



# Irresistible Church Training

*For Disability Ministry*

Presented by



## Beyond Our Church Walls 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](http://joniandfriends.org).

## **Beyond Our Church Walls Presentation Outline:**

**Main objective:** To provide biblical and practical principles for bridging the gap between the church and people with disabilities through evangelism and outreach.

**Suggested supplies:** *Bible* with all passages marked, copy of *Beyond Our Church Walls* 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 *Beyond Our Church Walls* 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.*

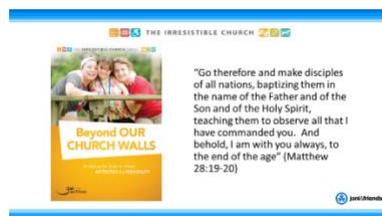
## SLIDE 2 – Irresistible Church



*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 – The Great Commission



*This is why we do what we do! You may find it helpful even to frame people with disabilities as an “unreached people group.”*

*Read Matthew 28:19-20. The slide has the verse in the English Standard Version.*

= **Bridging the gap between the church and people with disabilities is crucial to our obedience of the Great Commission given to us by Jesus.**

- = **According to the World Health Organization, there are one billion people affected by disability in the world.**
- = **And while our church won't be able to reach all one billion of them... we can make strides forward in reaching people affected by disability in our community.**
- = **Outreach is not a duty, or something that we can check off our to-do-list, but something that flows out of our relationship with Christ.**

*Remember! This outward focus can take place in a church or any size, with or without a structured disability ministry. "Disability ministry" is a means to an end: to connect people with disabilities to the Lord and Savior of all! So, whether your outreach events will take place in a stadium, or in a living room, you can be fully faithful to the mission of the church.*

## SLIDE 4 – Beyond Our Church Walls



*This is the structure of "Beyond Our Church Walls." Our purpose and posture help us define the path we take to outreach.*

- = **We'll be talking through *why* we will be reaching beyond our church walls, *how* we will speak and act, and *what* specific steps we'll be taking to get this started!**
- **The Purpose—This is our "why." Our purpose is bridging the gap between people with disabilities and Christ through evangelism.**

- **The Posture**—This is our “how.” The posture we must take is an attitude that will aid us as we share the love of Christ with individuals affected by disability.
- **The Path**—This is our “what.” This is the path we will take to accomplish our purpose of bridging the gap between our church and individuals impacted by disability in our community.

### SLIDE 5 – The Purpose: What is the Gospel?

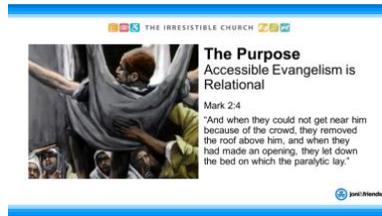


*Feel free to use your church's language here! If there's a definition of the gospel that's part of your church's mission or statement of faith, incorporate that here.*

#### *Read Slide*

- = **Although the means and methods of communicating the gospel differ in context and time, the message of the gospel remains the same.**
- = **The gospel is meant for all ages, all cultures, all abilities—it is universal.**
- = **God reached down to meet our greatest need—our sin—which separates us from God.**
- = **The gospel is more than avoiding separation from God due to our sin. The greatest gift of salvation is Christ himself.**
- = **Our purpose is to share the gospel with others, and to make Christ known to all!**

## SLIDE 6 – The Purpose: Accessible Evangelism is Relational



*Read Mark 2:1-12, "Jesus Heals a Paralytic."*

- = **Are we willing to cut a hole through the roof to get our friends with disabilities to see Jesus?**
- = **There is nothing more important than knowing Christ. And if the doorway is blocked, we need to make our own way in.**
- = **Disability ministry will require getting creative and taking risks. But the reward is hearing God say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."**
- = **Answering the call of the Great Commission is why we do what we do.**

## SLIDE 7 – The Purpose: Sharing the Gospel in Word and Deed



- = **Sharing the Gospel in word and deed is our highest calling!**
- = **We are to reflect Christ to the world because...**

- **Jesus' mission is our mission.**
  - = **As 1 Corinthians 12:27 says, "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."**
  - = **Each one of us has a role to play in the work of Christ.**
  - = **One of us may be a foot that carries the Gospel to far off places, the other may be the**
  
- **His words are our words!**
  - = **Luke 14:18-21 records when Jesus stood up and read Isaiah 61:1-2...**
  - = **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**
  
  - = **It is our role to be both the hands and feet of Jesus, and proclaimers of his message!**
  
  - = **And crucially, we need to notice...**
- **Both are needed!**

## SLIDE 8 – The Posture: Repentance and Prayer

THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH

**The Posture**  
Repentance and Prayer

- Pause for reflection
  - How has your attitude toward people with disabilities changed over time?
  - What caused that change?
- Pray God would heal wounds.
- Pray for unity and reconciliation in the church.



