

# LEADERS GUIDE

*We want make leading the Inspire curriculum as easy and enjoyable for you as possible. This guide is a supplement support you as you administer this material.*

## WHERE DO I START?

I. Find a group of 3 or more people who are willing to go through the curriculum

- advertise this during the Sunday service and other churches communication pathways
- if multiple groups want to go through the curriculum at the same time that is great as well

II. Set a regular weekly (or bi-weekly, or monthly, or whatever interval you determine) time for the group to meet for curriculum, i.e. Monday nights from 7-8:30

- let your group know that this will be happening over the course of 8 sessions
- look ahead in your schedule and let the group know about any breaks that will need to happen in the 8 sessions

## HOW DO I LEAD EACH WEEK?

I. Begin each week's curriculum by reading the introduction and then having someone pray for the time

II. Then read the listed verses and ask the subsequent questions

- your goal as leader is simple: to facilitate a dialogue in which all engage personally with the material
- leave space for people to answer (awkward silence is ok)
- encourage all to participate (call on people if necessary)
- you don't have to have all the answers as a leader – you are just facilitating a discussion (it's ok to say “I don't know”)

### III. Conclude by having someone in the group pray

- Pay attention to the time and try to honor your commitment to begin and end on schedule

## KEY POINTS FOR EACH WEEK

*There is a lot of material in this curriculum and it can be overwhelming to try to teach and grasp everything. So, we've included below a single key point from each week that is essential to highlight. If the group leaves with a clear understanding of the following the week will have been a success--everything else is bonus.*

### **Week 1 - Jesus and Disability**

“If we want to be like Jesus, want to have a ministry like His, and want to be a part of a church that looks like Him, then we must have a unique love for people with disabilities.”

### **Week 2 - Jesus and Disability 2**

People with disabilities should find churches to be places of care, healing, and refreshment...but they often don't. We need to be a part of changing this.

### **Week 3 - Disability and the Gospel**

“The nature of the Christian gospel runs contrary to the flesh and the world which aggrandize performance and ability.”

### **Week 4 - Disability and the Church**

“Without people with disabilities, the church itself is disabled.”

### **Week 5 - Disability and Relationships**

Developing relationships with people with disabilities is the most important step in loving them and ministering to them.

## **Week 6 - Disability and Structures**

In addition to developing relationships with people with disabilities, it is also important to think about what systems and structures can be established to remedy their exclusion from the life of many churches. The two (relationships and structures) cannot exist without each other.

## **Week 7 - Disability and the Church 2**

Cooperation between churches is necessary for effective ministry to people with disabilities.

## **Week 8 - Moving Forward**

End with a tangible plan about what each group member intends to do going forward.