

- I. Three ways to look at disability, says Stephanie Hubach:
 - A. A _____ part of a _____ world.
 - B. A _____ part of a _____ world.
 - C. A _____ part of a _____ world.

- II. How to people with special needs fit into the church?
 - A. Not a service project.
 - B. In God's image, worthy of respect, even if severely disabled.
 - C. Their trials may have helped them develop strengths we lack.
 - D. On a foundation of grace.

- III. What to say to our kids about people with special needs?
 - A. Be polite
 - B. Explain everyone's different
 - C. Explain some differences
 - D. Choose words wisely
 - E. Eleven things disabled people want you to know:
 - 1. I have feelings, like you do.
 - 2. I have interests, like you do.
 - 3. I need friends, like you do.
 - 4. Some things I do I cannot help.
 - 5. Some things that bother me a whole lot don't bother you.
 - 6. Include me.
 - 7. Don't baby me, ignore me, or talk like I'm not here.
 - 8. Talking louder won't help.
 - 9. If I have trouble talking, wait for me to finish.
 - 10. If something I do makes you uncomfortable, tell me.
 - 11. I have value. I'm made in God's image, like you.

- IV. How to help parents of kids with special needs
 - A. Compliment them on what child does well.
 - B. Listen
 - C. Be teachable
 - D. Make specific offers of help
 - E. Don't be too quick to propose solutions.

V. Resources

Stephanie Hubach, *Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched by Disability*. P&R, 2006.

Joni and Friends supports ministry to the disabled worldwide, through international conferences, and through supplying and customizing wheelchairs (Wheels for the World). JAF also publishes books on ministry to those with disabilities, including *Beyond Suffering*, a curriculum for adults; *Beyond Suffering for the Next Generation*, for high school students, *Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities*, and more. www.joniandfriends.org

The Book About James by Julia Gray: humor, raw emotion, and wisdom for any family on a journey with disabilities. Her youngest child was born with Down Syndrome.

Websites to help you and your children understand disabilities:

- Just Like You creates films for children and teens on befriending peers with different conditions (including Down Syndrome, autism, cancer, facial anomalies, cancer) on their YouTube channel and <http://justlikeyoufilms.org>
- To understand learning and attention issues, www.understood.org
- On autism, AutismSpeaks.org, CarlysVoice.org, carlyscafe.org, autism-society.org
- DyslexicAdvantage.org covers dyslexia and other learning disabilities. It has a wonderful forum and an excellent series of videos, including "Because I'm Dyslexic."

When the person with special needs is in your family:

- *Another Kind of Courage: God's Design for Fathers of Families Affected by Disability* by Doug Mazza and Steve Bundy, Joni and Friends, 2014.
- *Real Families, Real Needs* by Joni and Friends, Focus on the Family, 2017.