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*Tell a story of a family that has experienced rejection or use the story from p. 5-6*

- **Pause for a moment, and think back... how has your attitude toward people with disabilities changed over time?**
  - = **Was your view influenced by a friend? A family member? A workshop?**
  - = **As we allow God to grow us individually and as a church, we need to be aware of where we've come from.**
  - = **It helps us grow in grace towards those who are just beginning to think about issues of disability and the church, and in cases, it provides us with an opportunity to ask forgiveness where it's needed.**
  
- **With that in mind, we can also pray that God would heal wounds caused by the church, and by society as a whole.**
  - = **Just because people are new to our church does not mean they are new to "the church."**
  - = **Many people come to church carrying hurts and baggage from past experiences.**
  - = **Realizing this can help us extend grace and patience to people who may be defensive or cautious about entering into our community.**
  
- **Lastly, we can pray that God would use our church to reconcile the church to people with disabilities... and people with disabilities to the church.**

## SLIDE 9 – Moment of Reflection



*Using this slide as a guide, encourage your audience to take a moment to think through the scriptures that have most impacted their view of disability and the church. You might ask*

*them to read quietly for a minute or two, or break them into pairs or small groups for discussion.*

*In addition, we also encourage allowing time to read the two verses on the slide: 1 Corinthians 12:12-16, and Luke 14:12-24.*

- = **The gospel is good news for eternity, but it's also good news for today!**
- **What are a few verses that have impacted your view of disability and suffering?**
- = **If none come to mind, read 1 Corinthians 12:12-16 and Luke 14:12-24.**

## SLIDE 10 – The Posture: Myths about Disability



*Each of the myths on this slide are formatted in a "myth" and then "answer." The answers come directly from scripture.*

- = **There are several myths about disability.**
- **Myth one: disability is the result of specific sin.**
- = **This myth existed even during Jesus' time, and persists today, as seen in John 9:2. "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"**
- **But Jesus answers: "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."**
- **Myth two: People with disabilities are "holy innocents or special angels."**
- = **This myth treats people with disabilities as being without sin.**
- **But the truth is that all people, including people with disabilities, "have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."**
- = **We are all in need of savior! We need to be evangelizing and discipling people with disabilities.**
- **The third myth is that faith is primarily a matter of what you believe on an intellectual level.**
- = **It's common to talk about "believing in Jesus" in terms of what facts we know and can convey.**
- **But the truth is that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness.**

- = **We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”**
- = **This is great news for all of us! But this is especially good news for our friends who communicate in ways other than language, or friends who have an intellectual disability.**
- = **God can speak directly to our hearts. Our responsibility is to allow everyone to hear the Gospel in a way that they can understand.**

### SLIDE 11 – The Path: Research

**The Path Research**

- Discover where people with disabilities are in your community!
- Research public services that are in your area. Some examples:
  - Group homes.
  - Special education in public schools.
  - Government service providers.
  - Parachurch ministries.
  - Non-governmental organizations.
- Survey your small groups!

*Every area is different! But whether your church context is urban or rural, there are people with disabilities in your community.*

- **Discover where people with disabilities are in your community!**
  - = **Each of us has our own social circles, spheres of influence, and community.**
  - = **Reach out to those closest to you and start growing from there. Ministry is about relationship.**
  - = **Consider teachers, nurses, other medical professionals**
- **We can also take steps to make people aware of our church by contacting...**
  - = **Group homes. Group homes are often integrated into communities! They are normal looking houses where people with different kinds of disabilities can receive assistance while living independently. They probably won't have signs, because**

**they are exactly what their name says: they are homes.**

- = Special education in public school. Reaching out to local schools may help us find families who are experiencing isolation.**
- = Government service providers. Researching local and state government services may help us find ways to serve we never would have thought of!**
- = Parachurch ministries such as Joni and Friends and Young Life Capernaum may provide opportunities to partner and connect with people with disabilities whose only connections to the “church” are through non-church organizations.**
- We can also take steps to build connections by asking other members of our church who aren’t at this meeting!**
- = By surveying our small groups, we can increase awareness in the church, and make connections we’d otherwise miss.**

## **SLIDE 12 – The Path: Social Ramps**



- = As we get ready to receive people with disabilities, we need to prepare our church, educate our church, and coach the people in our church to be welcoming to *all* people!**

- = **Sometimes, people are so afraid to do the wrong thing that they wind up doing nothing.**
- = **By talking with our friends about the reality of disability, we can help our church become a social environment that is friendly towards people with disabilities.**

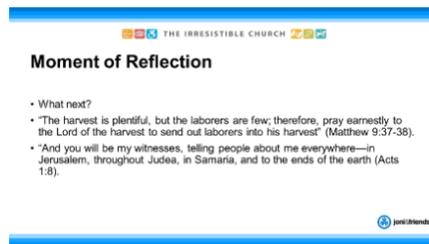
### SLIDE 13 – The Path: Taking Specific Action



- **After knowing the purpose for what you're doing, and after taking the right posture, we are ready to start making plans!**
- **After doing the research, after preparing the social environment, it's time to take action.**

*Personalize this to your church! What phase are you at? Are you still in the research phase? Preparing the social environment? Or are you ready to start taking action? Lay out the vision for your people and be honest with where you're at! Let your audience leave with a clear plan of action. "What comes next?"*

### SLIDE 14 – Moment of Reflection



*Break your audience up into small groups or pairs and discuss these next steps. End your*

*time with prayer! Without God, all ministry will fail!*

- **So what next?**
  - = **Take time to think through what your role is in reaching people with disabilities in our community.**
  - = **What stuck out to you most?**
  - = **What is God pressing on your heart?**
  
- **“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)**
  - = **We must remember that this is God’s harvest! This call to enter the harvest is an honor and a joy. We are joining the work that God has already begun.**
  - = **“And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, through Judeo, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)**
  - = **The ends of the earth include our communities, group homes, family homes, and public schools! Our mission is to respond to Jesus’ Great Commission.**

## SLIDE 15 – Irresistible Church



*Remind your audience that “Beyond Our Church Walls” and other books related to serving families affected by disability are available as free downloads at*

*IrresistibleChurch.org.*

## SLIDE 16 – Contact Info



*Don't forget to modify the PowerPoint to add your contact info here.*

*Close in prayer.*