

## **AUTISM & FAITH RESOURCES**

### **BOOKS:**

#### **Autism and Spirituality: Psyche, Self, and Spirit in People on the Autism Spectrum**

Olga Bogdashina

The author argues persuasively that the spiritual development of those on the autism spectrum is in fact way ahead of that of their neurotypical peers. She describes differences in sensory perceptual, cognitive and linguistic development that make spiritual and religious experiences come more easily to those on the autism spectrum, and presents a coherent framework for understanding the routes of spiritual development and spiritual intelligence of giftedness within this group. Using research evidence and many real examples to illustrate her hypotheses, she suggests practical ways of supporting the spiritual needs of people on the autism spectrum and their families.

#### **Autism and Alleluias**

Kathleen Deyer Bolduc

Almost everyone knows a family that has been affected by autism. What is the role that faith plays in helping families cope? In this series of slice-of-life vignettes, God's grace glimmers through as Joel, an intellectually challenged young adult with autism, teaches those who love him that life requires a childlike faith, humility, trust, and forgiveness.

#### **A Place Called Acceptance: Ministry With Families of Children With Disabilities**

Kathleen Deyer Bolduc

The book describes how to welcome and minister to families of children with disabilities. The author discusses theology and disability, the grief process some parents experience, and the impact of disabilities on family systems.

#### **Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families & Congregations**

Eric Carter

This book addresses how faith communities, service providers, and families can work together to support the full participation of individuals with disabilities in the faith community of their choice. Topics include: rationale for including and supporting people with disabilities within a faith community; the importance of collaboration among faith communities, service providers, families, and individuals with disabilities to establish and maintain supports; specific ideas for including individuals with disabilities and for developing a network of religious groups, service providers, and families to make faith communities more inclusive.

#### **The Good Shepherd & The Child: A Joyful Journey**

Sofia Cavalletti, Patricia Coulter, Gianna Gobbi, & Silvana Q. Montanaro, M.D.

The Good Shepherd and The Child offers parents and educators a gentle way to enter into and honor the genuine spiritual life of children. The constant message of this book is that children's natural openness to and wonder at God's presence can be nurtured by caring adults who listen, pray, and journey with them in faith.

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**

**Inclusion Handbook: Everybody Belongs, Everybody Serves**

Edited by Terry DeYoung and Mark Stephenson

A guide for inclusion and disability advocacy within the church. Each chapter provides tips that are easy to understand and easy to implement, giving church leaders tools for encouraging all congregation participants to use their gifts for God's glory. Topics include etiquette, grief, preventing negative behaviors, autism, deaf/hard of hearing, visual impairment, mental illness, mobility impairment, dementia, intellectual disabilities, and chronic or terminal illness.

**Leading a Special Needs Ministry: A Practical Guide to Including Children and Loving Families**

Amy Fenton Lee

This book serves as a practical "how-to" handbook for the family ministry team working to welcome one or 100 children with special needs. Easily referenced guidance is offered for expressing care for parents who are learning that their child has a diagnosis all the way to developing programs, policies and education for volunteers working with children with disabilities. Example ministry documents are provided throughout this resource guide

**Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched by Disability**

Stephanie O. Hubach

When the church attempts to function without all of its parts, the body of Christ becomes disabled. *Same Lake, Different Boat* is a transformational work--designed to renew our minds to think biblically about disability in order that our lives, our relationships, and our congregations might wholly reflect Christ.

**The Child with Autism Learns the Faith: Bible Lessons From the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea**

Kathy Labosh

With a little patience and a lot of prayer, you can easily implement this ready-to-go lesson plan for teaching the faith to children with autism within your community.

**McGuire Memorial Awakening Spiritual Dimensions**

William L. Gillum, OFM Cap., M. Ed.

A program for individuals with severe mental and physical disabilities and their caregivers are given the tools and the opportunity to awaken the Spirit of God within them. The book begins with a presentation on the purpose and methods used to allow its participants to evoke, awaken, and intuit the love and presence of God during a time of prayer. The somewhat contemplative prayer services of *Awakening Spiritual Dimensions* use a sensory-based model allowing symbols, sight, sounds, aroma, touch, and people to bring about a sense of the sacred to all who have gathered for prayer.

