

Irresistible Church Training Series for Special Needs Ministry

irresistiblechurch.org

The Irresistible Church Training Series will equip you to welcome people of all abilities into the life and ministry of your church and help people with disabilities find their place in the body of Christ.

START WITH HELLO – Starting a special needs ministry

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Church Accessibility Checklist*
- *Church Survey*
- *Disability Etiquette*
- *Disability Training Stations*
- *Family Ministry Profile*
- *Volunteer Job Descriptions*
- *Volunteer Training Topics*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline

Families with special needs often share that they desire two things in their church: accessibility and acceptance. Accessibility to existing structures, programs and people is an imperative. Acceptance with a sense of belonging by the others who also participate in the structures, programs and fellowship of the church is equally necessary. In this simple book you'll learn the five steps to becoming an accessible and accepting church.



ENGAGING GAME CHANGERS – Training and recruiting volunteers

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Behavior Modification*
- *Disability Awareness Sunday*
- *Disability Awareness Training*
- *Disability Training Stations*
- *Intake Form-Special Needs*
- *Volunteer Job Descriptions*
- *Volunteer Questions*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline

Your ministry's impact depends on the volunteers you recruit—the people who serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. If you are a ministry leader, this resource will train you in the key aspects of working with volunteers: identifying and recruiting the right people, providing great training, and releasing them to serve. Engaging Game Changers will help you build solid volunteers who will serve families affected by special needs with the love of Christ.



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CALL ME FRIEND – Providing one-on-one, buddy ministry support

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- Behavior Modification
- Creating a Sensory Bag
- Intake Form-Special Needs
- Respite FAQ
- Sample Schedules
- Volunteer Job Descriptions

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline

For the ministry leader who desires to include people of all ages with special needs in the life of the church, this practical guide to buddy ministry provides clear, concise direction on how to organize and implement this effective ministry model. Leaders will discover how buddies provide discipleship, friendship, safety, participation, communication, and positive behavior management. The simple steps you'll find in this book will build relationships and assist your church in becoming an authentic community where all people may fully belong.



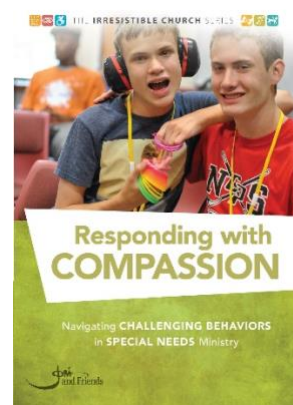
RESPONDING WITH COMPASSION – Navigating disability related behaviors

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- Basic Parent Interview
- Call and Response Phrases
- Creating a Sensory Bag
- Disability Etiquette
- Sample Schedules
- Teaching the Concept of Salvation
- Websites for Free Visual Downloads

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline

Are you a ministry leader or volunteer who has concerns about how to respond to challenging behaviors presented in the programs of your church? Do you feel like you want to help, but are uncertain on how to handle difficult behaviors? Are you yearning to learn more about how to keep individuals affected by disability in an inclusive environment? If so, it is our hope that Responding with Compassion will provide you with answers. As you read this book, you will learn why people affected by disability might engage in challenging behaviors as well as various proactive strategies to help you navigate these challenges within your ministry. With just a few small changes in your ministry, we pray that you will feel more confident in responding to challenging behaviors!



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WE'VE GOT THIS – Providing respite for families with special needs

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Biblical View of Disability*
- *Communication Boards*
- *Creating a Sensory Bag*
- *How Disability Affects the Family*
- *Disability Etiquette*
- *Respite FAQs*
- *Respite Materials*
- *Customizable Forms*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline



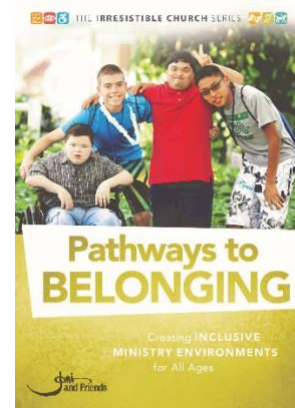
Families or caregivers who have children with disabilities are often isolated, exhausted, and grieving. Respite events can be a safe bridge for families to cross over the threshold of the church by satisfying an urgent need. A place for children to be themselves, for caregivers to have a break, and for the church to serve well is invaluable. This book is a practical guide that provides the necessary tools to plan and execute a successful respite event.

