



Irresistible Church Training

For Disability Ministry

Presented by



We've Got This! 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.

We've Got This Presentation Outline:

Main objective: To provide a model for planning and implementing a 3 to 4-hour respite event.

Supplies: *Bible* with all passages marked, copy of *We've Got This!* book, Respite FAQs handout, Disability Etiquette handout, PowerPoint handout, and pens for each participant.

The custom forms in the [supplemental resources for We've Got This!](#) include registration forms, sample schedules, promotional flyers, and evaluation forms for a respite event.

Suggested resources for sale with *We've Got This!*:

Joni: An Unforgettable Story

Beyond Suffering Bible

Real Families, Real Needs

Another Kind of Courage

Same Lake, Different Boat

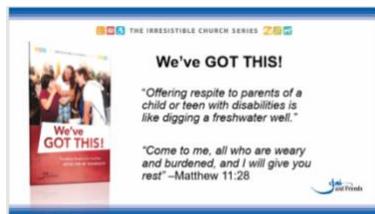
SLIDE 1 – Irresistible Church Training



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 – We've GOT THIS!

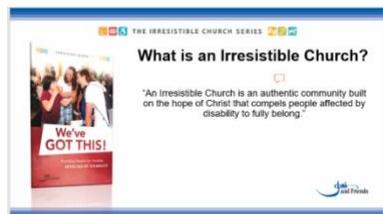


When you are ready to begin click to this slide. The music should stop so that you can begin presenting. This is a great place to share why you are conducting this training.

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

- = **What is respite?**
- = **A period of rest or relief.**
- = **Respite is the gift of *time*.**

SLIDE 3 – What is an Irresistible Church?



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

- = **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?**
- = **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 is 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.**

- = **Offering respite events is a powerful way to offer a sense of belonging and care for a family affected by disability.**

- = **It says to those families, "you are not alone. We've got this ... together."**

SLIDE 4 – Agenda



- = **In the next 30 minutes we will take a look at respite – what it is and some of the details for providing respite for your church families.**
- = **We will talk about:**
- = **Who needs respite,**
- = **The steps of creating a respite program,**
- = **How to recruit and train volunteers, and**
- = **What the details of a respite day look like.**

SLIDE 5 – Who Needs Respite?



This is a great time to bring in your personal experiences. People will respond best by hearing how respite has influenced each one of these people groups. Time permitting,

you could bring in a panel and ask questions that can be answered from each perspective.

- = **Who needs respite?**
- **Parents: Parents of children with special needs are often exhausted.**
- = **Juggling a multitude of details each day leaves parents little time to take care of themselves.**
- = **Many are also dealing with some type of grief related to their child's disability.**

- **Children and Teens: By serving these children we show them that we love them.**
 - = **By loving them, we show them that God loves them**
 - = **which opens the door to share the Gospel.**

- **Siblings: Respite gives siblings the chance to connect with other kids who are having the same experiences they are.**
 - = **Sometimes sibling's needs are seen as secondary, due to the needs of a sibling with a disability.**
 - = **Respite for them says that the church values them too.**

- **Volunteers: Respite allows volunteers to be outside their comfort zone**
 - = **and see a glimpse of the incredible love that can come from**
 - = **being with children with disabilities and their siblings.**

- **Your Church: When respite is a church-wide event,**
 - = **it helps the congregation as a whole to welcome people affected by disabilities into the church.**

- **The Body of Christ: Respite events can be offered through several churches in a community**
 - = **to help families get rest more than once a month.**
 - = **Respite can be a bridge that helps multiple churches work together for the Kingdom of God.**

This is a good place to handout [Respite FAQ's](#)

SLIDE 6 – Reflection



Take a few moments to reflect on these two questions. Encourage your audience to break up into small groups or pairs for discussion.

- = **Can you think of a family or individual who might need respite? And...**
- = **How might our church be able to provide that respite?**

SLIDE 7 – How: The First Five Steps



- = **Respite planning doesn't begin with logistics!**
- **Commit to ongoing prayer.**
- = **Respite will only be successful if it is Spirit-directed and within God's timing for your church.**
- = **Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted."**
- = **We don't want our work to be wasted!**
- **Are we prepared to welcome respite families on Sunday?**

- = **Without an open door for people with disabilities to be welcomed into our church and God's family, the benefit of respite is very limited.**
- = **We can help prepare our church by thinking through what it would look like for a family with special needs to be welcomed and integrated into our church activities on Sunday.**
- = **Do we have accessible programs and facilities?**
- = **Does our congregation understand God's heart for people with disabilities so they can welcome and embrace these families without fear or uncertainty?**

If a church needs training on how serve families affected by disabilities during weekly worship services and ministry programs, Start with Hello and Pathways to Belonging in the [Irresistible Church Series](#) offer practical, easy-to-use training.

- **When will we offer respite?**

If you're asking for help planning this aspect of your respite event, think through what day of the week, what time of day, and how long it will be offered. Consider frequency as well.

- **Who will we offer respite to? Who will come and serve?**

Will you limit it to a certain age range? For example, is it only open to 1st-12th graders? Are typical siblings welcome to come? Is the event only open to members of your church, or can members of the community attend? Where will your volunteers come from?

- **Where will we offer respite?**

When deciding on a location, consider the physical accessibility of the space, the ease with which you can coordinate drop-off and pick-up, and the number of exits. The more exits there are the greater the chance of a child or adult unexpectedly leaving the facility.

SLIDE 8 – How: The Next Five Steps



Modify each slide to fit your church's specific needs!