**A Guide for Special Education Bible Teaching-Reaching Ministry.**

Athalene McNay

Educationally, spiritually and experience based; a practical instructional guide and inspirational resource written for church leaders, Sunday school teachers, and families with disabilities.

### **Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Barbara J Newman

Autism and Your Church offers practical ways to welcome and include individuals with ASD into the full life of your congregation. This resource will enable church leaders to:

- appreciate those with ASD as persons created in God's image.
- learn about six common areas of difference in individuals with ASD.
- discover ten strategies for including people with ASD in the life of your church.
- develop an action plan for ongoing ministry with children and adults who have ASD.

A reproducible resources section includes interview and permission forms, a coordinator's job description, a sample Individual Spiritual Formation Plan, and more.

### **Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities**

Barbara J Newman

Children with disabilities are part of God's family, but people don't always treat them that way. In this book you'll discover how to help kids and their leaders welcome and include kids with disabilities at church or school. This revised edition contains a wealth of helpful information for understanding disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder; AD/HD; behavioral challenges; hearing, visual, and speech/language impairments; intellectual disabilities; physical disabilities; learning disabilities; and severe or multiple disabilities.

### **Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities**

Jim Pierson

The author explains the characteristics of 77 special needs diagnoses, and identifies challenges, appropriate teaching and discipline methods, and realistic expectations.

### **the AUTISM ACCEPTANCE book: Being a Friend to Someone with Autism**

Ellen Sabin

This is an activity book that provides downloadable lesson plans to be used with grades K-8 to engage children in learning to embrace people's differences and treat others with respect, compassion, and kindness.

### **Let All the Children Come to Me: A Practical Guide to Including Children with Disabilities in Your Church Ministries**

MaLesia Breeding

This book blends theory and research with practical ideas and strategies for teaching children with special needs and places it in a spiritual and Christ-centered context.

### **Autism and Faith: A Journey into Community** (available in English & Spanish)

This is a resource for clergy, religious educators, and families of autistic children to develop "inclusive spiritual supports" for autistic individuals in religious settings. The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation provided support for the project.

English: [rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/AutismandFaith.pdf](http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/AutismandFaith.pdf)

Spanish: [rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/AutismandFaith-Spanish2011.pdf](http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/AutismandFaith-Spanish2011.pdf)



### **Responding with Compassion: Ministry Models for Families Affected by Disabilities**

Debbie Lillo

Models include Sunday school, respite care programs, vacation Bible schools, parent support groups, sibling workshops, camps and church events.

### **The Snappin' Ministries "Recipe Book"**

A Guide and Workbook to start a Special Needs Parents Network chapter, specialized support and encouragement for parents of children with special needs and those living with the daily challenge of parenting a special needs child, so that they may experience the genuine love and hope of Jesus in their everyday lives.

### **Dimensions of Faith and Congregational Ministries with Persons with Developmental Disabilities and their Families: A Bibliography and Address Listing of Resources For Clergy, Laypersons, Families, and Service Providers**

Created by the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

<http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/DimensionsofFaith2009.pdf>

### **Through the Roof: A Guide to Assist Churches in Developing an Effective Disability Outreach**

This manual will explain how to prepare for a disability ministry and outreach. Includes a ministry worker's training course, plus a myriad of recommended resources.

[www.joniandfriends.org/store/product/through-roof-guide-assist-churches-developing-effective-disability-outreach/](http://www.joniandfriends.org/store/product/through-roof-guide-assist-churches-developing-effective-disability-outreach/)

### **ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE AUTISM ADVOCATE, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1999 ED.**

"The Christian Perspective" Terri Connolly: [www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/family-issues/the-christian-perspective.html](http://www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/family-issues/the-christian-perspective.html)

"The Jewish Perspective" Joshua Weinstein: [www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/family-issues/the-jewish-perspective.html](http://www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/family-issues/the-jewish-perspective.html)

### **ONLINE VIDEO**

#### **Faith Communities and Disability**

[www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2009/07/02/july-3-2009-faith-communities-and-disability/3440/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2009/07/02/july-3-2009-faith-communities-and-disability/3440/)

#### **Churches and the Disabled**

[www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2012/11/30/november-30-2012-churches-and-the-disabled/10968/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2012/11/30/november-30-2012-churches-and-the-disabled/10968/)

#### **Autism and The Church, Pt 1 & 2**

This video, broken down into two parts, discusses the characteristics of the church that should make it a place of inclusion for people with autism.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYDWurNVZVQ&list=UUspT\\_S9L\\_p8eWpyUh\\_pd-mA&index=9&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYDWurNVZVQ&list=UUspT_S9L_p8eWpyUh_pd-mA&index=9&feature=plcp)

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**



### **Autism and Faith** (30 minutes)

The video below offers a beautiful, authentic, interfaith perspective from both families and faith leaders on welcoming members with autism and their families.

