



# Irresistible Church Training

*For Disability Ministry*

Presented by



**joni&friends**

## Start with Hello Presentation Outline (Individual Church Training)

## How to Use:

This script lays out suggested talking points and content pulled directly from the specific book/resource highlighted. Here are a few things to know before you begin to use these scripts:

1. **Bold Type** is what you say. *Italic type* are suggestions and instructions.
2. The script is laid out with wide margins for easier reading without too much side to side eye movement. Sentences and paragraphs are broken up by phrasing and suggested pauses. = indicates a thought, phrase, or slight pause. • indicates the next slide.
3. In the *Italics* you will find suggestions for customizing the material with personal stories or examples.
4. Please retain the Irresistible Church logo and the Joni and Friends logo on each slide, with the exception of slides added for your church's purposes.
5. The first 3–5 slides will be similar in each presentation to allow you consistency in introducing yourself, the topic, Luke 14, and a definition of an Irresistible Church. If you are doing more than one session in a day, we suggest you present these slides in the first session and eliminate them in later presentations on the same day. (*You could also use them to encourage participation, or “test” the audience and ask them to describe the Luke 14 Mandate or to define an Irresistible Church*)
6. We have added suggested resources for each presentation. If you would like to purchase these, please visit [joniandfriends.org](http://joniandfriends.org).

## **Start with HELLO Presentation Outline:**

**Main objective:** To give an overview of how to start a disability ministry and explain the five steps: ask, listen, plan, train, and launch.

**Suggested supplies:** *Bible* with all passages marked, copy of *Start with Hello* book or PDF for each participant, Family Ministry Profile (found in supplemental resources), PowerPoint in handout form, pens for each person.

### **Suggested resources to accompany *Start with Hello* training:**

*Joni: An Unforgettable Story*  
*Beyond Suffering Bible*  
*Real Families, Real Needs*  
*Another Kind of Courage*  
*Same Lake, Different Boat*

## SLIDE 1 - The Irresistible Church Series



*(Use this slide while people arrive. You can choose to play some music in the background while the class arrives, gets settled and prepares for the session. If you want to add*

*music to this presentation, go to Insert → Media → Audio/Audio on my PC. Choose the song and it will add a small music icon that you can place in the corner. You can customize the settings by clicking play back. Here's how you do it: Click the music icon on the slide, then click playback from the menu. All your options are here.)*

## SLIDE 2 - Start with Hello



*(When you are ready to begin click to this slide. The music should stop so that you can begin presenting. This is a great place to share why you are conducting this training.*

*Focus on the heart of the ministry, and what you hope to accomplish through today's training!*

## SLIDE 3 - Luke 14:21, 23



*(It is nice to begin the presentation with an open Bible. God's Word is at the heart of everything we do!)*

**OPEN YOUR BIBLE:** Read Luke 14: 21-23

**Luke 14 shares the story of a man giving a banquet, providing a glimpse into God's heart for all people.**

**Through this scripture we see that God's desire for those who have been marginalized is to**

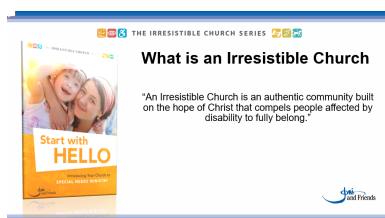
- = be fully welcomed and**
- = embraced by the church, just as this man insisted those with disabilities**
- = join him at his banquet.**

**Why?**

**According to the Bible**

- = Every person has equal worth and value because we are created in God's image.**
- = Each person is an indispensable part of the Body of Christ with unique gifts and abilities (*Read I Corinthians 12*)**
- = Every part (every person) is necessary for the body (the church) to function as God intended**

#### **SLIDE 4 - What is an Irresistible Church?**



**The definition for an irresistible church evolved as a response to God's heart and desire for those that have been marginalized.**

*(Read Together)*

**“An Irresistible Church is an authentic community built on the hope of Christ that compels people affected by disability to fully belong.”**

