



Irresistible Church Training

For Disability Ministry

Presented by



Start with Hello Presentation Outline

JONI AND FRIENDS 30009 Lady Face Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301

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.

Start with HELLO Presentation Outline:

Main objective: To give an overview of how to start a disability ministry and explain the five steps: ask, listen, plan, train, and launch.

Suggested supplies: *Bible* with all passages marked, copy of *Start with Hello* book or PDF for each participant, Family Ministry Profile (found in supplemental resources), PowerPoint in handout form, pens for each person.

Suggested resources to accompany *Start with Hello* training:

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

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.

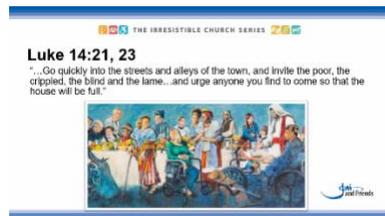
SLIDE 2 - Start with Hello



When you are ready to begin click to this slide. The music should stop so that you can begin presenting. This is a great place to share why you are conducting this training.

Focus on the heart of the ministry, and what you hope to accomplish through today's training!

SLIDE 3 - Luke 14:21, 23



It is nice to begin the presentation with an open Bible. God's Word is at the heart of everything we do!

OPEN YOUR BIBLE: Read Luke 14: 21-23

- = **Luke 14 shares the story of a man giving a banquet, providing a glimpse into God's heart for all people.**

- = **Through this scripture we see that God's desire for those who have been marginalized is to**
- = **be fully welcomed and embraced by the church,**
- = **just as this man insisted those with disabilities join him at his banquet.**

- = **Why?**

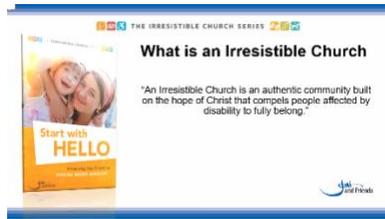
- = **Because according to the Bible**
- = **every person has equal worth and value because we are created in God's image.**

- = **Each person is an indispensable part of the Body of Christ with unique gifts and abilities...**

If you'd like, read 1 Corinthians 12:12-25 here.

- = **Every part (every person) is necessary for the body (the church) to function as God intended.**

SLIDE 4 - What is an Irresistible Church?



The definition for an irresistible church evolved as a response to God's heart for those that have been marginalized.

Read Together

- = **“An Irresistible Church is an authentic community built on the hope of Christ that compels people affected by disability to fully belong.”**

Repeat

- = **As a body of believers, we want to use Jesus as a model to create a church family that compels people with disabilities to come in so that His house may be full.**
- = **Close your eyes right now and imagine with me what this might look like. Keep them closed and listen to my words:**
- = **Instead of creating another program, let us think for a moment what the church might look like if everyone, regardless of special needs, or extraordinary abilities were embraced as a fully functioning member of the body of Christ.**
- = **Regardless of cognitive processing, verbal communication,**
- = **behavioral struggles, or physical ability,**

- = **each member would be valued as a person, flawlessly created in the image of God.**
- = **Would this church be irresistible?**
- = **Could this be our church?**
- = **What would this church say to anyone who is skeptical that there is a place for them in God's family?**
- = **What about the unemployed father and his family, the addict, the young mother going through divorce, the chronically ill, the widowed, the young single girl searching for God's purpose in her singleness, the perfectionist, the young adult dealing with a mental illness who needs acceptance...**

- = **This would be the church of Luke 14, where people are urged and compelled to come in.**
- = **This is easy to think about, but it requires real change. And that's hard.**
- = **To simplify this a bit, there are two things that people affected by disability overwhelmingly agree that they desire from the Church.**

- = **Accessibility to existing structures, programs and people.**
- = **Acceptance and a sense of belonging extended from others within the church.**

- = **Sounds simple enough, so how do you start?**

- = **You simply Start with Hello...**

SLIDE 5 – Agenda



- **In the next 30 minutes we will begin by defining some of our terms.**
- **We will go on a journey through the 5-steps our church is taking to begin a disability ministry.**
 - = **ask,**
 - = **listen,**
 - = **plan,**
 - = **train,**
 - = **and launch.**
- **And in the process, we will discover the many blessings that disability ministry will bring to our church community.**

SLIDE 6 - Fruitful Ministry



- = **We all want to have a fruitful ministry, right? But what is that?**
- = **And do we know it when we see it?**
- **Ministry is a person or thing through which something is accomplished.**
- = **It is NOT just a program. Many people might think of ministry as the programs that the church offers,**

