



Irresistible Church Training

For Disability Ministry

Presented by



Shout for Joy! Presentation Outline

How to Use:

This script lays out suggested talking points and content pulled directly from the specific book/resource highlighted. Here are a few things to know before you begin to use these scripts:

1. **Bold Type** is what you say. *Italic type* are suggestions and instructions.
2. The script is laid out with wide margins for easier reading without too much side to side eye movement. Sentences and paragraphs are broken up by phrasing and suggested pauses. = indicates a thought, phrase, or slight pause. • indicates you need to click over to the next slide or animation.
3. In the *Italics* you will find suggestions for customizing the material with personal stories or examples.
4. Please retain the Irresistible Church logo and the Joni and Friends logo on each slide, with the exception of slides added for your church's purposes.
5. The first few slides will be similar in each presentation. If you are doing more than one session in a day, we suggest you present these slides in the first session and eliminate them in later presentations on the same day. (*You could also use them to encourage participation, or "test" the audience and ask them to define an Irresistible Church*)
6. We have added suggested resources for each presentation. If you would like to purchase these, please visit joniandfriends.org.

Shout for Joy Presentation Outline:

Main objective: To explain the heart behind and give practical suggestions for making worship services accessible to people of all abilities.

Suggested supplies: *Bible* with all passages marked, copy of *Shout for Joy* book or PDF for each participant, *Shout for Joy* Appendices: The 5 Stages, Accessibility Checklist, Tips for Accessible Worship

Suggested resources to accompany *Shout for Joy* training:

Joni: An Unforgettable Story
Beyond Suffering Bible
Real Families, Real Needs
Another Kind of Courage
Same Lake, Different Boat
A Place of Healing

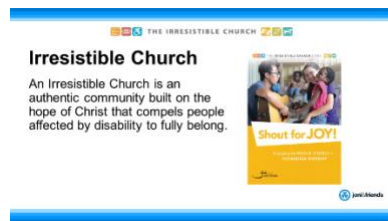
SLIDE 1 - The Irresistible Church Series



Use this slide while people arrive. If you want to add music to this presentation go to Insert, Media, Audio/Audio on my PC. Select the song and a small music icon will appear in the corner of the slide. Music should automatically begin when you start the slide show.

Use this slide while people arrive. If you want to add music to this presentation go to Insert, Media, Audio/Audio on my PC. Select the song and a small music icon will appear in the

SLIDE 2 – Irresistible Church



The music will stop when you switch to this slide. Share your heart for this training! What motivated you to lead this session, and what do you hope to accomplish?

- = **“An Irresistible Church is an authentic community built on the hope of Christ that compels people affected by disability to fully belong.”**
- = **Because the church is the body of Christ, everything we do needs to be after Christ.**
- = **We must become churches that believe the way he believed, act the way he acted, and love the way he loved.**
- = **And if Christ’s heart was for people with disabilities, then any church that is unable to include those people is a body of believers that is incomplete.**
- = **People with disabilities need Christ, and the church needs people with disabilities.**
- = **An Irresistible Church is a church that reflects God’s heart and desire for those who have been marginalized by society.**

SLIDE 3 – Shout for JOY!



Read slide

- = **Worship is a conversation between the Good Shepherd and his sheep. God speaks to his sheep, and we respond with shouts of joy, and glad hearts!**
- = **From the parking lot to the final prayer, our worship services cannot exclude people with disabilities!**
- = **People of all abilities need the church, and the church needs people of all abilities.**

You may want to share a personal story here of how a person with a disability has engaged in worship, or tell the story of Paul, transcribed below from pages 7-8 of Shout for Joy...

- = **“Paul was born with physical limitations that made it difficult for him to breathe, and he spent much of his time in a wheelchair. Paul loved to worship the Lord and lead others in worship.**
- = **While Paul was unable to physically stand in worship, his mind and spirit rose as he lifted his voice to sing his favorite hymns and songs of praise.**
- = **During a time of worship Paul asked his buddy if she would be willing to kneel before the Lord on his behalf because he was unable to get out of his wheelchair to do so.**
- = **What a powerful request! After this experience Paul’s buddy said,**

- = **“I learned a lot about worship from this young man. I am physically able to kneel before the Lord whenever I want, and yet I often do not.”**

God invites everyone to enter worship ... shouldn't we do the same?

This may a good time to refer people to the “5 Stages: Changing Attitudes” handout from the appendices. Every church and every person is somewhere on that scale, and moving towards seeing people with disabilities as co-laborers is essential!