*(Repeat)*

**As a body of believers, we want to use Jesus as a model**

- = to create a church family that compels people with disabilities to come in**
- = so that His house may be full.**

**Close your eyes right now and imagine with me what this might look like. Keep them closed and listen to my words:**

**Instead of creating another program, let us think for a moment what the church might look like if everyone,**

- = regardless of special needs, or extraordinary abilities**
- = were embraced as a fully functioning member of the body of Christ.**
- = Regardless of Cognitive processing, verbal communication,**
- = behavioral struggles, or physical ability,**
- = each member would be valued as a person,**
- = flawlessly created in the image of God.**
- = Would this church be irresistible?**
- = Could this be our church?**

**What would this church say to anyone who is skeptical that there is a place for them in God's family?**

- = What about the unemployed father and his family,**

- = **the addict,**
- = **the young mother going through divorce, the chronically ill, the widowed,**
- = **the young single girl searching for God's purpose in her singleness,**
- = **the perfectionist,**
- = **the young adult dealing with a mental illness who needs acceptance...**

**This would be the church of Luke 14,**

- = **where people are urged and compelled to come in.**
- = **This is easy to think about, but it requires real change. And that's hard.**
- = **To simplify this a bit, there are two things that people affected by disability overwhelmingly agree that they desire from the Church.**

- 1. Accessibility to existing structures, programs and people.**
- 2. Acceptance and a sense of belonging extended from others within the church.**

**Sounds simple enough, so how do you start?**

**You simply Start with Hello...**

## SLIDE 5 - Agenda

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES



**Agenda**

- Definitions
- The Journey
  - Step 1: Ask
  - Step 2: Listen
  - Step 3: Plan
  - Step 4: Train
  - Step 5: Launch
- Blessings

Start with Hello

**In the next 30 minutes we will begin by looking at definitions of terms.**

**We will go on a journey through the 5-steps our church is taking to begin a disability ministry.**

- = **ask,**
- = **listen,**
- = **plan,**
- = **train, and launch.**

## SLIDE 6 - Fruitful Ministry

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**Fruitful Ministry**

<p><b>Ministry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A person or thing through which something is accomplished</li><li>• Not simply a program</li></ul>	<p><b>Fruitfulness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biblical fruitfulness involves:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Birth</li><li>• Fruit of the Spirit</li><li>• Sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.</li></ul></li></ul>
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Start with Hello

**We all want to have a fruitful ministry, right?  
But what is that?  
And do we know it when we see it?**

- **Ministry is a person or thing through which something is accomplished.**
  - = **It is NOT just a program. Many people might think of ministry as the programs that the church offers,**
  - = **but in reality, ministry is just the avenue to achieve the goal.**
  - = **It's how something gets done.**




- = **So, from the very beginning of this presentation, I want you to release your thinking that special needs ministry is another set of programs for your church.**
- = **Programs may be a part of it. But they are not the ministry.**
  
- **Fruitfulness is the biblical term**
  - = **it involves new birth of an individual raised to life by the grace of Jesus Christ,**
  - = **we can see the fruitfulness when we see people experiencing the fruits of the spirit.**
  - = **The ultimate goal of fruitful special needs ministry is eternal.**
  - = **That ALL would know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. That is Fruitful Ministry.**

## SLIDE 7 - Step 1: ASK

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**Step 1: Ask**

- Ask God
- Ask Church Leadership
- Ask the people you are aiming to serve



### Ask God:

- **Ministry should always begin with prayer. We are asking God to provide**
  - = **volunteers,**
  - = **the families that need to be served, and**
  - = **for God to be present in the midst of our planning process.**

**How does Disability Ministry fit in with the mission of the church?**

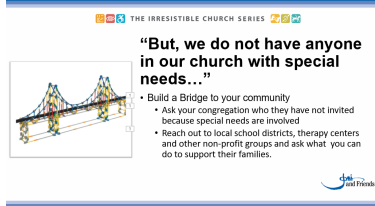
- **What is the church's mission statement?**  
*(Describe how your church's mission statement includes serving families affected by disability.)*

