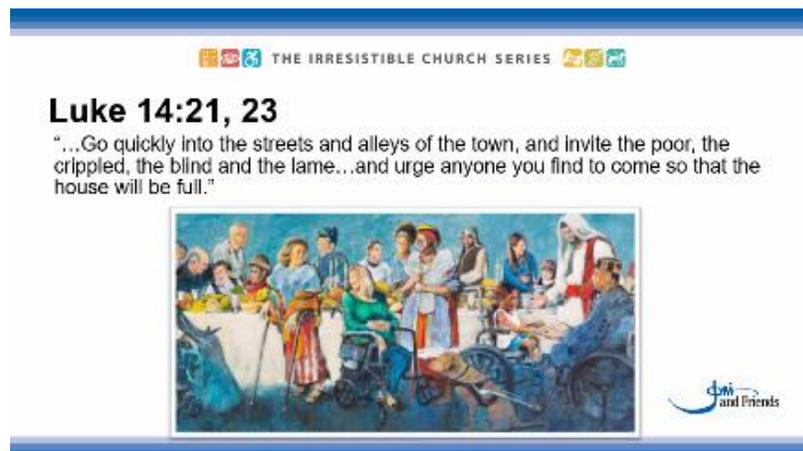
"Offering respite to parents of a child or teen with disabilities is like digging a freshwater well."

"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" -Matthew 11:28

dai and Friends

(When you are ready to begin click to this slide. The music should stop so that you can begin presenting. Start your presentation with an introduction of who you are and maybe a short story about yourself and a time that you were touched by this ministry. Maybe in your personal life, ministry life, etc. Something that allows the audience to connect with you right away.)

SLIDE 3:

The slide features a blue header with the text "THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES" and social media icons. The main text reads: "Luke 14:21, 23" followed by the quote "...Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town, and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame...and urge anyone you find to come so that the house will be full." Below the text is a painting of Jesus surrounded by a diverse group of people, including those in wheelchairs and with other disabilities. The "dai and Friends" logo is in the bottom right corner.

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES

Luke 14:21, 23

"...Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town, and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame...and urge anyone you find to come so that the house will be full."

dai and Friends

(It is nice to begin the presentation with an open Bible. We suggest teaching using the Beyond Suffering Bible.)

OPEN YOUR BIBLE: Read Luke 14: 21-23

Luke 14 shares the story of a man giving a banquet, providing a glimpse into God's heart for all people

Through this scripture we see that God's desire for those who have been marginalized is to

- = be fully welcomed and**
- = embraced by the church, just as this man insisted those with disabilities**
- = join him at his banquet**

Why?

According to the Bible

- = Every person has equal worth and value because we are created in God's image.**
- = Each person is an indispensable part of the Body of Christ with unique gifts and abilities. (*Read 1 Corinthians 12*)**
- = Every part (every person) is necessary for the body (the church) to function as God intended**

SLIDE 4:

The slide features a blue header with the text "THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES" and social media icons. On the left is a book cover titled "We've GOT THIS! Providing Hope for Families AFFECTED BY DISABILITY" with a photo of a group of people. The main text on the right asks "What is an Irresistible Church?" and provides a definition: "An Irresistible Church is an authentic community built on the hope of Christ that compels people affected by disability to fully belong." The "Chai and Friends" logo is in the bottom right corner.

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES

What is an Irresistible Church?

"An Irresistible Church is an authentic community built on the hope of Christ that compels people affected by disability to fully belong."

We've GOT THIS!
Providing Hope for Families
AFFECTED BY DISABILITY

Chai and Friends

The definition for an irresistible church evolved as a response to God's heart and desire for those that have been marginalized.

(Read Together)

"An Irresistible Church is an authentic community built on the hope of Christ that compels people affected by disability to fully belong."

(Repeat)

As a body of believers, we want to use Jesus as a model

- = to create a church family that compels people with disabilities to come in**
- = so that His house may be full.**

Close your eyes right now and imagine with me what this might look like. Keep them closed and listen to my words:

Instead of creating another program, let us think for a moment what the church might look like if everyone,

- = regardless of special needs, or extraordinary abilities**
- = were embraced as a fully functioning member of the body of Christ.**
- = Regardless of Cognitive processing, verbal communication,**
- = behavioral struggles, or physical ability,**
- = each member would be valued as a person,**
- = flawlessly created in the image of God.**
- = Would this church be irresistible?**

What would this church say to anyone who is skeptical?