- = **but in reality, ministry is just the avenue to achieve the goal.**
- = **It's how something gets done.**
- = **So, from the very beginning of this presentation, we need to do away with the thinking that special needs ministry is another set of programs for the church.**
- = **Programs may be a part of it. But they are not the ministry.**

- **Fruitfulness is a biblical term that involves the new birth of an individual raised to life by the grace of Jesus Christ.**
- = **We can see the fruitfulness when we see people experiencing the fruits of the spirit.**
- = **The ultimate goal of fruitful special needs ministry is eternal ... that ALL would know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.**
- = **That is Fruitful Ministry.**

SLIDE 7 - Step 1: ASK



Take time to consider how you've already done this, or how you plan on doing this! Make this relevant to your ministry.

= **Step one to any fruitful ministry?**

- **Ask God!**

= **Ministry should always begin with prayer. We are asking God to provide volunteers, the families that need to be served, and for God to be present in the midst of our planning process.**

- **Step two is to ask church leadership.**

= **We need to ask about a few things.**

= **How does Disability Ministry fit in with the mission of the church?**

= **What is the church's mission statement?**

Describe how your church's mission statement includes serving families affected by disability.

= **Third, but perhaps most crucially...**

- **We must ask the people we are aiming to serve.**

= **How will we find out what is prohibiting families from feeling welcomed in our church?**

- = **Or how will we know what environment is best for an eight-year-old girl with Down syndrome,**
- = **or what her family might need...**
- = **Or what a teen boy with autism**
- = **or nonverbal adult would need?**

- = **You ask.**

- = **This requires face-to-face, sincere conversation with an individual about their family's needs. And it will be an ongoing conversation!**

- = **Talk about the why behind asking: Disability ministry, as with any ministry, is about meeting the needs of people. If we don't ask them about their needs, it's impossible to know how to serve them best.**

*Tell a story from your experience, or use the story of Michelle from the book, pg. 18-19
Click this link: [Family Ministry Profile](#) to access the handout found on the Irresistible Church site, and explain how and why we use it.*

SLIDE 8 - BUT...



Please only use this slide if it's relevant to your church!

- = **BUT.... We do not have anyone in our church with Special Needs!**
- = **This doesn't mean there are no people with disabilities in our surrounding community.**
- = **The REAL question to ask is not whether there are people with disabilities nearby...**
- = **But WHY they're not at our church.**

- = **In 2016 the U.S. Census Board reported that 12 of every 100 people in the US has a disability.**

Do some quick math for your city. How many people with disabilities will there be in your area if the national average holds?

- = **If those with disabilities are not in our church, where are they?**
- = **It is likely that there are those in your congregation who have connections with families with special needs but have not invited them.**
- = **That is the question you need to ask your congregation,**
- = **"Who have you NOT invited because of the special needs that are involved?"**
- = **"Who did they want to invite to VBS, or Sunday School but were uncomfortable?"**
- = **You might be surprised at the answer and how many families they know in the area.**

SLIDE 9 - Step 2: Listen



This is a great section to share a story if you've already done this (in either a positive or negative way).

- = **This step might sound a little redundant after “asking,” but it’s not!**
- **Part of asking is listening.**
- **And the first group we need to listen to are the families we are aiming to serve.**
- = **What should we listen for from the families we are aiming to serve?**
- = **We must listen to...**
- = **their stories and their needs.**
- = **Asking doesn’t mean doing everything that is asked or taking as gospel everything that is shared.**
- = **Listening means understanding where a family is coming from.**
- = **Try to set up a one-on-one meeting with each family/caregiver.**
- = **Do NOT go into a conversation with an outcome already in mind**
- **Next, we need to listen to church leadership.**
- = **A sustainable, healthy ministry is going to need the blessing of church leadership.**
- = **Making sure that our ministry is in line with the mission of the church, and operating within the blessing of senior leadership is an absolute necessity.**

SLIDE 10 - Step 3: Plan



If you've already got a plan, don't just talk about the theory here! Describe what your team will be doing for each of these four steps.

= So what's the plan?

How will your ministry support the church's existing mission and vision? How does the church's existing mission and vision support your ministry? Using the data from Step 1 and 2, form a plan of action to address the needs currently in the church.