**We are asking the people we aim to serve:**

- **How will we find out what is prohibiting families from feeling welcomed in our church?**
  - = **or what environment is best for an eight-year-old girl with Down syndrome,**
  - = **or what her family might need,**
  - = **or a teen boy with autism,**
  - = **or maybe a nonverbal adult.**
  - = **How will you know if they know Jesus?**
  - = **You ask.**
  - = **This requires face-to-face, sincere conversation with an individual about their family's needs. And it will be an ongoing conversation!**
- **Talk about the why behind asking: Disability ministry, as with any ministry, is about meeting the needs of people. If we don't ask them about their needs, it's impossible to know how to serve them best.**

*(Tell a story from your experience, or use the story of Michelle from the book, pg. 18-19)  
Click this link: [Family Ministry Profile](#) to access the handout found on the Irresistible Church site, and explain how and why we use it.)*

## SLIDE 8 - BUT...



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**“But, we do not have anyone in our church with special needs...”**

- Build a Bridge to your community
- Ask your congregation who they have not invited because special needs are involved
- Reach out to local school districts, therapy centers and other non-profit groups and ask what you can do to support their families.

Join the Team

## **BUT.... We do not have anyone in our church with Special Needs!**

- **We have heard this more than once and the REAL question is**
  - = **“Why not?”**
  - = **In 2016 the U.S. Census Board reported that 12 of every 100 people in the US has a disability. (*Do some quick math for your city. How many people with disabilities will there be in your area if the national average holds?*)**
  - = **If those with disabilities are not in our church, where are they?**
  - = **It is likely that there are those in your congregation who have connections with families with special needs but have not invited them.**
  - = **That is the question you need to ask your congregation,**
  - = **“Who have you NOT invited because of the special needs that are involved?”**
  - = **“Who did they want to invite to VBS, or Sunday School but were uncomfortable?”**
  - = **You might be surprised at the answer and how many families they know in the area.**

## SLIDE 9 - Step 2: Listen

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**Step 2: Listen**



- Part of asking is listening
- Listen to church leadership
- Listen to the families you are aiming to serve

Start with Hello

### How can disability ministry become fully embraced in our church?:

- = *Discuss the following questions:*
  - *How can our ushers and greeters best serve new families affected by disability when they arrive?*
  - *Who in our Children's Ministry will determine the needs of a child with a disability when they arrive?*
  - *Is there space for a quiet room for a child who needs a break?*
  
- = **We want to listen to the families we are aiming to serve:**
  - **Listen to their stories**
  - **Listen to their needs**
  - **Try to set up a 1-on-1 meeting with each family/caregiver**
  - **Do NOT go into a conversation with an outcome already in mind (*If you've already done this, and it seems appropriate, share that story!*)**

## SLIDE 10 - Step 3: Plan

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**Step #3: Plan**



- ☐ It takes a team!
- ☐ Start Small
- ☐ People not Programs
- ☐ Long-term planning

Start with Hello

- **So what's the plan?:**

- *How this ministry will support the church's existing mission and vision*
- *How the church's existing mission and vision will support your ministry*
- *Using the data from Step 1 and 2, form a plan of action to address the needs currently in the church.*
  
- **Our plan for success:**
  - **Start small by simply seeing a need and working to meet it.**
- **We focus on people, not programs:**
  - **Ministry is NOT about designing programs but instead focuses on meeting the needs of people. (Maybe share a story about a need that could not have been met by a specific program)**
- **Long-term planning:**
  - **Remember that people affected by disability are going to grow and mature. Make sure that there are ways for them to continue to be plugged into the church community accordingly.**

## SLIDE 11 - Decision Filter

 THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES 

### Decision Filter

How will this person and this person's family best meet Jesus, grow in grace and serve with their God-given gifts while fully participating in the Body of Christ?



