



Irresistible Church Training

For Disability Ministry

Presented by



Disability Awareness Sunday

A successful *Disability Awareness Sunday* can take a lot of forms, but the end goal is to prepare your entire church for future disability ministry. A second but also important goal is to have an outreach into the local disability community.

A typical *Disability Awareness Sunday* focuses the church's attention on disability from God's perspective. It usually includes:

- A pre-Sunday walk-through (or even better, roll-through!) of your church property to make sure it is really accessible. If changes need to be made and can be made, now is the time!
- A team to pray for and coordinate your day – usually this includes your regular leadership and some volunteers
- A vision for the future disability ministry you are working towards. Options may include:
 - o A Buddy Ministry for children with special needs
 - o Periodic respite programs
 - o Outreach carnival for families
 - o Support group for moms, dads, siblings, etc.
- The focus of the service should be on Disability Awareness:
 - o The sermon is typically about God's heart for those with disabilities
 - o There could be a testimony or two by someone affected by disability
 - o A family affected by special needs can be interviewed by the pastor
 - o A short video of a day in the life of a family or individual could be presented
 - o Songs, Scripture readings, etc. can reflect the sermon topic and focus on disability awareness
 - o A quick DVD from Joni and Friends encouraging disability ministry could be useful
 - o Be creative – those serving could do so from wheelchairs, etc.
- If you are introducing the idea of disability ministry to the congregation, we recommend not advertising it to the community at large. You want your volunteers trained and ready before families arrive seeking a functioning special needs ministry.
- If you are unveiling a ministry vision, have sign-ups available for people who would like to volunteer to be trained and participate. Consider using a church survey!