

IDDM Resources

People with an intellectual and developmental disability are included in Jesus' command, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15 NIV) The resources listed here can assist congregations, families, and people with special needs. There are helps for starting a disability ministry program, locations of where such ministry is already taking place, and ideas to help both within your congregation and as an outreach to your community in serving those with special needs.



- Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM) is a partner ministry of the WELS that assists churches and schools in starting programs for people with a developmental disability. Within this link are tabs for program locations, program materials, what a program looks like, how to start a program, and who to contact for further help. tlha.org/jesus-cares-ministries
- The following books are recommended for additional help and assistance in starting a disability ministry program:
 - ["Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities"](#) is a comprehensive guide for service providers, families, and congregations to be truly welcoming communities for all people, focusing on inclusion strategies that work in any faith community.
 - ["Accessible Gospel, Inclusive Worship"](#) gives practical hands-on strategies and hope-filled stories to help us see that inclusion is more than just possible; it is essential. An imaginative and tested resource guide for the church community.
 - ["Autism and Your Church"](#) provides guidelines for nurturing the spiritual growth of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Practical ways to welcome and include individuals with ASD into the full life of your congregation.
 - ["Special Needs Parenting – From Coping to Thriving"](#) offers encouragement for special needs parents from the perspective of a mother with a child having a developmental disability. It is in a study guide format and is suggested for use with a small parent mentor group.
- Follow IDDM on Facebook: facebook.com/IntellectualAndDevelopmentalDisabilitiesMinistry/
- These are other websites that can be helpful:
 - AAIDD is a national organization that focuses on inclusion of people with an IDD into the church community and beyond. aaid.org/
 - "Faith and Disability" is a collaborative organization that provides resources and webinars. faithanddisability.org/
 - "Vanderbilt" University provides free resources and guides for Christian organizations through their religion and spirituality department that can be helpful for gaining further ideas on how to serve people with an IDD. vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/
 - "Bible App for Kids" is a free product of YouVersion that provides Bible lessons on your smart phone or i-Pad. Parents who have used this app speak highly of it, especially for those with ASD. This is a free "app" for your phone with Bible lessons for kids: bibleappforkids.com/

- Dyslexia affects 1 in 5 people. Dyslexia is a difference in the way the brain is organized. Although brain organization cannot be changed, people with dyslexia succeed when instruction includes specific teaching methods. It is the responsibility of those who teach to find methods that work for the dyslexic student. Early diagnosis and intervention is critical. These links can be helpful in discovering the early warning signs of dyslexia, and can encourage the child's parents and teachers to use strategies to help the student learn and excel.
 - For information on dyslexia, its diagnosis, and strategies for people with dyslexia, check out this site: <https://dyslexiaida.org/dyslexia-at-a-glance/>
 - Susan Barton, an expert in dyslexia, has the latest information, strategies and resources for parents and educators on her "Bright Solutions for Dylexia" website: <https://dys-add.com/>

WELS Special Ministries - IDDM

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