**[www.faithability.org/religiondisability](http://www.faithability.org/religiondisability)**

### **YouTube: Bethesda Institute**

Presentations from 2012 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability

**[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dBd7sfo45eYwGn-bjYUjzFG4EwqvEI](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dBd7sfo45eYwGn-bjYUjzFG4EwqvEI)**

### **DVDS**

#### **Surviving to Thriving: Successfully Including the Child with Special Needs by Amy Fenton Lee**

The success of a child is closely tied to the success of a volunteer. We'll equip volunteers with tips and tactics for keeping the most challenging child engaged. You'll learn easy and effective communication techniques, behavior and management strategies, and activity adaptations that can make any children's ministry environment a meaningful experience for everyone involved.

#### **Breakthroughs: How to Reach Students with Autism.**

Karen Sewell. (Autism Society's Teacher of the Year.)

#### **A Place for All: Faith and Community for Persons with Disabilities**

An interfaith documentary, produced in conjunction with the New York Board of Rabbis, with the support of an extraordinary range of faith groups including the National Council of Churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ and the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops. Received an Emmy nomination in 2011.

### **MP3**

John Swinton, Ph.D. **A Theology of Autism.** (60 minutes)

2012 Summer Institute, Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

**[rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/SITDListingofMP3files2010and2011.pdf](http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/SITDListingofMP3files2010and2011.pdf)**

### **ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

The Religion and Spirituality Division, fostering opportunities for spiritual growth for people with disabilities

**[www.aaidreligion.org/node](http://www.aaidreligion.org/node)**

#### **Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC)**

The mission of the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC) is to mobilize the religious community to speak out and take action on disability policy issues with Congress, the President and Administration, and society at large. IDAC is a diverse, nonpartisan coalition of religious and religiously affiliated organizations whose core spiritual values affirm the rights and dignity of people with disabilities.

**[www.aapd.com/what-we-do/interfaith/interfaith-disability-advocacy-coalition.html](http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/interfaith/interfaith-disability-advocacy-coalition.html)**

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**



## **INTERNET SITES**

**All Are Welcome, A Faith Inclusion Program:** [www.allarewelcome.info/](http://www.allarewelcome.info/)

**The Bethesda Institute's "National Christian Resource Center" (NCRC):**  
[bethesda institute.org/page.aspx?pid=952](http://bethesda institute.org/page.aspx?pid=952)

**Lifeway Special Needs Ministry Resources:** [www.lifeway.com/n/Ministries/Special-Needs](http://www.lifeway.com/n/Ministries/Special-Needs)

**Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet):** [www.adnetonline.org/ADNet\\_Home/About\\_ADNet](http://www.adnetonline.org/ADNet_Home/About_ADNet)

**Congregational Accessibility Network (CAN):** [www.accessibilitynetwork.net/](http://www.accessibilitynetwork.net/)

**Disabilities and Faith:** [www.disabilitiesandfaith.org/websites/](http://www.disabilitiesandfaith.org/websites/)

**Spiritual Connections: Tip Sheets for Clergy, Congregations, and Religious Educators**  
[www.communityconnections.umk.edu](http://www.communityconnections.umk.edu)

**An Apostolate for People with Chronic Illness or with Disabilities**  
<http://cusan.org/index.php>

**LIFT: To elevate life in the "Disability Family" and connect within faith communities**  
[www.liftdisability.net/about.asp](http://www.liftdisability.net/about.asp)

**Church Access for Persons with Disabilities:**  
[www.catholicdisabilityteachings.com/](http://www.catholicdisabilityteachings.com/)

**Religious Education Resources for inclusion of children with disabilities**  
[www.silk.net/RelEd/disabilities.htm](http://www.silk.net/RelEd/disabilities.htm)