- = That there is a place for them in God's family?**
- = What about the unemployed father and his family,**
- = the addict,**
- = the young mother going through divorce, the chronically ill, the widowed,**
- = the young single girl searching for God's purpose in her singleness,**
- = the perfectionist,**
- = the young adult dealing with a mental illness who needs acceptance...**

This would be the church of Luke 14,

- = where people are urged and compelled to come in.**
- = This is easy to think about, but it requires real change and that is hard.**
- = To simplify this a bit, there are two things that people affected by disability overwhelmingly agree that they desire from the Church.**

- 1. Accessibility to existing structures, programs, and people.**
- 2. Acceptance and a sense of belonging extended from others within the church.**

Offering respite events, being able to say, "We've Got This," is a powerful way to offer a sense of belonging and care for a family.

SLIDE 5

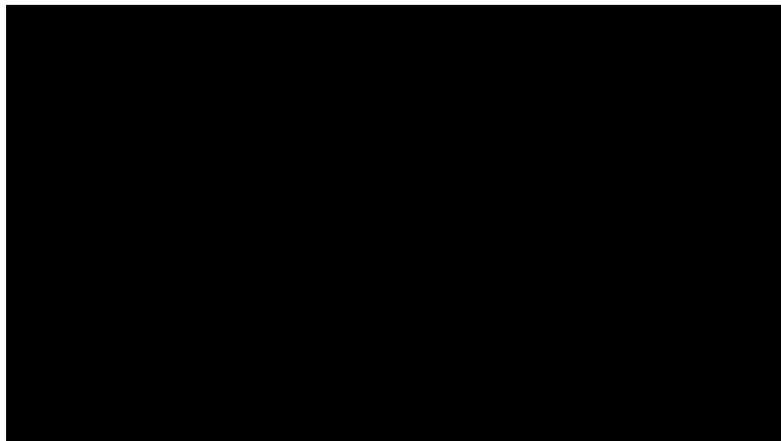


In the next 30 minutes we will take a look at respite – what it is and some of the details for providing respite for your church families.

We will talk about:

- = Who needs respite**
- = The process of creating a respite program**
- = Recruiting, working with, and training volunteers, and**
- = The details of a respite day.**

SLIDE 6 – Joni's Story (*Video begins immediately*)



(You can introduce Joni's "It's Personal" video by saying...)

I would like you to see how a person with a disability

- = **who was disciplined by Christian friends**
- = **can go on to use the gifts God gave her to bring us to this place today. (play video)**

Everything we do at Joni and Friends is because at the lowest point in her life Joni found hope in Jesus,

- = **the Bible**
- = **and Christian friends who showed her how to live.**
- = **One of the major ministries we have at Joni and Friends is our Church Engagement ministry.**
- = **Which is why you are here today. Our mission is**
- = **to equip you, the church, to serve those people affected by disability.**

SLIDE 7

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES

Who Needs Respite?

- Parents
- Children and teens
- Siblings
- Volunteers
- Your church
- The body of Christ



Joni and Friends

- **WHO NEEDS RESPITE**

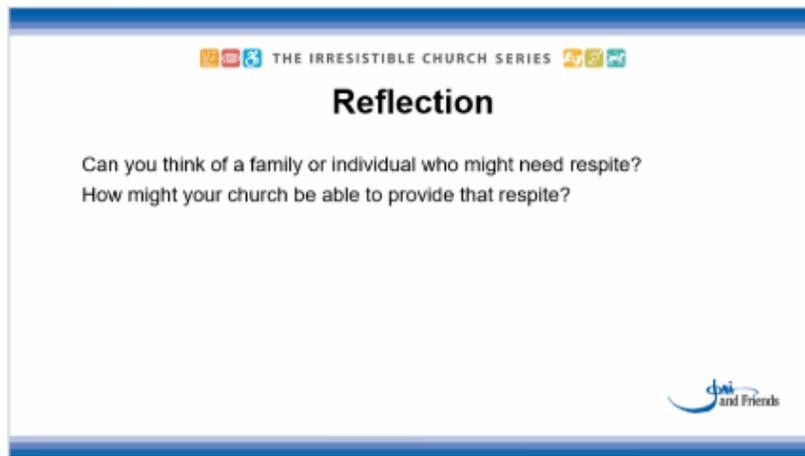
(This slide would be a great time to bring in your personal experiences. People will respond best by hearing how respite has influenced each one of these people groups. Time permitting, you could bring in a panel and ask questions that can be answered from each perspective.)

