



*Voice of Care's mission is to equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers in their walk with Christ.*

How would you phrase it? All people have... abilities? or disabilities?

We may not want to use the label "disability" when we think of athletes, artists, political figures, teachers, any those that many would call "normal" or "ordinary" people. For many people, any disability that they have is hidden and not noticeable. Unless they make it public or someone close to them points it out, we only see ability – which shines out when there is no observable disability.

But when a person has an obvious disability—cognitive delays, hearing difficulty, unsightedness, physical disfigurement, spinal injuries or other noticeable difficulty—we tend to see only that, and any ability the person may have remains hidden. When we see that someone has a disability, we may make assumptions about that person's life, marginalizing his/her abilities, or worse still, making that person an object of our scorn and ridicule. For children, trying to fit into the society of their peer culture, the outcome can be bullying – or worse.

Our mission at Voice of Care is to assist congregations in recognizing the ability beyond the disability and to recognize the need for all people to hear the precious Gospel of Jesus, ultimately taking their place by Grace through Faith in the Family of a Father-God who holds them precious in His sight as: 1) His workmanship, created in His image for His purpose, use and guidance; and 2) a precious possession bought with the blood of His very own Son Jesus Christ who by Faith enters His Glorious Family.

As we seek to fulfill this mission among churches we recognize that the disposition to feel this way, and to carry out the mission of God, will often be more fervent if started at a young age and developed and matured throughout childhood. Thus, we have made Voice of Care's Disability Awareness Day kit available for download.

"Celebrating Awareness" is a Disability Awareness Day, where through a series of hands-on exercises students can experience the difficulties many persons face in their lives and some of the ways these things may be overcome to allow the ABILITY to shine through. By sharing simulated experiences, children will come to relate to, rather than pity, peers with disability. "Celebrating Awareness" presents multiple learning stations through which the students rotate. At each station, participants can experience what having a certain disability may feel like, and what it might take to overcome it. These stations include activities for Manual Dexterity, Wheelchair Rodeo or Obstacle Course, White Cane Obstacle Course, Braille, Vision Perception, Sign Language, Disability Friends figurines and Word Play Perception

We are glad that you have chosen to promote awareness and we are happy to consult with you to make this day a great experience for all.

Together in Christ,

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