PATHWAYS TO BELONGING – Providing a ministry environment that includes people with special needs

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *A Sampling of Special Needs Curriculum*
- *Adapting Curriculum*
- *Creating a Sensory Bag*
- *Creating Yes/No Prompts*
- *Customizable Forms*
- *Intake Form-Special Needs*
- *Sample Schedules*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline



Church leaders with a heart to serve families affected by disability frequently ask, “How do I know the best way to include each special friend when their needs vary?” This book is a response to that question, offering step-by-step tools for evaluating the needs of friends with disabilities and creating a culture that welcomes these individuals and their families. Within these pages, we discuss creating accessible environments that provide access to the gospel while being sensitive to learning styles and physical needs. By creating inclusive environments churches help individuals affected by

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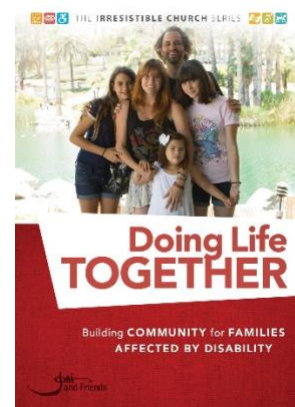
disability discover and practice the gifts God has given them while fostering a culture of authentic relationships.

DOING LIFE TOGETHER – Providing ongoing support for families

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Blessing of the Hands*
- *Church Accessibility Checklist*
- *Coordinating Care*
- *Disability Etiquette*
- *Leading Support Groups*
- *Offering Practical Care*
- *Resources for Doing Life Together*
- *Respite FAQ*
- *Tips for Day of Pampering*
- *Typical Sibling Support Group*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline



Many churches have very active disability ministries. However, most of the ministry takes place on Sunday mornings. What happens with families affected by disability between noon on Sunday and 9:00 AM the next Sunday? That period of time is when the “messiness” of life with a disability takes place. Doing Life Together offers practical tools for churches and individuals to help meet real needs, build community, and remove some of the isolation that families affected by disability experience. Doing Life Together will also help you gain a better understanding of the unique ways disability affects each member of the family; parents, spouses, siblings, and grandparents.

ARE YOU READY? – Sharing the vision for special needs ministry

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Biblical View of Disability*
- *Creating a Sensory Bag*
- *Disability Awareness Sunday*
- *Disability Etiquette*
- *Social Story*
- *10 Tips for Pastors*

Does the thought of engaging in disability ministry make you nervous? Are you unclear on how to lead others as you serve and embrace individuals affected by disability? How do you, as a ministry leader, engage your church for disability ministry and



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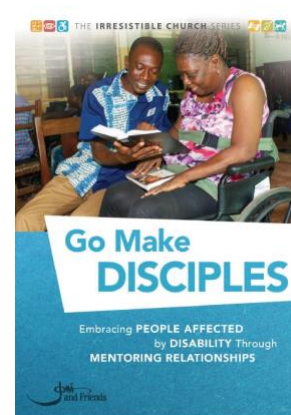
create a truly Irresistible culture? Whether you are a pastor, a ministry leader, or a volunteer, you have the potential to change the landscape of your church for the better. As you read the pages of this book, you will learn the biblical perspective regarding disability, consider both the heart of a leader and the heart of the church, and begin to recognize and serve your community's practical needs. Together, you and your team will see the development and growth of a truly Irresistible Church.

