

OVERVIEW OF DISABILITIES

CONDITION

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

HOW TO HELP

AUTISM

- Limited eye contact or facial expressions
- Hard time establishing friendship with peers
- Have limited interest in activities or play
- Can lack empathy
- Delayed in their ability to talk. 40% do not talk
- Repeat phrases they've previously heard
- May have stimming behaviors.

- Give cues to start a conversation
- Take interest in their interests
- Create and refer to a schedule
- Be sensitive to loud or over-stimulating activities. May need a break
- Let them initiate touch



ADD/ADHD

- Are often inattentive to details and have difficulty paying attention.
- May seem to not listen.
- Have difficulty organizing or completing activities.
- Easily distracted.
- Frequently forget the schedule or what is expected.
- May fidget or squirm or talk excessively.
- May blurt out answers and interrupt.

- Break down the task
- Allow opportunities for movement
- Provide a copy of the schedule
- Use verbal cues
- Limit distractions.



DOWN SYNDROME

- Have an extra chromosome that causes a congenital birth defect.
- Have distinct physical features, which may include being short and stocky, slanted eyes, short pudgy hands and enlarged tongue.
- May have heart defects.
- Commonly have issues with sight or hearing.
- Speech may be difficult to understand.
- Will have some intellectual disability

- Be familiar with their level of intellectual disability and encourage appropriate behavior
- Take care and supervise activities that may be strenuous on the spine or neck

BRIDGING THE GAP

Special Needs and the Church

KEY TRUTH FROM THE GREAT BANQUET

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION



OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Remove Obstacles

- Physical
- Safety
- Sensory
- Social
- Learning
- Attitude

Provide Support

- Know the Person
- Be aware of the Conditions
- Practice Disability Etiquette
 - Assume the person can do the thing.
 - Ask to offer help and respect the answer.
 - Treat newcomers like they are one of the group.
 - Make eye contact and acknowledge the person.
 - Speak to the person directly.
 - Let the person finish talking before you speak.
 - Respect bodily autonomy.
 - Do not pet service animals before asking.
 - Adjust your posture and eye level.
 - Use person-first language.
 - Avoid negative language
 - Don't ask intrusive questions before you establish a friendship.
 - Do not place people with disabilities on a pedestal.
 - Don't tell someone how they should think about their disability.
 - If you make a mistake, apologize, and move on.

WHAT THINGS NEED TO CHANGE IN MY ATTITUDES, ACTIONS AND WORDS WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES?

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CEREBRAL PALSY

- They have a non-progressive birth defect that impacts muscle control and coordination.
- Will have very stiff muscles.
- May have uncontrolled movements.
- Are prone to seizures and problems with breathing, bladder/bowel control and oral hygiene.
- Have a wide range of abilities depending on what part of the brain is affected.

- Don't make sudden movement or loud noises around them
- Watch for signs of seizures
- Ask caregivers specific care questions
- Pay attention to eating instructions
- Free the path of obstacles

VISION IMPAIRMENT

- May have been born with reduced sight while others may acquire an eye condition that deteriorates with age. Can be caused by an accident or because of a disease like diabetes.
- Rely on senses other than sight to perceive the world around them.
- May need special lighting, larger print, magnifiers, special glasses, braille or other "tactile" ways of learning.
- May use a guide dog or can get around independently.

- Identify yourself
- Get their attention before talking
- Let them take your arm when assisting
- Guide hands to railing when going up stairs
- Paint word pictures
- Provide a barrier free walking path

HEARING IMPAIRMENT

- Cannot understand or have trouble understanding speech through their ears.
- Can range from mild to profound.
- May speak, speech-read (lip read), or use sign language
- May not consider English as their first language
- Often use an interpreter to facilitate comprehension and communication.
- May have hearing aids that need extra care

- Gently tap them on the shoulder or wave your hand to get attention
- Look directly at those who lip-read
- Speak directly to the person even with interpreter
- Assist with proper care of hearing aids.

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PANIC ATTACKS

- Overwhelming sense of doom
- Intense fear
- Sweating and chills
- Shaking
- A pounding heart, difficulty breathing
- Head and chest pain
- Possibly dizziness

- Remain calm and get them to a safe place
- Reassure campers that you won't leave them and the truths we know about God.
- Sing songs or quote helpful scriptures
- Do not diminish their feelings
- Help them become grounded
- Realize they will be tired afterwards and let the rest if needed
- Find help if you need it.