**Use this statement as a filter for each decision you make. Will it draw people closer to Jesus, encourage discipleship, and service?**

*(At this point you may want to invite discussion about this. Ask your audience to think of a program or something they do at their church and see if it holds up under this scrutiny. You can have them*

*discuss this in small table groups and then have someone share.)*

## SLIDE 12 - It Takes a Team



**This involves a team.** (*Edit this slide to fit with your church's leadership structure. Often visualizations such as the one we've provided will help your volunteers gain confidence by knowing who to ask about their needs, questions, and concerns.*)

### **To succeed, we need the support of the families we serve!**

- = **In the same way that your team is there to serve each family**
- = **you cannot do it without support of each family you serve.**
- = **Use the tools in step 1 and 2**
- = **Ask and Listen to the parents—some may be ready to help and serve with you**
- = **and some may not feel called to that.**
- = **Be Sensitive to the needs of the whole family.**

### **Your team will need Volunteer Support**

- = **Creating a team of volunteers from the very beginning will reduce the risk of burn out and leader fatigue.** (*Your church culture, size, and structure will dictate the type of team you develop*)
- = **These volunteer positions are not meant to overwhelm**

= **but to give you an idea of what roles are needed.**

*(Look at your ministry and determine which ones are most important to your goals. These are described on pages 42–44 in your book.)*

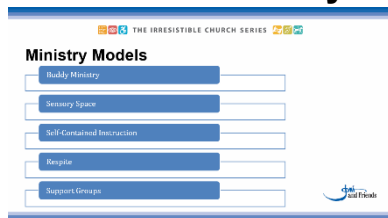
*Team Members:*

- *Administrative Coordinator (for schedules, etc.)*
- *Event Planner*
- *Buddies*
- *Trainers*
- *Consultants*
- *Prayer Warriors*
- *Mix of people affected by disability and those not personally affected*

*(This model may seem overwhelming to some of you, especially if you are a smaller church. Here is a fact:*

- *Small churches are often so integrated that needs are met*
- *and people embraced naturally and automatically as a part of the culture of the small church.*
- *Including a child with special needs in a classroom is often easier for a small church as programs are more flexible)*

### SLIDE 13 - Ministry Models



*(in this section involve your audience. Choose one person to read from the book on each of these topics. Pages 38 – 41.)*

**Buddy Ministry – One of the most common ministries to those with special needs is**

- = pairing the person with an adult or teen during typical activities of church life.
- = These buddies support those with special needs so that they can participate to their full potential.
  
- = They are not baby sitters
- = but make sure their partners are evangelized and disciplined.

**Sensory space** – this is an environment where individuals who need a break from typical sensory input

- = like worship music or loud noises
- = can have their sensory needs met.  
*(You can expand on these as interest allows.)*

**Self-Contained Instruction** – an environment where those who do not learn well in typical environments

- = can be disciplined effectively.
- = You may use this model for all or part of your teaching time.

**Respite** – this is an opportunity for caregivers to get a break

- = while allowing the person cared for
- = an opportunity for fun and friends in a safe environment.

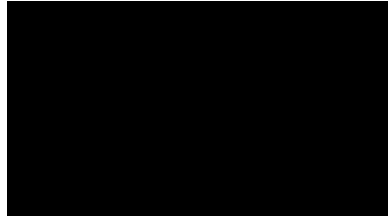
**Support Groups** – For mom and or dads to find encouragement and support from others sharing the same experiences

*(Adjust this list to fit whichever approach your church has chosen to take. You may consider including other models in the presentation to describe why you've chosen the approach that you*



*have taken, or give a broader perspective on what your ministry may grow into.)*

