



"And when they could not bring [the paralyzed man] to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him..." — Mark 2:3-4 (paraphrased)

DISCUSSION RESOURCES

When planning for Disabilities Awareness Month, many congregations have requested resources for discussion groups, Sunday Schools, or monthly meditations. Following are a few thoughts for reflection and conversation:

- "A church is not just four walls. It is the body of Christ and the family of God."
Who is the family of God?
- "'Valued' is being seen as someone who brings gifts and talents, being seen as a contributor," Ginny Thornburgh, director of an interfaith initiative for the [American Association of People with Disabilities](#).
Do we let those of all abilities contribute in our church/congregation, in experiences of worship, study, service and leadership?
- "We are called to be servants, and service is the highest possible joy."
Do you provide the opportunities so that all may serve and experience this highest possible joy? Is your congregation aware of the "We Are Able workcamp?"
- "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'" - Isaiah 40:3-5
To 'make straight the paths' is a call to remove the barriers that prevent us from worshipping together. What barriers – physical or attitudinal – need to be addressed in your congregation so that all may serve and be served?

~~ Heddie Sumner
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Disabilities Awareness Month

March 2011