THINGS TO REMEMBER WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTELLECTUAL DISORDERS

- This person can become your friend
- They are a concrete learner
- May have a short attention span
- Can learn new information and skills
- May have difficulty transferring what they learn to different situations
- Can do many things but may need adaptations
- Can communicate in various ways

LABELS CAN BE LIMITING, SO REMEMBER...

Respect us as individuals and friends.

- Use PEOPLE first language
- Treat us in an age-appropriate manner. Speak respectfully not condescendingly.
- Figure out like and dislikes and share life WITH me.

Learn to communicate with me

- Do not refrain from talking with us even if we don't communicate verbally.
- Realize we may understand more than we can communicate.
- Figure out how we each get our point across on our terms.
- Ask others if you don't understand.
- Realize we may say things "out of the blue."
- Listen, even if we repeat ourselves fifty times.
- Guide us in knowing how to interact socially.
- Allow extra time for us to process and respond.

Share day-to-day life

- Simplify tasks and create opportunities for success.
- Model what is expected and provide praise.
- Plan for and go at our pace, not yours.
- Don't just do it "for me." Set me up to be successful "on my own." Give the least amount of assistance needed to accomplish a given task, such as verbal prompts or tactile prompts.

Help us to have fun

- Prepare us for change in activity or routine.
- Give choices but limit how many options there are.
- Give instructions in the spot where you want us to follow them.
- Remember, this is our vacation.
- Find a way to get us involved in whatever is going on.
- Enjoy things WITH us.

Walk with us through the day

- Stick with routine – it works best!
- Change activities frequently.
- Make all instructions clear and concise. Give them one at a time.
- Watch to see if things are getting done – and getting done appropriately.
- Redirect our attention to appropriate activity when we get distracted.

Help us learn new things

- Use simple words and sentences.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat! And check for understanding.
- Use a variety of methods and involve our senses.
- Don't give up. We will eventually "get it."
- Acknowledge and praise success.
- Teach us from your life as we teach you from ours.
- Help us apply what we learn to other life situations.

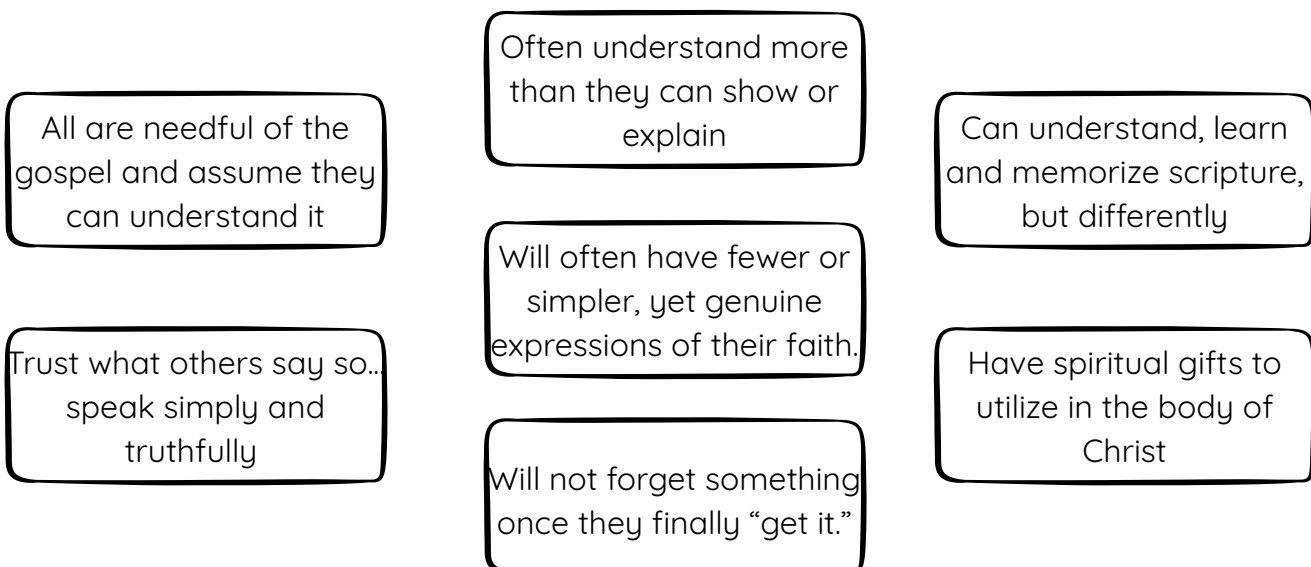
DISCIPLESHIP & BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE CHURCH

Spiritual Encouragements for those with Intellectual Disability

DISCIPLESHIP

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1. Model Openly | Do people see Christ in you? |  | What you DO will always shout louder than what you say! |
| 2. Build Meaningful Relationships | Do people know that you care? |  | How are you spurring others on to love and good deeds? |
| 3. Share Truth Consistently | Do people hear you talk about God or to Him? |  | Is there enough evidence to “convict” you of belonging to Christ? |
| 4. Listen & Respond to Questions Carefully | Be ready to give a simple answer |  | You are His voice. Make it your message clear. |
| 5. Challenge Appropriately | Challenge untruth or unbiblical thinking |  | Gently and carefully point out what God says in the Bible. |

SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS



SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS

Everything begins
with God.



