

Disability Awareness Training Event



Hosting a Disability Awareness Training Event can be a great way to educate your church or local community on disabilities and how to better support the disability community. Below is a suggested timeline and recommended topics to help you as you plan your own Disability Awareness Training Event.

Schedule of a 1-Hour Training Event

Welcome – 3 minutes

Prevalence of Disabilities – 5 minutes

- Share current statistics on disabilities in the US from [*Disability Statistics, compiled by Cornell University.*](#)

Personal Testimony – 10 minutes

- Invite an individual affected by disability or a volunteer who serves in disability ministry to share their own experience with disability and the church.

Philosophy of Ministry – 10 minutes

- Why it is important for the church to engage in disability ministry?
- Many families affected by disability do not attend church because it is too difficult or they do not feel welcomed there.
- Biblical examples of suffering: Job, Joseph, Jesus.
- Emphasize that all people are equal and valuable in God's eyes (Luke 14, 1 Corinthians 12, and Galatians 3:23-29).

What Can We Do? – 20 minutes

- Awareness and disability etiquette (download the handout [*Disability Etiquette*](#) from the Irresistible Church book "[Start With Hello.](#)")
- What is your church doing to embrace families affected by disability and how can people help?

Q&A – 10 minutes

Closing – 2 minutes

Additional Help

For additional help planning a disability awareness training event for your church or local community, please email churchengagement@joniandfriends.org.