- **Parents: Parents of children with special needs are often**
 - = exhausted and juggling a multitude of details each day.
 - = Many are also dealing with some type of grief related to their child's disability.
 - = In many families a recurring cycle of grief is a normal part of life.
- **Children and Teens: By serving these children we show them that we love them.**
 - = By loving them, we show them that God loves them
 - = and hopefully that opens the door to sharing the Gospel.
- **Siblings: Respite gives siblings the chance to connect with other kids who are having the same experiences as them.**
 - = Sometimes sibling's needs ARE seen as secondary,
 - = respite for them says that the church values them TOO.
- **Volunteers: Respite allows volunteers to be outside their comfort zone**
 - = and see a glimpse of the incredible love that can come from

- = **being with children with disabilities and their siblings.**
- **Your Church: When respite is a church-wide event,**
 - = **it helps the congregation as a whole to welcome people affected by disabilities into the church.**
- **The Body of Christ: Respite events can be offered through several churches in a community**
 - = **to help families get rest more than once a month.**
 - = **Respite can be a bridge that helps multiple churches work together for the Kingdom of God.**

(This is a good place to handout Respite FAQ's: <https://irresistiblechurch.org/weve-got-this/>.)

SLIDE 8



THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES

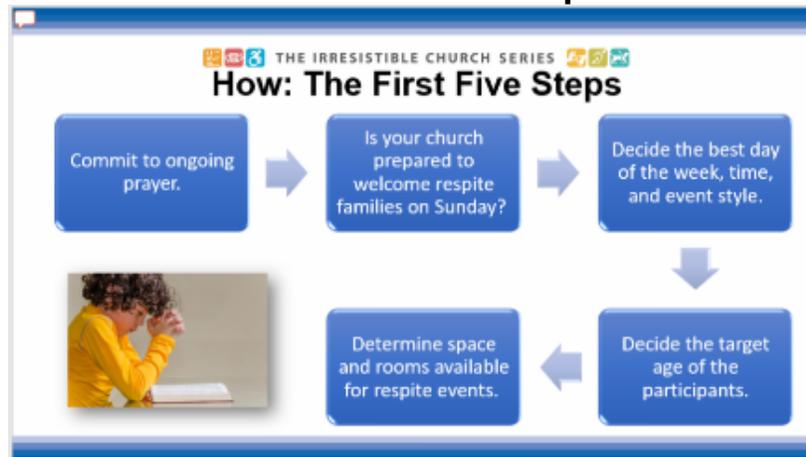
Reflection

Can you think of a family or individual who might need respite?
How might your church be able to provide that respite?

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Reflection - Take a few moments to let the class reflect on these two questions.

SLIDE 9 How: The First Five Steps



- **Commit to ongoing prayer: Respite will only be successful if it is Spirit-directed and within God's timing for your church.**
- **Is your Church prepared to welcome respite families on Sunday?**
 - = Hopefully, respite care will provide an open door for people with disabilities to be welcomed into your church and God's family.
 - = Make sure people in your church are adequately prepared to answer difficult questions about God in the midst of suffering and disability.
 - = Do you have a disability ministry offered on Sunday?
 - = Is your church service accessible to all?
- **Decide the best day of the week, time, and event style:**
 - = Most respites take place on a Friday night, Saturday mornings, Saturday afternoons, and Saturday evenings.
 - = They are generally 3-4 hours long.

- = Try to a plan larger event that can include the larger church community.
- **Decide the target age of the participants:**
 - = Many programs limit the sibling age to 12 unless they have a specific plan for teen siblings.
- **Determine space and rooms available for respite events**
 - = Make sure your rooms are equipped to handle children
 - = and do not include easily breakable items.