GO MAKE DISCIPLES – Mentoring people with special needs

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Biblical View of Disability*
- *Disability Etiquette*
- *5 Stages of Disability Awareness*
- *Identifying Your Calling*
- *Roadmap for Leadership*

Leadership is best defined as influence. An Irresistible Church is an authentic community built on the hope of Christ that compels people affected by disability to fully belong. Irresistible leadership is not merely about leading individuals affected by disability. Rather, it is about creating space for everybody who is called into leadership to come, grow, and express their gifts and talents. Healthy leadership does not happen to people affected by disability, nor does it only happen for them. It should happen with them. Learn the four steps to a healthy mentoring relationship and be used by God to release people into the spheres of leadership where he has called them.



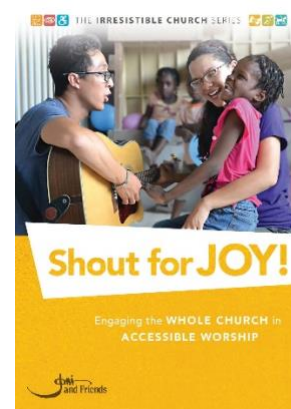
SHOUT FOR JOY! – Creating inclusive worship services

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *5 Stages of Disability Awareness*
- *Accessible Baptism*
- *Church Accessibility Checklist*
- *Denominational Accessible Worship*
- *Disability Awareness Sunday*
- *Hospitality Team Training*
- *Tips for Accessible Worship*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline

Do you long to be part of a church community where people of all abilities gather to worship, a church where the sounds of worship include a wheelchair rolling down the aisle, the tap of a cane, and the sound of people with differing intellectual disabilities lifting their voices together in praise and prayer?



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If so, we pray that Shout for Joy! will help your church have a heart for worship that is accessible to all and give you some practical “how-to” ideas as well.

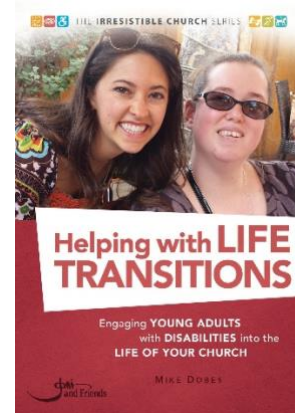
HELPING WITH LIFE TRANSITIONS – Helping with transitions between age-appropriate ministries

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Disability Etiquette*
- *Disability Training Stations*
- *Intake Form-Special Needs*
- *Practical Resources for Real Life Issues*
- *God’s Role in Our Suffering*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline

Children affected by disability don’t stay children forever. And in the same way that parents must adjust their parenting strategies, our churches must adapt ministry strategies to appropriate age levels and expectations in order to serve people affected by disability well. Eventually, ministry programs will naturally extend beyond our church gatherings and grow into true friendships. As we discuss the logistics of ministry to teens and adults, our attitudes should be more about coming alongside others and doing life together than providing ministry for others. It is our desire to see churches become irresistible—places of authentic community that compel people of all ages affected by disability to fully belong.



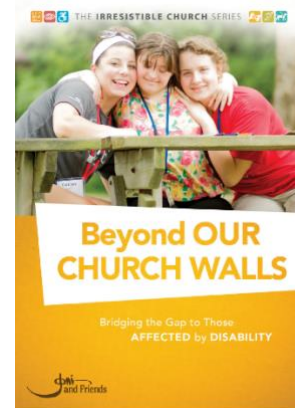
BEYOND OUR CHURCH WALLS – Reaching people in your community with special needs

Supplemental Resources (downloadable handouts/articles):

- *Teaching the Concept of Salvation*
- *Surveying Your Community*
- *Simple Approaches to Sharing the Gospel*
- *A Sampling of Special Needs Curriculum and Resources*
- *Tips for Adapting Curriculum for Students with Special Needs*

Training PowerPoint and Presentation Outline

The Great Commission, given by Jesus to his disciples, starts with the word “go”: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20). We, as God’s redeemed people, are called to go beyond our church walls to help bridge the gap—the gap that all people





For Disability Ministry

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experience between themselves and Christ (evangelism), and the gap between the church and individuals affected by disability in our community (accessible outreach). Beyond Our Church Walls will provide you with biblical principles for this effort and practical ways of applying it.

DISABILITY MINISTRY CERTIFICATE— A four-hour online course offered through Joni and Friends Christian Institute on Disability