**SLIDE 14 - Joni's Story** (*Video begins immediately*)



*(Play Joni's It's Personal video. You can preface the slide by saying...)*

**I would like you to see how a person with a disability**

- = **who was disciplined by Christian friends**
- = **can go on to use the gifts God gave her to bring us to this place today.**  
*(play video)*

**At the lowest point in her life Joni found hope in Jesus,**

- = **the Bible**
- = **and Christian friends who showed her how to live.**
- = **Which is why you are here today. Our mission is the same as those friends of Joni who showed her Jesus all those years ago**
- = **We will equip you, the church, to serve those people affected by disability.**

**SLIDE 15 - Step 4: Train**



**We are taking time (including right now!) to train and equip you. Future topics will include:**

- = **Disability awareness and etiquette**
- = **The five W's of ministry**
  - **Why do we do special needs ministry?**
  - **Who is my supervisor?**
  - **What is my responsibility?**
  - **When do I serve and for how long?**
  - **Where does the service take place?**

*If appropriate, share a personal story of how your special needs ministry is meeting the needs of a person with a disability.)*

*(Training ideas for the congregation:*

- 1. Interview parents in front of the team for behavior training*
- 2. Invite special ed teachers to train large group, small group, and one-on-one teachers*
- 3. Train buddies on site, shadowing an experienced buddy*
- 4. Train the fellow students in disability awareness*
- 5. Various Joni and Friends resources are available to help you.)*

**SLIDE 16 - Common Fears**



*(Invite discussion on these fears and possibly ask for some additional fears that they may have. Open it up by asking them what fears*

*or "what ifs" they had when they arrived for the training. Once you get feedback, then reveal the ones on the screen. This discussion will give you information on fears you had not considered)*

**What are some of the fears or concerns you had when you got here today?**

*(allow for discussion and sharing at this point)*

*Share these possible fears*

- Everyone comes and we are overwhelmed?
- We don't have enough volunteers?
- Leadership doesn't support our efforts?
- No one comes?

## **SLIDE 17 -Step 5: Launch**



**Pick a launch date and stick with it:**

- = **Having smaller events leading up to this may be helpful.**
- = **Remember starting something is always challenging**
- = **and it is okay if everything does not go perfectly!**

**Launch like a hot air balloon:**

- = **Some people launch a ministry like a slingshot.**
- = **They do all their research, put it all together and**
- = **load up their slingshot.**
- = **Then they let it fly. Like they have one shot to hit the bullseye.**
- = **Most of the time the shot will completely miss the bullseye and could even hurt someone.**
- = **Launching a disability ministry like this**
- = **will not produce a long-standing ministry.**

**Launching like a hot air balloon takes preparation. You must**

- = **lay out the balloon,**
- = **heat it to inflate it,**
- = **fill the basket with people,**
- = **once you take off you need to search for currents, and**
- = **constantly alter your plans to the changing environments,**
- = **but once airborne, the sky is the limit.**
- = **This is the kind of ministry we want to have!**

**Make sure you have asked, listened,**

- = **planned and trained all before you launch!**
- = **Have all the steps already done so that you can slowly heat it up and rise.**
- = **Then let the Holy Spirit be your wind currents**
- = **to direct the ministry where it can go.**

**Start small and go slow and meet one need at a time:**

- = **Starting a disability ministry is not as complicated as it may sound!**  
*(Remind people they can do this!)*
- = **Start small by focusing on one need at a time and working to meet that need.**

## SLIDE 18 -The Blessings



*(Point them to 1 Corinthians 12:22-26. Close with this scripture.  
Read from your Bible)*

**In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.<sup>23</sup> And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So, we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen,<sup>24</sup> while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So, God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.<sup>25</sup> This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.<sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.**

## SLIDE 19 - Irresistible Church Site



**This presentation comes from material found on Irresistible Church.org. All the resources are free. This is a team effort, so if you'd like to read ahead in advance of the next training, check out the site.**

- = It's packed with resources, such as**
- = a blog,**
- = free downloads of books**
- = and resources for the church.**

Close in prayer...