**The Inclusive Church: Helping Churches Successfully Include Children with Special Needs**  
[theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com](http://theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com)

**Special Needs Ministry Checklist**  
[ministry-to-children.com/special-needs-checklist/](http://ministry-to-children.com/special-needs-checklist/)

**The Disability & Faith Forum:** a space where churches, ministry leaders, writers, theologians, persons with disabilities, families and friends can discover what is happening in disability ministries across Canada and around the world  
[disabilityandfaith.org](http://disabilityandfaith.org)

**HeartShaper Sunday School curriculum**  
Provides resources to train teachers and adapt lesson activities so you for inclusion of children with special needs in the classroom.  
[heartshaper.com/special-needs/](http://heartshaper.com/special-needs/)

**Faith Ability Autism Resources**  
[www.faithability.org/disability/autism](http://www.faithability.org/disability/autism)

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**



### **FACEBOOK PAGES:**

*Chosen Families* [www.facebook.com/ChosenFamilies](http://www.facebook.com/ChosenFamilies)

*The Inclusive Church* [www.facebook.com/TheInclusiveChurch](http://www.facebook.com/TheInclusiveChurch)

*Snappin' Ministries* [www.facebook.com/snappinministries](http://www.facebook.com/snappinministries)

*LDS Autism Spectrum* [www.facebook.com/groups/134367146695881/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/134367146695881/)

### **MINISTRIES**

#### **Joni and Friends**

A resource for pastors, church leaders, and congregations desiring to serve and grow in ministry for those with disabilities, as well as a source of information and support for individuals and families.

[www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org)

#### **Young Life Capernaum**

Young Life Capernaum Ministries is a program of Young Life especially for kids and young adults with disabilities. Young people with disabilities have hopes and dreams, needs and fears; but, many of them feel isolated and have no one to share their struggles with and no one to encourage them and help them be all God designed them to be. Young Life Capernaum helps fill the void many of these young people face. Capernaum gives kids and young adults with disabilities the chance to have fun, make friends, develop self-esteem and begin a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Beyond Capernaum** Capernaum for young adults (age 21 or older) who have graduated from the Young Life Program.

[www.younglife.org/Capernaum/CapernaumLearnMore.htm](http://www.younglife.org/Capernaum/CapernaumLearnMore.htm)

#### **The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities**

Summer Institute on Theology and Disability offers a variety of faith-based supports.

[rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/projects/SummerInstituteonTheologyandDisability.html](http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/projects/SummerInstituteonTheologyandDisability.html)

#### **Friendship Ministries**

Books, articles, and resources, curriculum for individuals with developmental disabilities.

[www.friendship.org](http://www.friendship.org)

#### **Snappin' Ministries: A Special Needs Parent Network**

A nationwide support network for parents of children with special needs to support and encourage those living with the daily challenge of parenting a special needs child, so that they may experience the genuine love and hope of Jesus in their everyday lives.

[snappin.org/index.htm](http://snappin.org/index.htm)

#### **Rejoicing Spirits**

This is an innovative ministry which reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, friends and other supportive community members. This is done by offering a meaningful, inclusive worship and fellowship community which shares God's word and delivers His message of love. The worship service is adapted to be more welcoming to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

<http://www.rejoicingspirits.org/>

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**



### **Rhythms of Grace: Year 1: Worship and Faith-Formation For Children**

Audrey Scanian & Linda Snyder

A Eucharist-centered, gospel-based learning experience for children with special needs, especially those on the autism spectrum. Developed in the Diocese of Connecticut, it is an innovative resource designed to meet the spiritual needs of children and families living with autism spectrum disorders. Participant families gather monthly with program leaders and volunteers for sessions that are a hybrid of worship and faith formation. Rhythms of Grace helps children and their families feel at the center of a worship/formation experience that is specific to their needs and circumstances. The Rhythms of Grace curriculum distinct scripture-based session plans for a three-year cycle, as well as the background material needed to establish a successful program. Each year of the program includes 12 monthly sessions and 6 feast sessions.

**[www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=8451](http://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=8451)**

### **Faith and Light**

Communities made up of persons with an intellectual disability, their families and friends, particularly young friends, who meet together on a regular basis in a Christian spirit, to share friendship, pray together, fiesta and celebrate life.

