

Autism and Religion Resource List



[A Parent's Guide to Autism: Practical Advice. Biblical Wisdom](#) *by: Ron Sandison*

This book offers interviews from forty experts, exclusive teaching on bully-proofing children, as well as practical wisdom, biblical knowledge, and life experiences from the author. He compassionately shares his own personal struggles with overcoming autism as a minister and professional in the medical field to help parents raise outstanding children.

[Albert Goes to Church: Helping Children Understand Autism \(Helping Children Learn\) \(Volume 6\)](#)

by: Dr. Linda Barboa. As part of the "Albert is My Friend" series, this book continues to help children learn about autism. In *Albert Goes to Church*, the reader follows Albert through the experience of going to church. The reader comes to understand how the sensory experience of attending church can affect a child. This book is presented in a positive mindset. The colorful pictures make this book perfect as a read-aloud book.

[Another Kind of Courage: God's Design for Fathers of Families Affected by Disability](#) *by: Doug Mazza*

This book will guide men who find themselves in a situation they never expected: leading a family affected by disability. Filled with insights and personal stories from other men who have faced similar situations.

[Autism & Alleluias](#) *by: Kathleen Deyer Bolduc* The Author weaves together her stories of living life with her son Joel while holding the hand of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The challenges, joys, and learning that have filled her life because of Joel's presence are artfully presented in a way that will inform and encourage the reader

[Autism and Faith: A Journey into Community](#) This resource for including individuals with autism in faith communities is written so that others will not feel alone. This is a great collection of stories and tips from families of varied faiths. Everyone here will get a copy emailed to them in English and Spanish.

[Autism and Your Church](#) *by: Barbra J Newman* This book provides a number of valuable pointers for a church team that wants to more effectively minister to and with individuals impacted by autism. This section could be especially useful for developing opening words at a volunteer equipping event for children's ministry and/or special needs ministry teams. There is also a Spanish Edition of this book *El Autismo y tu iglesia* *by: Barbra J Newman* (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

[Autism's Hidden Blessings: Discovering God's Promises for Autistic Children & Their Families](#) *by: Kelly Langston* A transparent exposure of a mother's heart as she learned the reality of autism. Educational information about autism coupled with faith in God and the Scriptures that have given her

hope and encouragement. The same principles and Biblical truths can be applied to problems encountered in life. (Reflection/Spirituality)

[Bible Promises for Parents of Children with Special Needs](#) by: Amy E. Mason

The book is arranged by topic and contains over 120 of them. Within each topic, there may also be more than one scenario or concern that is addressed. The author covers everything from a wide variety of emotions to special topics like beauty and God's timing.

[Children's Ministry Pocket Guide to Special Needs \(10-Pack\): Quick Tips to Reach Every Child](#) by:

Group Publishing This handy pocket guide contains relevant teaching techniques, age-appropriate ways to inspire positive peer relationships; Includes surveys and tools to guide teachers as they partner with parents—and establish action plans that work.

[Disabilities and the Gospel: How to Bring People with Special Needs Closer to Christ](#) by: Danyelle

Ferguson & Lynn Parsons This book has wide range of information, with everything from teaching strategies to surviving church meetings to surviving holidays and a family get together this is a valuable resource for all. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

[Disability and the Gospel: How God Uses Our Brokenness to Display His Grace](#) by:

Michael S. Beates Foreword by: Joni Eareckson Tada. The author works through key bible passages on brokenness and disability. He offers helpful principles for believers and churches, teaching them first to embrace their own brokenness and then to embrace those who are more physically and visibly broken.

[Every Child Welcome](#) by: Katie Wetherbee & Jolene Philo. This book has hundreds of practical ideas and strategies for including kids of all levels of intellectual, physical, developmental and emotional disability into the environments and activities in which we help them to grow to know and love God. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

[Faith, Family, and Children with special needs](#) by: David Rizzo A helpful look at big-pictures issues of catholic faith along with specific, practical tips for nurturing spiritual growth.

[Faithfully Parenting Autism](#) by: Nicola Maybury This book will help Christian parents to better understand their child and therefore parent in a more effective manner.

[God Beyond Words](#) by: Dr. Jill Harshaw Christian Theology and the Spiritual Experiences of People with Profound Intellectual Disabilities.

[Held: Learning to Live in God's Grip: A Bible Study for Special-Needs Parents](#) by: Sandra Peoples This book is a Bible study written by special needs parents for special needs parents. The topics addressed in this book speak to the heart of life for families affected by disability and include topics like the purpose of disability, when others just don't get it, and facing your fears. The book can be used individually, as a couple, or within a group setting.

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities by: *Barbra J. Newman* This book includes valuable information and lesson plans that promote awareness and acceptance of children and youth with disabilities. Developing an understanding of how we are all uniquely made and part of God's kingdom is an important ingredient in successfully welcoming and including kids with disabilities. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

How to Make Your Church Autism- Friendly by: *Stephan J. Bedard*

This book is quick, accessible and easy to understand, and the personal stories where the author vulnerably exposes the grief, challenges, doubts and rewards of having two children with autism and being a pastor give his advice and tips credibility and engage the reader in a powerful way.

Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, and Congregations by: *Erik W. Carter* To make inclusion work in any faith community, this how-to book gives readers workable strategies and photocopy forms for identifying indicators of welcome encouraging community outreach, and gathering important information about the support needs of people with disabilities and their families. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

Jesus, Let's Talk by: *Lisa Jamieson* This book helps children, early readers and people with developmental differences learn the basics of prayer and experience personal relationship with Jesus.

Josiah's Fire: Autism Stole His Words, God Gave Him a Voice by: *Tahini Cullen with Cheryl Ricker Young* Josiah and his parents are spreading a message of hope and healing. It's unbelievably true the remarkable things the Cullen family is experiencing through their non-verbal son Josiah about our world and Heaven.

Leading a Special Needs Ministry: A Practical Guide to Including Children and Loving Families by: *Amy Fenton Lee* This a practical handbook for welcoming children with special needs. Offers easily referenced guidance from helping parents who are just learning their child has a diagnosis, to developing programs, policies, and education for volunteers. Provides sample volunteer training outlines, ministry policies, and other sample documents. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

Making Church Accessible to All: Including disabled people in church life by: *Tony Phelps- Jones* This a practical handbook for welcoming children with special needs. Offers easily referenced guidance from helping parents who are just learning their child has a diagnosis, to developing programs, policies, and education for volunteers. Provides sample volunteer training outlines, ministry policies, and other sample documents.

Pathways to Belonging- (The Irresistible Church Series) By creating inclusive environments, churches help individuals with disabilities practice the gifts God has given them. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

Special Catechisms for Special Kids by: *Caroline Weerstra* Teaching autistic children about God through catechism. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

Special Children, Blessed Fathers: Encouragement for fathers of children with special needs by: *Randy Hain* This book is a treasure-trove of heart-warming stories, practical help, and inspiration for fathers of children with special needs. These heartfelt stories from fathers give both insight and tremendous inspirational encouragement for other fathers. Special Children, Blessed Fathers will open your eyes to the deeper beauty often missed in the world.

Special Needs Ministry for Children: Creating a Welcoming Place for Families Whose Children Have Special Needs by: *Pat Verbal* This book is packed with the best ways to reach the most overlooked group of people in your community. How to launch a special needs ministry in your church, how to promote your ministry and recruit the right volunteers and what families with children who have special needs really need from you. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

Special Needs, Special Ministry by: *Joni Eareckson-Tada* This book will have you learn from the successes and failures of churches with special needs programs. Build awareness about special needs ministry in your church. Launch or further develop a special needs ministry. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

Speechless: Finding God's Grace in My Son's Autism by: *Sandra Peoples* Is Sandra's story of the first year of their journey as special needs parents. It is also the story of God's grace in their lives and the life of their son.

Start with Hello: Introducing Your Church to Special Needs Ministry (The Irresistible Church Series) by: *Kate Brueck & Ali Howrad* This booklet will take you through five steps to help you start a ministry for those with special needs in your church. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

The Child with Autism Learns about Faith: 15 Ready-to-Use Scripture Lessons, from the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea by: *Kathy Labosh* This book offers a step-by-step lesson plan for family members, educators, and church staff—including scripted narratives, group activities, prayers, scripture readings, classroom setup guidance, lists of additional resources, and more. Each lesson is also accompanied by a Scripture Study for instructors to help them prepare for each class, where the author provides additional ideas and discussion questions. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

The Child with Autism Learns the Faith: Bible Lessons From the garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea by: *Kathy Labosh* (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

The Life We Never Expected: Hopeful Reflections on the Challenges of Parenting Children with Special Needs by: *Andrew & Rachael Wilson* Foreword by: Russell D. Moore. A testimony of parents' love for their special, vulnerable children, and an extended meditation on the nature of the suffering that is part of the Christian life. The authors write with honesty and a sensitivity to biblical teaching and approach to the general issue of suffering, especially through disabilities.

[The Special Needs Ministry Handbook: A Church's Guide to Reaching Children with Disabilities and Their Families](#) *by: Amy Rapada* This book is educationally, spiritually and experience based; a practical instructional guide and inspirational resource written for church leaders, Sunday school teachers, and families with disabilities. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

[The Spiritual Art of Raising Children with Disabilities](#) *by: Kathleen Deyer Bolduc*

The author invites the reader on a journey of acceptance and grace; through the process using the spiritual disciplines to help you recognize God's presence in your life and regain the balance you need. Using her own experience raising a son with autism, she writes from a place of understanding, really knowing the fears and frustrations of this life.

[Unlocking the Treasure- A bible study for moms entrusted with Special-Needs Children](#) *by: Bev Roozeboom-* A nice study for any parent of a special needs child-

[We've got this! Providing Respite for Families Affected by Disability \(The Irresistible Church Series\)](#) *by: Debbie Lillo* This book is practical, step-by-step how-to start a ministry/or get your church involved in starting respites - a way for the church/community to embrace families affected by disability and in that way show the love of Christ. (Lesson Plans/Curriculum)

Videos and Songs

Cherub Wings- Available free on Amazon Prime Video

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/> Free sets of Bible story images for teaching- over 790 sets of Bible story scenes for you to view, project or download.

<http://specialsundayschool.blogspot.com/p/home.html> Materials to use to help individuals with special needs learn more about God. Visual supports, interactive booklets, symbol verses and adapted books.