= Our plan for success:

- **Get a team together!**
- = **We need people just like you who are willing to not only volunteer in our ministry, but serve as advocates for people with disabilities in our church.**
- = **We need eyes and ears who look for ways we can actively include people with disabilities in the activities of our church.**
- = **We need people who will share Jesus' heart for people with disabilities with anyone who is willing to listen.**
- = **In short: we need passion!**
- = **But with our passion, we must also remember that we need to...**

- **Start small.**
 - = **Growth is incremental, and change happens slowly!**
 - = **Don't lose sight of the mission, and don't be discouraged if change seems to be a long time in coming.**
 - = **This is worth the effort.**

- **We focus on people, not programs:**
 - = **Ministry is NOT about designing programs but instead focuses on meeting the needs of people.**

Maybe share a story about a need that could not have been met by a specific program

- **Long-term planning:**
 - = **Remember that people affected by disability are going to grow and mature.**
 - = **The needs of a family with a young child are going to have different needs 20 years from now. Are we prepared for that?**

SLIDE 11 - Decision Filter

 THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH SERIES 

Decision Filter

How will this person and this person's family best meet Jesus, grow in grace and serve with their God-given gifts while fully participating in the Body of Christ?



- = **Use this statement as a filter for each decision you make. Will it draw people closer to Jesus, encourage discipleship, and service?**

At this point you may want to invite discussion about this. Ask your audience to think of a program or

something they do at their church and see if it holds up under this scrutiny. You can have them discuss this in small table groups and then have someone share.

SLIDE 12 - It Takes a Team



Edit this slide to fit with your church's leadership structure. Visualizations can give your volunteers confidence by specifying where they can

communicate their needs, questions, and concerns.

- = **There are three key groups that we need to coordinate for any successful ministry.**
- = **The first is church leadership. We need someone in our ministry who can work with senior church leadership to both update them on what's going on in our ministry, and make requests for space, budget etc...**
- = **The second group we need to work with are families! Someone in our ministry needs to make regular check-ins with the families we serve to ensure we are continuing to meet their needs.**
- = **The third group we need to work with... are you! The volunteers. Someone needs to be in charge of organizing and coordinating volunteer training, scheduling, coaching, and follow up.**

Look at your ministry and determine which ones are most important to your goals. These are described on pages 42–44 in your book. The following list is not in any way “mandatory,” but an example of how you might choose to structure your volunteer roles.

Team Members:

- *Administrative Coordinator (for schedules, etc.)*
- *Event Planner*
- *Buddies*
- *Trainers*
- *Professional consultants (special education/medical, etc.)*
- *Prayer Warriors*
- *Mix of people affected by disability and those not personally affected*

This model may seem overwhelming to some of you, especially if you are a smaller church. Here is a fact:

- *Small churches are often so integrated that needs are met and people embraced naturally and automatically as a part of the culture of the small church.*
- *Including a child with special needs in a classroom is often easier for a small church as programs are more flexible*

SLIDE 13 - Ministry Models



In this section involve your audience. Choose one person to read from the book on each of these topics. Pages 38 – 41.

- = **The list of ministry styles and programs listed here are far from exhaustive!**
- = **We may find all of them useful at some point, but a measure of success in ministry is how well we are serving those in our ministry.**
- = **The number and variety of ministries is not by itself a measure of health.**

Feel free to add or subtract from this list as needed! If you have ideas in place, talk about those first. Otherwise, use this list as a way to stimulate the imagination of your audience.

- = **Buddy Ministry**
- = **One of the most common ministries to those with special needs is pairing the person with an adult or teen during typical activities of church life.**
- = **These buddies support those with special needs so that they can participate to their full potential.**
- = **They are not babysitters but make sure their partners are evangelized and disciplined.**

- = **Sensory Space**
- = **This is an environment where individuals who need a break from typical sensory input like worship music or loud noises can have their sensory needs met.**

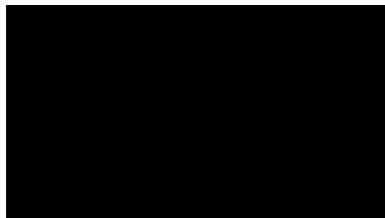
- = **Self-Contained Instruction**
- = **An environment where those who do not learn well in typical environments can be disciplined effectively. You may use this model for all or part of your teaching time.**

- = **Respite**
- = **This is an opportunity for caregivers to get a break while allowing the person cared for an opportunity for fun and friends in a safe environment.**

- = **Support Groups**
- = **For mom and or dads to find encouragement and support from others sharing the same experiences.**

Adjust this list to fit whichever approach your church has chosen to take. You may consider including other models in the presentation to describe why you've chosen the approach that you have taken, or give a broader perspective on what your ministry may grow into.