**[www.faithandlight.org](http://www.faithandlight.org)**

### **Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International**

This ministry is committed to share the love of the Lord and to equip the church to share His love with people around the world who have disabilities, medical or mental health challenges or broken hearts so that they may become growing and serving members of the body of Christ.

**[www.hvmi.org/](http://www.hvmi.org/)**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

#### **VBS 2013 Special Friends Leader Guide**

Filled with plans to help you provide for children, youth, and adults who have special needs in VBS. The resource is divided into four major sections: Administrative Helps, Bible study overview, Children's teaching plans, Adult teaching plans. Reproducible handouts, visual masters, administrative forms, and clip art available for download.

**[www.lifeway.com/Product/vbs-2013-special-friends-leader-guide-P005490782](http://www.lifeway.com/Product/vbs-2013-special-friends-leader-guide-P005490782)**

### **AMERICAN BAPTIST**

#### **American Baptist Resolution on the Church and Ministry with Persons with Disabilities**

**[www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Disabilities-The-Church-and-Persons-with.pdf](http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Disabilities-The-Church-and-Persons-with.pdf)**

#### **American Baptist Home Mission Societies**

**[www.abhms.org/disability\\_ministries/](http://www.abhms.org/disability_ministries/)**

### **CATHOLIC RESOURCES**

#### **Vatican Message for Today's World Autism Day, 2013:"Love beyond stigma"**

**[www.zenit.org/en/articles/vatican-message-for-today-s-world-autism-day--2](http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/vatican-message-for-today-s-world-autism-day--2)**

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**





### **National Catholic Partnership on Disability**

Striving for full inclusion of persons with disabilities -- in the Church and in society. Offers a list of catechetical resources.

**[www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)**

### **National Apostolate for Inclusive Ministries (NafIM)**

Strives for every person with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities to be welcome and fully included into Catholic communities.

**[nafim.org/](http://nafim.org/)**

### **NafIM Tip Sheets and Other Helpful Materials**

Parishes, family members, diocesan ministers, congregations or communions, professionals, specialists in IDD, and all others interested in advocacy and spiritual nourishment for people with IDD are invited to share information on its "tip sheet" page, an ever-growing list of factsheets, tips and templates.

**[nafim.org/tip-sheets/](http://nafim.org/tip-sheets/)**

### **The Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators (NICE)**

The network serves as a support and resource to individuals with disabilities and their families by providing conferences, DVD and print resources, consultations, workshops and networking opportunities on the national and local level.

**[www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice.htm](http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice.htm)**

### **Opening Doors to Welcome and Justice/ Parish Guide**

Create welcoming and accessible parishes using the information and suggestions in this resource from the experts at the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. The guide contains resources to help a parish evaluate its efforts to welcome parishioners with disabilities and gather better information about disabled parishioners.

**[www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=443](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=443)**

### **Welcoming Parishioners with Disabilities**

This brochure suggests seven ways for parishioners to open wider the doors of concern, and make the parish a more welcoming and inclusive place of worship for all with disabilities.

**[www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=444](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=444)**

**Special Needs Resource Directory**, published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Department of Education

**[www.usccb.org/education/fedasst/needs4.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/education/fedasst/needs4.pdf)**

### **Guiding Principles and Strategies for Inclusion in the Literacy of Catholics with Disabilities**

Provides Catholic teachings and suggestions to assist persons with disabilities to participate more fully in the Church.

**[www.catholicdisabilityteachings.com/](http://www.catholicdisabilityteachings.com/)**

### **Saint Mary's Curriculum for Students with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities**

Sacramental preparation and Religious Education Materials for children with autism and intellectual disabilities.

**[www.autismreligiouseducation.net/index.html](http://www.autismreligiouseducation.net/index.html)**

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**



**Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program: Religious Education for Children and Adults with Special Needs to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities**

A comprehensive religion curriculum designed to help parents and catechists in their task of teaching special children and adults about the Catholic faith.