SLIDE 10 How: The Next Five Steps



- **Volunteer Pool: Youth groups looking for ministry opportunities,**
 - = empty nesters who enjoy children,
 - = adult small groups that want to serve together,
 - = and anyone who is drawn to people with disabilities.
- **Event Activities: Utilize the resources your church has!**

- = Crafts, music, group recreation, snack time, and wind-down activities.
- = Usually churches pick a theme for their respite event.
- = For more ideas here are some optional [materials](#).
- Leadership team
 - = Look for people with organizational skills, musical skills, recreational skills, and nursing experience.
- Respite Tools
 - = begin gathering items that can be put in a “[buddy bag](#)” to help our friends throughout the day.
- Decide if you will offer a kick-off training event
 - = Often before a respite event a church will run a 45 minute training session
 - = on overall disability awareness, health and safety policies, and emergency procedures.

SLIDE 11 How: The Last Five Steps



- **Number of Children**
 - = This number will be based on how many potential volunteers are available to serve.
- **Registration**
 - = Parents can RSVP through email
 - = and fill out a registration for providing helpful information about their child.
 - = All these forms should be kept in one place.
 - = Ideally a one-on-one meeting is scheduled with new families.
- **Advertising:**
 - = Flyers
 - = Emails
 - = Special education teachers that can invite their students
- **Liability Policies**
 - = These are specific within each church.
 - = Make sure you check with your insurance company and are aware of all the policies that should be in place.
- **Health and emergency procedures**
 - = Volunteers need to know what to do in the event of an emergency.

SLIDE 12 Review and Activity

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Review & Activity – The 15 Steps

First 5 Steps	Next 5 Steps	Last 5 Steps
Commit to ongoing prayer.	Consider your potential volunteer pool.	Decide how to notify children you hope to care.
Is your church prepared to welcome Sunday School members?	Determine potential event ACTIVITIES.	Decide who will handle registration and how families will register.
Decide the best day of the week, time, and event info.	Begin recruiting your leadership team.	Determine how you will advertise.
Decide the target age of the participants.	Begin to gather respite leads.	Investigate your church's liability policies.
Determine space and room available.	Decide if you will offer a lock-off training event.	Review your church's health and emergency procedures.

- With your neighbor or in a small group discuss which one of these last steps you think your church can do well now.
- Which of these steps are going to take more work? Can you think of some resources that might help with this?

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- *Have your group turn to their neighbor and go through the two questions on the slide.*

SLIDE 13 Volunteer

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Volunteers – Specific Roles

Volunteers with Specific Roles

Consider the role of each volunteer and pray about the right person for each role.

- PROGRAM COORDINATOR
- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
- CRAFTS COORDINATOR
- MUSIC LEADER
- SNACK LEADER
- TRAINING LEADER
- VOLUNTEER NURSE
- BUDGET/AG/SENSORY
- TOY COLLECTOR
- FLOATERS AND DOOR
- ATTENDANTS

dmi and Friends

Once you have taken these steps to plan your respite event, it's time to build a Volunteer team.

- = **There are two types of volunteers—**
- = **Those with Specific Roles/responsibilities**
- = **and Respite Buddies.**

- = **Let's start by discussing some of the specific roles for your respite event.**
- = **Pages 33 – 36 in your book have a listing and description of each of these roles. You will need a Program Coordinator, and likely coordinators for each of these areas:**
 - **Volunteers**
 - **Crafts**
 - **Music**
 - **Snack**
 - **Nurse**
 - **Buddy Bag/Sensory toy collector**
 - **Floater and Door Attendants**

SLIDE 14 Volunteers – Respite Buddies

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Volunteers – Respite Buddies

Respite Buddies

Work 1 on 1 with children with disabilities or their siblings.

Pairing is based on a child's needs. Older siblings may prefer a buddy closer to their own age.

Chai and Friends

The second type of volunteers are Respite Buddies.

- = **Respite Buddies work one-on-one with each child attending.**
 - **Pair buddies based on the child's need**
 - **Older siblings may prefer someone their own age**

SLIDE 15 Volunteer Training

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Volunteer Training

Day of Training

Allows volunteers to be present without adding extra time.

Prior Training

Will be more in-depth than day of training.

dwi and friends

- **Day of training: Allows more volunteers to be present**
 - = and doesn't add extra time to the commitment they have already made.
 - = This allows you to speak to them about the children they will serve that day.
 - = In some cases, the information will be fresh in their minds as they are trained immediately before serving.
 - = If you choose to offer training ahead of time, you may want to do a quick refresher on the day of the event.

