

# Participant's Guide

## Chapter 1 Disability Curatives

## The First Week of Lent

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### Assignments for Week 1:

- Read Understanding Ableism Part 1 (Handout)
- Read Chapter 1 Disability Curatives from My Body is Not a Prayer Request

### Scripture Reading: Mark 10: 46-52 Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight

Using the handout on **Understanding Ableism**, read aloud, Ableism in the Bible.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What did the disciples and others in the crowd do that would be considered ableism?

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2. How did Jesus respond?

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Using the handout on **Understanding Ableism**, read aloud, *What is ableism?*

- Take a few minutes to discuss what ableism means to you.
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3. What does "able privilege" mean to you?

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Using the handout on **Understanding Ableism**, read aloud, *What does ableism in the church look like?*

- Take a few minutes to discuss what ableism in the church looks like to you.
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4. Can you identify ableism at MUMC?

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Using the handout on **Understanding Ableism**, read aloud *How can we dismantle ableism?*

5. What do you think we should do, as a church, to address our ableism and to better serve people with different abilities and disabilities?

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### **Video: Will Timms – Interview (5-10 minutes)**

Questions

- What would you like for us to know about you?
- What are your gifts and talents?
- Do you experience any barriers or situations in your church that make it difficult for you to participate in worship?
- Have you ever felt like you were being discriminated against at church?
- What advice do you have for others when interacting with someone with a disability?

### **Use the book for the following discussion questions:**

6. In Chapter 1, *Disability Curatives*, Amy Kenny defines **Ableism** as the belief that disabled people are less valuable or less human than our nondisabled counterparts. Have you ever found yourself valuing people based on their abilities? Do you see bodies in a hierarchy?

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7. Do you agree with the assumption that “disability needs fixing” is dehumanizing? Why or why not?

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### **Scripture Reading: John 9: 2-3 Jesus heals a man born blind John 9: 28-29,34**

8. At first glance this chapter focuses on the healing of the blind man. If it were just about the physical cure, the story would end at verse 7, when he comes out of the pool able to see. But the next 35 verses focus on how the

neighbors retort and deport the man. Do you think that this passage perpetuates the notion that disabled people require physical modifications to be complete? Why or Why not?

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9. The blind man did receive a physical cure, but the real healing occurs later in the chapter when he declares "Lord I believe" and worships Jesus (9:38). What is your takeaway from this passage?

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10. Look on page 19 and read the Top Ten Recommended Remedies. Discuss your thoughts about the Top Ten.

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### **Additional Activities:**

Take the Harvard Implicit Association Test for disability (page 18)

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>

prior to the next Sunday School Class.

Reflect on your result and if comfortable share with the group.

Additional Reflections and Responses on page 17 & 18.

### **Terms:**

**Microaggression** - A statement, action, or incident regarded as an instance of indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group such as a racial or ethnic minority.

**Able Privilege** - Clearly stated, able-bodied privilege is the term for the fact that people without disabilities have advantages over those that do.

**Curing** - A physical process: it's individual, usually rapid and concentrates on eliminating disease.

**Healing** - Focuses on interpersonal, social and spiritual dimensions. It is a lengthy and ongoing process for restoring wholeness.

### **Closing Prayer**

A PRAYER FOR INCLUSION By Rabbi Edie Menscher and Rabbi Rick Jacobs

*Holy One, we know you by many names, but still we are part of one human family,  
Your family.*

*Open our hearts and minds so that we see Your reflection in the face of every  
person on this earth.*

*Help us to forge bonds of compassion, dignity, and respect with every person.*

*Guide us to fully grasp that disability and difference never lessen a person's need  
for love, friendship, belonging, respect, and for the opportunity to work, contribute,  
and lead.*

*Let prejudice, stigma, fear, and presumptions never interfere with our ceaseless  
efforts to assure that each and every person is able to feel the embrace of family,  
community, and of God*