[www.comcenter.com/product/RCLB-S6900/Rose-Fitzgerald-Kennedy-Program-Religious-Education-for-Children-and-Adults-with-Special-Needs](http://www.comcenter.com/product/RCLB-S6900/Rose-Fitzgerald-Kennedy-Program-Religious-Education-for-Children-and-Adults-with-Special-Needs)

**The Child with Autism Learns The Faith: Bible Lessons From the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea**

Kathy Labosh

[www.laboshpublishing.com](http://www.laboshpublishing.com)

**Journey with Jesus: Call to Love**

Sr. Sheila Haskett, O.S.F. Suggestions for Special Religious Education for Persons Categorized as Severely/Profoundly Intellectually challenged. Topics covered: Call to Be; Call to Respond; Call to be Loving

[www.csu.bkstr.com/](http://www.csu.bkstr.com/)

**Seasons of Grace**

Brigid O'Donnell. Sacramental Preparation for Mentally Handicapped Teens and Adults.

[www.csu.bkstr.com](http://www.csu.bkstr.com)

**Welcome One, Welcome All: Inclusive Religious Education Resource Binder**

[www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice](http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice)

**All About Mass - Student Edition**

Uses limited vocabulary and simple images to explain the mass in a way that both young children and adults with developmental disabilities can understand. [www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice](http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice)

**This Is My Church**

A power point template of a church tour that you may insert digital photos of your own church to share with your child(ren) to become familiar with it. Department for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, Archdiocese of Newark.

[masteran@rcan.org](mailto:masteran@rcan.org)

**Mass - a Guide for Visual Learners**

A booklet that goes through the Mass, especially designed for children with ASD or children who are visual learners.

[www.faithmag.com](http://www.faithmag.com)

**Creative Teachings**

Find creative resources to use for reinforcing the understanding of Sacraments and teachings of Catholic Church. There are resources for readers and nonreaders, useful for learners with and without disabilities. Check out the website! Also, Creative Teaching games and activities have been granted Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur that is referenced on the website.

[www.creativeteaching.net](http://www.creativeteaching.net)

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**

**A tour of the Mass**

[www.liturgy123.com/index.php](http://www.liturgy123.com/index.php)

**Picture books, published by Diocese of Pittsburgh:**

- *My Church: A young girl shares her Catholic Deaf Community*
- *Created in God's Image: A Photo-essay on Faith, Family, and Friendship*
- *Seeing Through God's Eyes*
- *Just Like Me*
- *We Go To Mass* (geared for children with autism)
- *One Flock, One Shepherd: A Collection of Prayers by Parents of Children Who Are Disabled*

[www.rclbenziger.com](http://www.rclbenziger.com)

**RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS**

**Developmental Disabilities and Sacramental Access: New Paradigms for Sacramental Encounters.**

Edward Foley, Herbert Anderson, Dianne Bergant, & Mark Francis.

**My Picture Missal: The Order of Mass in Pictures**

[www.loyolapress.com/my-picture-missal-and-mass-picture-cards.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/my-picture-missal-and-mass-picture-cards.htm)

**Adaptive Sacramental preparation kits for special needs**

(1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation)

[www.loyolapress.com/special-needs.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/special-needs.htm)

**Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities**

Seeks to improve access to the Sacraments by persons with disabilities and to reduce inconsistencies in pastoral practice. Recognizes the call for adequate evangelization, catechetical formation and sacramental preparation programs that enable Catholics with disabilities to prepare for and receive the sacraments.

[www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=369](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=369)

**Can my autistic child receive communion?**

A response to a question asked often about children with autism in Catholic families.

[simplycatholic.net/2008/04/24/can-my-autistic-child-receive-communion/](http://simplycatholic.net/2008/04/24/can-my-autistic-child-receive-communion/)

**Sacramental Preparation Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation: Individualizing Lesson Plans,**

Network of Inclusion Catholic Educators (NICE), University of Dayton

[www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice](http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice)

**First Communion Social Story**

Helping an individual understand God's love and that receiving the Eucharist was receiving God are the main goals in sacramental preparation for the First Eucharist. Social stories are short, accurate accounts of real life situations that a person with development disabilities or social difficulties might find difficult to navigate successfully.

[simplycatholic.net/2009/02/10/first-communion-social-story/](http://simplycatholic.net/2009/02/10/first-communion-social-story/)



### **Sacraments: Gifts for All**

Confirmation, Eucharist, and Reconciliation available.

[www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice](http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice)

### **Call to Communion; Call to Reconciliation.**

Call to Service (Confirmation). Each of these also has a black line picture book for the participants.