Genesis 1:1
John 3:16

- God created everything and He said it was good.
- God loves us.
- God wants us to have a relationship with Him.

We all have a
problem: SIN!



Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23

- Sin is anything that goes against God's law in thought or action.
- We all sin.
- Our sin separates us from God.

Jesus paid the price
for our sin.



Hebrews 9:22b
Romans 5:8

- There is nothing we can do to cover the price of our sin.
- God sent His son to die a painful death to pay for our sins.

Faith in Jesus saves
us. We are changed
forever.



John 1:12
Romans 10:9

- If you believe that Jesus died for your sins and you want to live to honor Him, YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD.

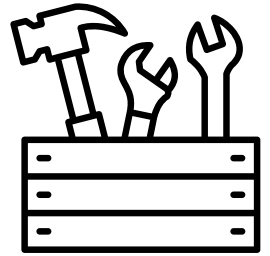
Love Jesus
Know Him more
Serve Others



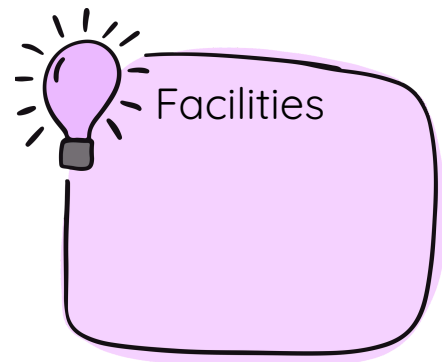
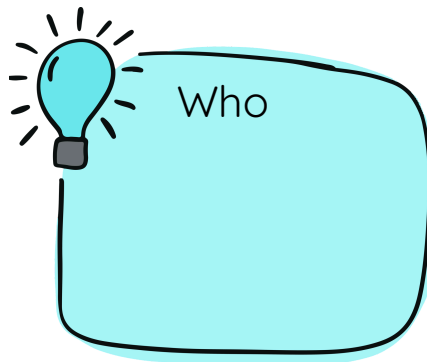
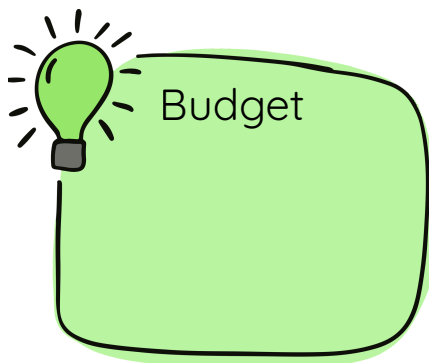
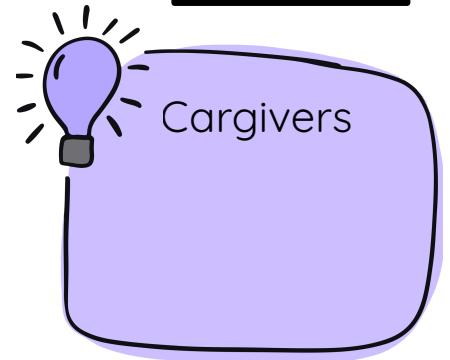
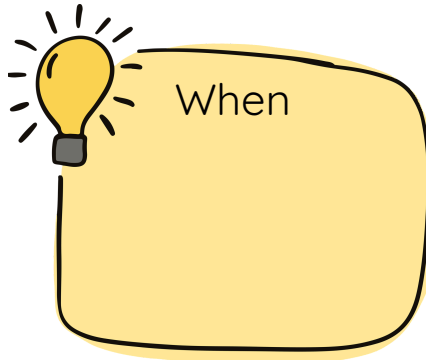
Matthew 22:37-39
Ephesians 4:32

- Love God by worshipping Him, reading the Bible and praying.
- Love others by telling them about Jesus and showing kindness.

LEADERSHIP TOOLBOX



Initial Considerations



Staffing Needs

Onboarding Process

Personal Invitations

Common Barriers

Programming

Building Relationships

- Be Curious
- Be Encouraging
- Allow Others to Speak into YOUR Life
- Beyond the Club