

Becoming a church for people of all abilities

Presented by Dr. Jeff McNair

Welcome and Worship

9 am. | Session #1- Defining disability

What is disability? is a question that might seem to have a very obvious answer. However, it is actually much deeper. It is said that the experience of persons with disabilities cannot be explained solely on the basis of their impairment.

So, there are other issues that need to be understood if one is to truly understand the experience of disability.

10 a.m. | Session #2 - What the Bible says about disability

There is a great deal that can be understood about disability from a biblical perspective beginning with an understanding of God's sovereignty.

This presentation will discuss specific verses leading to a cohesive, biblical understanding of disability.

11 a.m. | Session #3 - Cultural changes we need

Having discussed what disability is and a biblical perspective on disability, the next question that might be asked is "What kinds of cultural changes need to occur inside and outside of the Christian community?" This presentation will provide specific areas of cultural change that we can work towards.

12 p.m. | Lunch break - On site or at your discretion

12:45 p.m. | Interview with local director of Joni and Friends Family Retreat Director – Rochelle Humphrey.

Joni and Friends has been presenting the hope of the Gospel to people affected by disability through programs and outreaches around the world for over 40 years. Learn more at joniandfriends.org/

1 p.m. | Session #4 - Disability ministry and practical applications

Continuing to build off previous sessions, we will discuss the development of ministry to persons with disabilities. Although there are a variety of ways that ministry might be designed, there are some key characteristics that arguably every ministry should embrace. Additionally, Dr. McNair will share some information about developing curricula that could be the basis for teaching about the things of the Lord to persons with various disabilities. We will also work to understand faith development for persons at various ability levels.

2:30 p.m. | Session #5 - Family members and others affected by disability

Clearly the experience of disability is not just the experience of persons who personally have impairments but also the experience of those in their lives who love them.

What can we understand about people who have significant others in their lives who have disabilities? How can we come alongside of those persons to support them?

3:30 p.m. | Session #6 - Wrap-up and Q & A

Dr. McNair will share and answer questions that arose throughout the day.

Praise and Worship