[www.csu.bkstr.com](http://www.csu.bkstr.com)

### **CHURCH OF LATER DAY SAINTS**

**Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints disabilities information**

[www.lds.org/topics/disability](http://www.lds.org/topics/disability)

### **Mormon Identities**

A program about real Latter-day Saints as they live the restored gospel of Jesus Christ in the world today. We explore how the gospel shapes our identities in episodes dealing with our communities, culture, scriptures, doctrines, life experiences, and challenges.

- **Episode 34: Christmas with Autism**

A discussion about the joys, challenges, and solutions the Holidays can bring families with autistic and other special-needs children. Eric Huntsman is joined by special guests Robyn Anderson and Katy Steed.

[www.mormonchannel.org/mormon-identities/34](http://www.mormonchannel.org/mormon-identities/34)

- **Episode 43: Autism**

Tina Dyches, a professor of counseling psychology and special education; Robyn Anderson, a private therapist and resource coordinator; and Elaine Huntsman, the mother of a son with autism; talk about the challenges---and joys---of raising and working with special-needs children. Listen also as they discuss how wards can support families in their efforts.

<http://www.mormonchannel.org/mormon-identities/34>

### **Mormons with Autism and Asperger's**

[aspiemormon.wordpress.com/](http://aspiemormon.wordpress.com/)

### **LDS Ability**

[www.ldsability.org/disabilities/autism](http://www.ldsability.org/disabilities/autism)

### **Talk With Me: Experiences With Autism in the LDS Community**

Kathy Weatherford and Natalie Wright

This book is intended as a resource for helping families of autistic individuals of all faiths and those who care for them. Twelve families (eleven parents and one affected individual from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) share their experiences as they came to the realization there was a problem, then took steps to help their family members affected by autism.

### **EPISCOPAL RESOURCES**

#### **The Episcopal Disability Network**

An organization of the Episcopal Church. We work for the inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the church and of society.

[disability99.org](http://disability99.org)

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**

**Welcoming those with Autism and Asperger Syndrome in our Churches and Communities**

Prepared by the Diocese of Oxford to help churches welcome those with autism and Asperger Syndrome.

[www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/autism\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/autism_guidelines.pdf)

**Child by Child: Supporting Children with Learning Differences and Their Families**

**Susan Richardson**

This new guidebook for churches is designed to help integrate children and teens with learning differences—and their families—into the fabric of everyday church life. This is useable on-the-ground resource for church leaders with specific suggestions, samples, and processes for adapting curricula, training volunteers, and supporting parents and caregivers. This guide is grounded in theological principles for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of a congregation. Richardson served her fellowship with The Episcopal Church Foundation.

[www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=9257](http://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=9257)

**ISLAM**

**Islam and Disability: Perspectives in Theology and Jurisprudence**

**Mohammed Ghaly**

This book explores the position of Islamic theology and jurisprudence towards people with disabilities. It investigates how early and modern Muslim scholars tried to reconcile their existence with the concept of a merciful God, and also looks at how people with disabilities might live a dignified and productive life within an Islamic context.

**"Where Do We Go From Here?: Some Steps to Help Make Your Masjid and Community Center More Inclusive"**

[equallyable.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/ISNA\\_handout\\_combined.pdf](http://equallyable.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/ISNA_handout_combined.pdf)

**Disability in the Qur'an**

[www.scribd.com/doc/15623193/Disability-in-the-Quran](http://www.scribd.com/doc/15623193/Disability-in-the-Quran)

**JEWISH RESOURCES**

**Jewish Disability Awareness Month**

JDAM is a unified effort among Jewish organizations worldwide to use common programs to raise awareness and foster inclusion of people with disabilities, their families, and those who love them. Established in 2009, JDAM is observed during February.

**JDAM's mission is:**

- Elevate Jewish awareness of the way people with disabilities have been regarded by society.
- Encourage Jews around the world to become more empathetic toward people with disabilities.
- Urge Jews to welcome people with disabilities into their communities and personal lives.
- Unite Jewish communities to raise awareness and champion inclusion of people with disabilities.

**Jewish Leadership Institute on Disability and Inclusion**

[www.nlcdd.org/jli.html](http://www.nlcdd.org/jli.html)

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**



### **Council for Jews with Special Needs**

Council For Jews With Special Needs provides programs, resources and support to help Jews with disabilities and their families to fulfill their spiritual, cultural and religious needs.