SLIDE 14 - Joni's Story (*Video begins immediately*)



Play Joni's It's Personal video. You can preface the slide by saying...

- = **I would like you to see how a person with a disability who was disciplined by Christian friends can go on to use the gifts God gave her to bring us to this place today. (play video)**

- = **At the lowest point in her life Joni found hope in Jesus, the Bible and Christian friends who showed her how to live.**
- = **And those things are universal. Every person, regardless of ability, needs the hope of Jesus.**
- = **The goal of our ministry is to share that hope and truth with those in our community living with disabilities.**
- = **You never know the impact sharing Christ will have beyond even the person you're sharing it with.**

SLIDE 15 - Step 4: Train



This section in particular should be specific to your congregation and audience. Think through creatively how you will train a team of volunteers,

communicate with senior leadership, and raise awareness in your congregation

- **We are taking time (including right now!) to train and equip you. Future topics might include:**
 - = **Disability awareness and etiquette**
 - = **The five W's of ministry**
 - **Why do we do special needs ministry?**
 - **Who is my supervisor?**
 - **What is my responsibility?**
 - **When do I serve and for how long?**
 - **Where does the service take place?**

If appropriate, share a personal story of how your special needs ministry is meeting the needs of a person with a disability.

Training ideas for the congregation:

- 1. Interview parents in front of the team for behavior training*
- 2. Invite special ed teachers to train large group, small group, and one-on-one teachers*
- 3. Train buddies on site, shadowing an experienced buddy*
- 4. Train the fellow students in disability awareness*
- 5. Various Joni and Friends resources are available to help you.*

SLIDE 16 - Common Fears



Invite discussion on these fears and possibly ask for some additional fears that they may have. Open it up by asking them what fears

or “what ifs” they had when they arrived for the training. Once you get feedback, then reveal the ones on the screen. This discussion will give you information on fears you had not considered.

- = What are some of the fears or concerns you had when you got here today?**

Allow for discussion and sharing at this point.

Share these possible fears...

- = What if...**
 - Everyone comes and we are overwhelmed?**
 - We don't have enough volunteers?**
 - Leadership doesn't support our efforts?**
 - No one comes?**

SLIDE 17 -Step 5: Launch



- = **Launching our ministry means launching with long term success in mind.**
- = **A wedding is only the beginning of a marriage, and our launch is only the beginning of our ministry.**
- = **But ultimately, we must...**
- **Pick a launch date and stick with it:**
- = **Having smaller events leading up to this may be helpful.**
- = **Remember as we begin that starting something is always challenging and**
- = **It's okay if everything doesn't go perfectly!**
- = **That's why we want to...**
- **Launch like a hot air balloon:**
- = **Some people launch a ministry like a slingshot.**
- = **They do all their research, put it all together and load up their slingshot.**
- = **Then they let it fly. Like they have one shot to hit the bullseye.**
- = **Most of the time the shot will completely miss the bullseye and could even hurt someone.**
- = **Launching a disability ministry like this**
- = **will not produce a long-standing ministry.**

- = **Launching like a hot air balloon takes preparation. You must**
- = **lay out the balloon,**
- = **heat it to inflate it,**
- = **and fill the basket with people.**
- = **Once you take off you need to search for currents, and**
- = **constantly alter your plans to the changing environments,**
- = **but once airborne, the sky is the limit.**
- = **This is the kind of ministry we want to have!**

- **We're going to start small and go slow.**
- = **We're going to begin with the needs we already have, and let the Holy Spirit be the one to guide the future of our ministry!**
- = **As the people in our ministry grow and change, so will we. As new people are brought to us, we will adapt.**
- = **Starting a disability ministry is not as complicated as it may sound!**

Remind people they can do this!

- = **Start small by focusing on one need at a time and working to meet that need.**

SLIDE 18 -The Blessings



Point them to 1 Corinthians 12:22-26. Close with this scripture. Read from your Bible.

- = **In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.**
- = **And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So, we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen,**
- = **while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So, God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.**
- = **This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.**
- = **If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.**

SLIDE 19 - Irresistible Church Site



- = **This presentation comes from material found on Irresistible Church dot org. All the resources are free. This is a team effort, so if you'd like to read ahead in advance of the next training, check out the site.**
- = **It's packed with resources, such as**
- = **a blog,**
- = **free downloads of books**
- = **and resources for the church.**

SLIDE 20 - Questions



Remember to change your contact information on this slide!

Close in prayer...