Here are some ideas of things to include in your day of training:

- = A short recap of the biblical perspective on embracing families affected by disability.
- = Disability sensitivity training with a special focus on the needs you will likely encounter that day.

- = **A clear description of roles and responsibilities**
- = **A confidentiality reminder**
- = **Your expectations and rules for the day**
- = **Safety procedures**

Remember, this training will not be as in-depth as prior training would be.

- = **Prior training can be more in-depth and will yield volunteers that are better prepared and need less guidance on the day of your event.**
- = **This training can include more details about the event and provide more time for sensitivity training explained in this book.**

SLIDE 16 Volunteer Training – Training Tools

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Volunteer Training – Training Tools

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:13-16

- **Disability Etiquette: Responding with Compassion** handout.
- **Simulation Activities**
 - The Weight of Raising a Child with a Disability
 - Role Playing
 - **Disability Simulation Stations**
 - Wheelchair Experiences
 - Sensory Overload
 - Visual Deficits
 - Hearing Loss
 - Communication Disorders
 - Impaired Manual Dexterity
 - Intellectual Disability

dmi and Friends

Hand out the Disability Etiquette page found here:
<https://irresistiblechurch.org/weve-got-this>

You have a handout titled Disability Etiquette.

Let's review this briefly:

- = **This handout is also available on the Irresistible Church.org site under Free resources, along with lots of other really valuable resources.**
- = **This is a great tool to use in your training sessions to give people guidelines for relating to people and families affected by disability.**

(This is a good opportunity to do the simulation activity Raising a Child with a disability. It is fully outlined on pages 43 – 46.)

(If your training class time permits, do one of the simulation activities for practice. These are outlined for you on pages 43 – 57 of your book We've Got This! If not, point people to the brief descriptions of each activity in the book.

SLIDE 17 The Details

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The Details

What you will need at check-in time:

- Permanent markers
- Pens and pencils
- Digital thermometer
- Hand sanitizer
- Ziploc bags for snacks
- Extra name tag labels for backpacks, etc.
- Nurse forms
- Special instruction forms
- Name tags
- Registration forms

dm and Friends

The slide features a blue header with the text 'THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES' and social media icons. Below the header is the title 'The Details' and a sub-header 'What you will need at check-in time:'. A list of items is provided in a light blue box. To the right of the list is a photograph of a hand writing on a document. The logo for 'dm and Friends' is in the bottom right corner.

So here is where to get started on the Day of your event.

- = **The nurse or other volunteer doing check in should be in place 15 minutes before families arrive.**

- = **Name tags:**
 - **Use different colors for children's names in different groups if they are divided**
 - **DO NOT put last names on children's name tags if you plan to take photos or video during an event.**

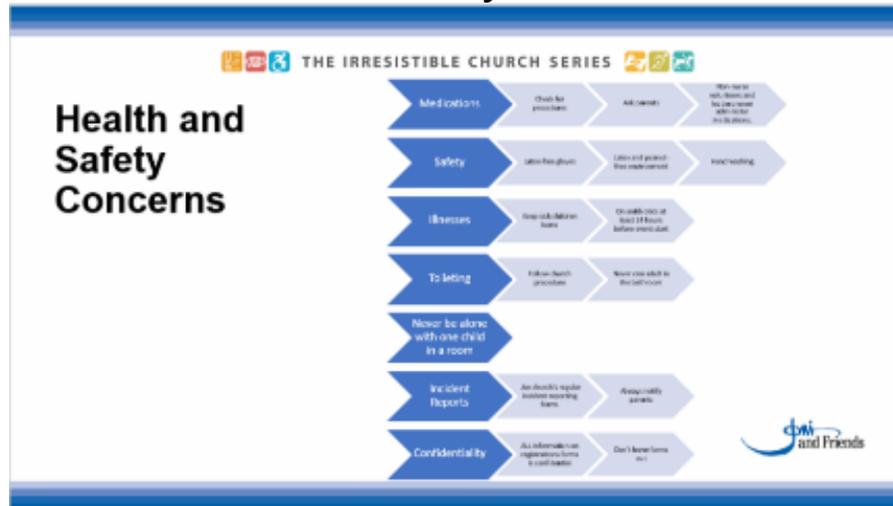
- = **Nurses forms – 1-2 copies**
 - **Check with your church to see if they have standard policies and/or forms already in place.**