[www.cjsn.org](http://www.cjsn.org)

### **Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities**

Program Manager: Shelly Christensen, MA, [schristensen@jfcsmpls.org](mailto:schristensen@jfcsmpls.org)

### **The Jewish Autism Trust**

The Jewish Autism Trust gives members the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and to give each other mutual support. We also organize speakers on a regular basis. The charity offers constant e-mail support and keeps members updated with information that is current to autism.

[www.jewishautism.org](http://www.jewishautism.org)

### **Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities**

by Shelly Christensen, MA

An essential resource for Jewish organizations seeking to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for people with disabilities.

[www.jfcsmpls.org/pdf/inclusionordernew.pdf](http://www.jfcsmpls.org/pdf/inclusionordernew.pdf)

### **A Guide to Funding Disabilities and Special Needs**

Commissioned by the Jewish Funders Network's peer network on disabilities and special needs, this 12-chapter ebook has important information for funders, with sections on: employment, synagogue inclusion, recreation, community living, and more. Each chapter is written by an expert in the field specifically for the funding community.

[www.jfunders.org/disabilityguide](http://www.jfunders.org/disabilityguide)

### **The Jewish Special Education Resource Guide**

Produced by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning

[jyped.org/](http://jyped.org/)

### **Who Makes People Different: Jewish Perspectives on People with Disabilities**

Available from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Department of Youth Activities  
1-800-594-5617, 212-253-5422 (fax), [booksvc@uscj.org](mailto:booksvc@uscj.org)

[www.usy.org](http://www.usy.org)

### **Matan**

Advocates for Jewish students with special needs, empowers their families, and educates Jewish leaders, teachers and communities so that all Jewish children have access to a rich and meaningful Jewish education.

[www.matankids.org/](http://www.matankids.org/)

### **LUTHERAN RESOURCES**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Disability-Ministries.aspx](http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Disability-Ministries.aspx)

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**



### **Bethesda Lutheran Communities**

Bethesda Lutheran Communities strives to become the central point of connection that unites people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities with communities and essential resources to help them live their lives to the fullest extent possible.

**[bethesdalutherancommunities.org/](http://bethesdalutherancommunities.org/)**

### **Lutheran Services in America Disability Network (LSA-DN)**

A nationwide association of Lutheran social ministry organizations serving the needs of people with developmental disabilities and related conditions.

**[lutheranservices.org/lsa-dn](http://lutheranservices.org/lsa-dn)**

### **Building a Developmental Disability Ministry**

Beginning with a "survey" of the local "landscape," *Building a Developmental Disability Ministry* guides leadership teams through all the various ministry-building stages: from planning to implementation, evaluation and ongoing ministry development.

**[www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/116013/building-a-developmental-disability-ministry.aspx](http://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/116013/building-a-developmental-disability-ministry.aspx)**

### **METHODIST RESOURCES**

**The United Methodist Committee on Disability Ministries**

**[umdisabilityministries.org](http://umdisabilityministries.org)**

### **PRESBYTERIAN RESOURCES**

**Mission to North America (MNA)**

MNA's mission is "to engage, educate, equip, and encourage PCA (Presbyterian Church of America) congregations, presbyteries, and agencies on the 'whys and hows' of effectively ministering to and alongside individuals and families touched by disability."

**[pcamna.org/special-needs/](http://pcamna.org/special-needs/)**

**Congregational Audit of Disability Accessibility & Inclusion**

This Congregational Audit of Disability Accessibility & Inclusion was prepared by the Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) leadership team, in consultation with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Disability Consultants.

**[www.pcusa.org/resource/congregational-audit-disability-accessibility-incl/](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/congregational-audit-disability-accessibility-incl/)**

**Special Needs First Steps**

Guidelines to help begin a special needs ministry.

**[pcamna.org/specialneeds/Resources/FirstSteps.pdf](http://pcamna.org/specialneeds/Resources/FirstSteps.pdf)**

*The opinions and recommendations expressed by any listed resource are those strictly of the authors and organizations themselves, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Autism Society.*

**For more information on autism and faith-based communities,  
visit: [www.autism-society.org/faith](http://www.autism-society.org/faith)**