- **Volunteer Pool**

- = **Any healthy ministry will have a strong volunteer base.**
- = **By gathering and engaging new volunteers, we are not only serving those who attend our respite event,**
- = **we are also helping the broader church engage with people in our community who they might otherwise miss.**
- = **We are creating opportunities for friendship.**
- = **So who are good candidates for serving at a respite event?**
- = **Empty nesters who enjoy children,**
- = **adult small groups that want to serve together,**
- = **responsible members of the youth group,**
- = **and anyone who is drawn to people with disabilities.**

- **Event Activities**

- = **Be creative!**
- = **Consistency is important, but keep your eyes open for new activities, new games, and new ways we can help engage everyone who attends our events.**
- = **We need multiple people helping think of crafts, music, group recreation, and wind-down activities.**

Many churches choose a theme for each respite event, such as “superhero,” or “sports,” or “African safari.” Invite volunteers to brainstorm ideas together.

For more ideas, review this list of [materials](#) to spark your imagination.

- **Leadership team**

Introduce your leadership team or introduce the skillsets you are looking for in a core team. Some abilities to consider include organizational skills, musical skills, recreational skills, and nursing experience.

- **Respite Tools**

The tools you will need to help everyone attending enjoy the event will depend on who is coming! Look at the “[sensory bag](#)” resource to get some ideas of how to help your friends throughout the day.

- **Kick-off**

Consider what your ministry kick-off will look like. How will it be announced? Will there be a training event for new volunteers?

SLIDE 9 – How: The Last Five Steps



- **Number of Children**

This number will be based on how many potential volunteers are available to serve, capacity of available space, etc.

- **Registration**

How will you handle registration? Will parents be able to RSVP through email? Will there be a registration sheet where parents can provide helpful information about their child? Where will these forms be housed, and who will manage them? Ideally a one-on-one meeting will be scheduled with new families to understand their needs, desires, and concerns.

- **Advertising**

How will you spread the word? Social media? Printed flyers at church, posted in community centers, distributed to special education teachers?

- **Liability Policies**

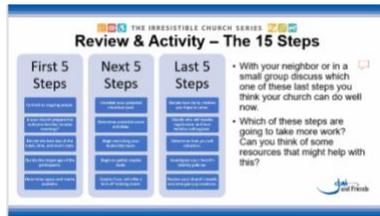
These are specific within each church. Make sure you check with your insurance company and are aware of all the policies that should be in place.

- **Health and emergency procedures**

Make sure your volunteers know what to do in case there is an emergency!

The custom forms in the [supplemental resources for We've Got This!](#) include registration forms, sample schedules, promotional flyers, and evaluation forms for a respite event.

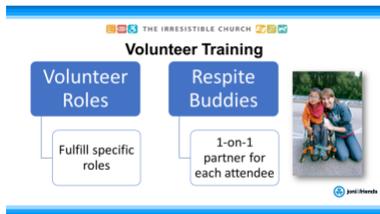
SLIDE 10 – Review and Activity



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

- From this list of 15 steps, what are we ready for?
- What do we need to work on?

SLIDE 11 – Volunteer Training



- = There are two types of volunteers: those with specific roles/responsibilities and respite buddies.
- = Those with specific roles will include taking responsibility for registration, running a specific game or room, setting up or tearing down, or serving as a nurse.

Pages 33 – 36 in “We’ve Got This” has a list of volunteer roles to consider. Your specific needs and capacities will vary.

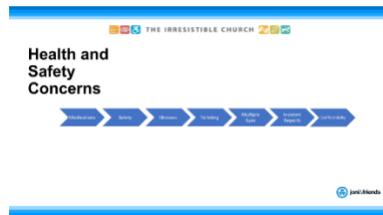
- = Respite Buddies work one-on-one with each child attending.
- = Buddies should be paired based on the child’s need and the buddy’s abilities

- = **For example, a medically fragile child should not be paired with a junior high student, but a child that just needs help with social interactions would do well with a peer buddy.**

Here are some ideas of things to include in your day of training with buddies and volunteers:

- *A short recap of the biblical perspective on embracing families affected by disability.*
- *Disability sensitivity training with a special focus on the needs you will likely encounter that day.*
- *A clear description of roles and responsibilities.*
- *A confidentiality reminder.*
- *Your expectations and rules for the day.*
- *Safety procedures.*

SLIDE 12 – Health and Safety Concerns



Health and safety procedures are unique to each church. However, all the points on the health and safety concerns slide are important to have in place for respite care.

- = **Medications**
- = **Ask parents/caregivers to administer medications before or after respite if possible.**
- = **Non-nurse volunteers and staff leaders should NEVER administer medication.**

- = **Safety**
- = **Any time a volunteer handles blood, bodily fluid or bodily discharges, latex-free gloves should be worn.**
- = **It is best to have a latex free and peanut free environment.**
- = **Follow hand washing rules.**

- = **Illnesses**
- = **Ask parents to keep children home if they have any symptoms of contagious illness.**
- = **Although it is hard to turn families away, sick children should not attend.**
- = **If a child is on antibiotics, he/she must be on the prescribed medication for at least 24 hours prior to the event.**

- = **Toileting**
- = **Follow normal church procedure if a child needs assistant in the bathroom.**
- = **There should never be one adult alone in the bathroom with a child.**
- = **If the child can use the bathroom alone, the buddy can wait outside.**

- = **Volunteers should not be alone with one child in a room.**

- = **If a serious issue occurs,**
- = **Use your church's regular incident reporting forms.**
- = **Always notify parents immediately if a serious incident or injury occurs.**

- = **Confidentiality**
- = **All information on registration forms is confidential and should only be seen by event leadership, the nurse, and the assigned buddy.**
- = **Don't leave forms out during or after the event.**

SLIDE 13 – Irresistible Church



Remind your audience that “We’ve Got This” and other books related to serving families affected by disability are available as free downloads at IrresistibleChurch.org.

SLIDE 14 – Questions



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

Close in prayer.