SLIDE 4 – Our Goals for Today



- = **Creating an environment that encourages people of all abilities to worship involves two things...**
- = **A physical space that can be easily accessed by everyone, and**
- = **a community that welcomes people who may not sing, stand, or participate in typical ways.**
- = **When the structure of our worship services and the people of our churches both loudly say, “All are welcome, here,” we become truly *Irresistible Churches*.**

SLIDE 5 – To create an accessible worship service we must consider...



You may want to encourage your audience to consult the “Accessibility Checklist” from the appendices (available on Irresistible Church website)

- = **What do you need to consider for worship to be accessible to all people?**
- **Seating:**
 - = **Are there spaces for people with wheelchairs?**
 - = **Are these spaces clustered in one area, or are there multiple seating options?**
 - = **Though options will be limited, remember that no one else has “assigned seating,”**
 - = **So more options throughout the worship space is better.**
 - = **Can family members sit together?**
- **Stage:**
 - = **Is the platform area or stage accessible?**
 - = **A stage that is inaccessible sends an unspoken message.**
 - = **A stage that is accessible communicates that all people regardless of their abilities are welcome to lead the church.**
- **Visuals:**
 - = **If something is put up on a screen can both people who are standing and sitting clearly see it?**
 - = **Are there large print Bibles or Braille Bibles available to those that may require them?**

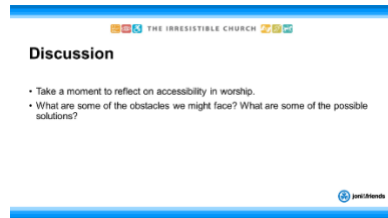
- **Audio aids:**
 - = **Aids to those who are deaf or hard of hearing may include a sign-language interpreter or**
 - = **headsets with volume control,**
 - = **and adequate lighting on the speaker for those who rely on reading lips.**

- **Training volunteers:**
 - = **First impressions are formed very early, beginning in the parking lot.**
 - = **Every member of your hospitality team should be trained on how to receive and direct people with various disabilities.**
 - = **Make them aware of services that are available.**

- **Sensory accommodations:**
 - = **For those with sensory sensitivities (whether it's visual, auditory, or even olfactory), a quiet room where the message and music can still be heard goes a long way towards avoiding sensory overload.**
 - = **This may be as simple as running the audio through a speaker to a different room.**
 - = **For those who want to participate in the main space but have an auditory sensitivity, noise-cancelling headphones can help regulate sensory input.**

 - = **Small sensory devices may also help people self-regulate when they are getting over stimulated.**
 - = **These should not be understood as distractions from the service,**
 - = **but as tools that can aid focus and minimize the distraction of sensory overload.**
 - = **Examples: stress ball, fidget spinner**

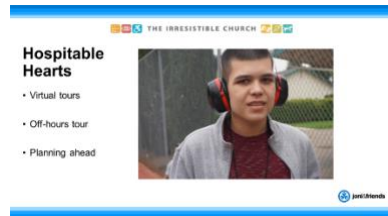
SLIDE 6 – Discussion



Break your audience up into groups or pairs to discuss these questions.

- = **Take a moment to reflect on accessibility in worship.**
- = **Discuss the obstacles and possible solutions in our church.**

SLIDE 7 – Hospitable Hearts



- = **Accessible facilities are important... but not nearly as important as hospitable hearts.**
- = **Hospitality can begin even before someone walk or rolls through the doors of your church.**
- = **A church website is a great way to extend hospitality beforehand.**
- = **By clearly identifying our church's awareness of, and willingness to help, people with special needs, we can begin being hospitable even before people arrive at church!**
- = **A few practical ideas for how we could do this...**
- **Virtual tours on the website. A video or photo gallery showing the layout of the church**

helps give families affected by disability the opportunity to feel confident walking into the doors of your Church.

- = Wheelchair users won't have to worry about running into a staircase by going down the wrong hallway, and new families won't wander through the halls looking for the right classroom!**
- = As with most things, this benefits more people than just families affected by disability!**

- Off-hours tour:**
 - = This can be another way to help families see what the building and spaces are like before they come to a service.**

- Planning ahead:**
 - = Can song lyrics, scripture references for the sermon, and announcements be available before Sunday, helping those with disabilities more easily participate.**
 - = This can be especially important for families with a person in their family affected by autism spectrum disorder or your members who are visually challenged.**

SLIDE 8 – Planning for accessible worship...



There is great variety in church services, but a few common elements are usually included.

- **Gathering**

How does your congregation gather? Sunday services, midweek worship, small groups?

- **Word**

How does your congregation engage with the Word of God? Sermons, Bibles studies, classes?

- **Response**

What does the response to God look like in your congregation? Music and singing, communion, prayer, thanksgiving, offerings?

