

Disability Ministry: Lord Can I Do This?

Speaker: Brenda Fischer

I. Requirements for Disability Ministry

A. A heart for the hurting

1. Humble Spirit (Ephesians 4:2)
2. Genuine care for the souls of those affected by disability
3. How does compassion and love in the church look different from other helping organizations?
4. Roadblocks
5. God is able.

B. Trust that God will provide all that you need. (Philippians 4:19)

1. Pray for wisdom and direction and for needs to be met.
2. Take people as God brings them to you.
3. Don't get caught up in the enormity of recommendations and challenges.

C. Earnestly believe and teach that God is sovereign in disability. (Exodus 4:11,12)

1. Questioning God's plan
2. Go back to the Word. (John 9:1-3)
3. God's plan may not mean a perfectly ordered classroom.
4. Children with disabilities are a blessing and indispensable. (I Cor. 12:21-22)
5. His strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor. 12:9)

Disability Resources

Helpful books for understanding God and suffering

A Lifetime of Wisdom Embracing the Way God Heals You - Joni Eareckson Tada
Trusting God (Even When Life Hurts) - Jerry Bridges
The Invisible Hand of God - RC Sproul
How Long O Lord - D A Carson
When God Weeps - Steve Estes, Joni Eareckson Tada

Disability Ministry practical tools

Books

Same Lake Different Boat – Stephanie Hubach
Special Needs Special Ministry – Jim Pierson, Louise Tucker Jones, Pat Verbal
Autism and Your Church – Barbara Newman
Exceptional Teaching – Jim Pierson

Booklets

Give them Jesus Evangelizing Children with Special Needs - Pat Verbal*
All Things Possible Calling Your Church Leadership to Embrace Disability
Ministry – Stephanie Hubach*
Practical Pathways Reaching and Training Volunteers for Ministry with
Special Needs Children – Pat Verbal*
So My House Will Be Full A Guide to including People with Disabilities in
the Church – Paul Dicken, Jane Young, Sheena Baird*
Ministering with the Family Experiencing Disability**
Basic Disability Training for Christian Education Teachers**
Including Students with Emotional and Behavior Problems**
Including Students with Autism**
Including Students with Learning Disabilities**
Including Students with Mental Retardation**

* Available through *Joni and Friends* www.joniandfriends.org

** Available through *CCFH Ministries* www.ccfh.org