



Irresistible Church Training

For Disability Ministry

Presented by



Who Should Be a Buddy?

Qualifications for Volunteers

The ideal buddy...

Discovering the ideal buddy requires understanding what a buddy is meant to accomplish. A buddy is not a babysitter, a therapist, or a doctor. A buddy allows someone with a disability to participate in church life. A buddy's motivation is nothing less than fulfilling the Great Commission: to make disciples! While it might be tempting to immediately start looking for people with experience in special education or behavioral therapy, it is crucial to remember that expertise does not qualify someone to be a buddy! Conversely, having no "experience" does not disqualify someone from being an effective buddy.

So, what *does* make a great buddy?

1. A vibrant relationship with Christ

Disability ministry is *ministry*. While the world often looks to give the bare minimum to people with disabilities, Christ is looking to lavish his love on them! An effective buddy is one who is seeking the heart of Christ and is seeking to share it with others! *Why* we do what we do is at least as important as *what* we do. A desire to make the love of Christ known is a fuel that can sustain long-term volunteerism.

2. A willingness to learn

Every person is unique. Even for those who have expertise in disability, the willingness to learn about an individual is more important than any field of specialization. Remember! We do not serve a diagnosis. We serve individuals. You don't necessarily need to know a thing about a person's disability, but you need to know a lot about the person! Learn about their needs, experiences, and dreams. Help them pursue God's heart and discover God's will for their life.

3. A desire to serve

Do you struggle to recruit volunteers? It's worth considering your "sales pitch." When a leader seeking volunteers says, "Does anyone want to serve in our disability ministry?" the listener might hear, "Is anyone here an expert on disability?" Instead, highlight the joy in what God is doing in and through people with disabilities in your church and invite people to join what he is doing! Explain that anyone with a heart to help others grow in Christ and a willingness to learn is the perfect volunteer.