- **Sending**

What happens after the worship service ends? How are people sent out into the world? With a prayer, a benediction, a commissioning?

SLIDE 9 – Gathering



Ask participants to think through what words are used to begin times of worship. This sets the tone for the whole worship service.

- = **By modifying our language, we can communicate an awareness of differences within the body of Christ.**

- = **For example, rather than inviting people to “stand with me,”**
- = **a simple change to, “stand with me, as you are able,”**
- = **or, “please rise in body or in spirit,” speaks volumes.**

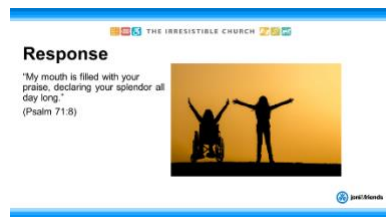
- = **Consider ways to include people with disabilities in the service**
- = **Reading a scripture**
- = **Leading a prayer**
- = **Giving a testimony**
- = **Make announcements available in multiple formats (written/verbal/projected on screens, etc.)**

SLIDE 10 – Word



- = **This is a big and important question**
- = **How do help make the Word of God accessible to people with intellectual or developmental disabilities?**
 - **Use simpler translation of the Bible like the New Living Translation (NLT)**
 - **A buddy to answer questions or simplify the message**

SLIDE 11 – Response



Modify this section to fit what your church actually does!

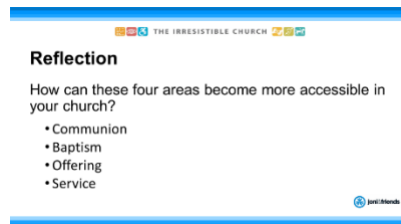
- **Communion**
 - = **Make sure taking communion is accessible to all.**
 - = **Be sure that your communion table is not set too high for a manual wheelchair user to reach without spilling grape juice or wine on themselves.**
 - = **Serve a gluten free option for people with dietary needs**
 - = **Create chances for people with disabilities to serve communion**

- **Baptism**
 - = **If your church requires a class to be baptized, make sure that you have adapted the curriculum for the person desiring to be baptized.**
 - = **Possibly meet 1-1 to work through the significance of baptism.**
 - = **A story of someone you know being baptized may be helpful.**

- **Offering**
 - = **Have ushers thought through how they can help people affected by disability?**
 - = **If the offering is received at the front or the back of the room is it accessible?**
 - = **Is the offering set up at a height that people in wheelchairs can easily reach?**

- **Service**
 - = **Are people with disabilities able to offer their time and use their gifts and abilities for service within the church**
 - = **Running the power point,**
 - = **Serving an usher or greeter**
 - = **Counting attendance**

SLIDE 12 – Reflection

A slide titled "Reflection" with a blue header and footer. The header contains the text "THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH" with small icons. The main text asks "How can these four areas become more accessible in your church?" and lists four bullet points: Communion, Baptism, Offering, and Service. The footer has a small logo and the text "© 2018 Shout for Joy".

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH

Reflection

How can these four areas become more accessible in your church?

- Communion
- Baptism
- Offering
- Service

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Invite participants to take a few minutes to write down ideas for making their worship service more accessible in these four areas.

SLIDE 13 – The Sending

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH

The Sending

- Becoming Co-Laborers



jeff@stevns

- = **Becoming co-laborers:**
- = **The church service is meant to be a time to come together and worship the Lord.**
- = **Sending helps people to be moved to action, applying what they have learned.**
- = **Are people with disabilities being included?**

SLIDE 14 – Discussion

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH

Discussion

- What are some of the ways people of all abilities are serving together at your church?
- Not happening yet, what is one step you can take?

jeff@stevns

This discussion can be done in teams, small groups, or pairs.

- = **What are some of the ways people of all abilities are serving together at your church?**
- = **What is one step you can take to help encourage this, and perhaps create opportunities for service?**

SLIDE 15 – A Benediction



- = **Worship is not dependent on our abilities but on the grace of Jesus Christ.**
- = **We need each other. We are all fellow sheep invited by the Good Shepherd to worship.**
- = **Your church can be a church where the sounds of worship include**
- = **a wheelchair rolling down the aisle**
- = **the tap of a cane**
- = **and the sound of people with differing intellectual abilities lifting their voices together in praise and prayer.**

SLIDE 16 – Irresistible Church Website



Remind your audience that Shout for Joy and other books related to serving families affected by disability are available as free downloads at IrresistibleChurch.org.

SLIDE 17 – Questions



Don't forget to fill in your own contact information.

Close in prayer.