- = **There are sample schedules in the supplemental online resources. Give each volunteer their own schedule with their specific volunteer assignment.**

- = **Remember to allow children to relax and have fun –**
 - **the event schedule and goals need to remain flexible to accommodate the unexpected needs of the children attending**

- = **The Program Coordinator should be available to answer questions during the event,**
 - **watch for potential challenges,**
 - **and offer encouragement to volunteers and children.**

SLIDE 18 Health and Safety Concerns



Health and safety concerns: Safety procedures are unique to each church.

However, all the points on the health and safety concerns slide are important to have in place for respite care.

- **Medications**
 - **Check with your church's administration to see if they have policies and procedures already in place.**
 - **Ask parents/caregivers to administer medications before or after respite if possible.**
 - **Non-nurse volunteers and staff leaders should NEVER administer medication.**
- **Safety**
 - **Any time a volunteer handles blood, bodily fluid or bodily discharges, latex-free gloves should be worn.**
 - **It is best to have a latex free and peanut free environment.**

- **Follow hand washing rules.**
- **Illnesses**
 - **Ask parents to keep children home if they have any symptoms of contagious illness.**
 - **Although it is hard to turn families away, sick children should not attend.**
 - **If a child is on antibiotics, he/she must be on the prescribed medication for at least 24 hours prior to the event.**
- **Toileting**
 - **Follow normal church procedure if a child needs assistant in the bathroom.**
 - **There should never be one adult alone in the bathroom with a child.**
 - **If the child can use the bathroom alone, the buddy can wait outside.**
- **Volunteers should not be alone with one child in a room.**
- **If a serious issue occurs,**
 - **Use your church's regular incident reporting forms.**
 - **Always notify parents immediately if a serious incident or injury occurs.**
- **Confidentiality**
 - **All information on registration forms is confidential and should only be seen by event leadership, the nurse, and the assigned buddy.**

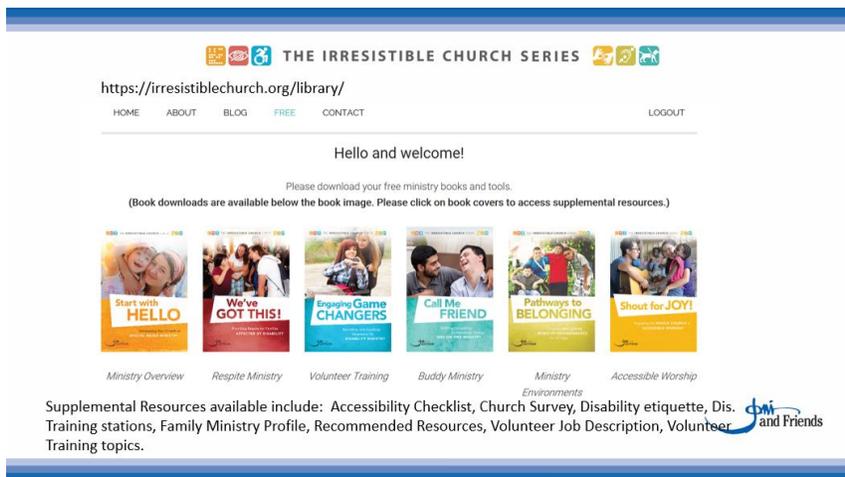
- Don't leave forms out during or after the event.

SLIDE 19 Questions



(This slide will be customized with your own contact information.)

SLIDE 20 Irresistible Church Site



One of the most significant resource opportunities we have for churches is the Irresistible Church.org

- = This site is packed with resources
- = a blog,

- = free downloads of books and resources for the church.
- = Go to irresistiblechurch.org and register for FREE
- = You will find the library page which allows you to download free and reproducible resources
- = for developing a Disability ministry within your church.

In addition, we have a resource table where you can buy resources for your church,

- = learn more about the ministry of Joni and Friends
- = and connect with us for more information.

SLIDE 20 Closing Slide

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES



Contact Us:

- Add contact information

- Additional resources for sale at this event. Please visit our book table.



Customize slide with your information

Close in prayer...