

Participant's Guide

Chapter 4 Disability Justice Chapter 5 Disability Blessings

The Fourth Week of Lent

Assignments for Week 4:

- Read Chapter 4 Disability Justice from My Body is Not a Prayer Request
- Read Chapter 5 Disability Blessings from My Body is Not a Prayer Request

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:25-31 God created mankind in His own image.

I Corinthians 12:12-31 Unity and Diversity in the Body

Discussion Questions for Chapter 4 Disability Justice:

1. Beginning on Page 59, Amy Kenney outlines the true meaning of disability justice. What does Disability Justice mean to you?
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2. In Chapter 1 Amy Kenney discusses healing vs curing. She touches on this again on pages 64 & 65. How can we promote healing in our church?
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3. What are your initial thoughts when you meet someone with a disability?
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Read **Genesis 1:25-31 God created mankind in His own image.** Contrast this passage to the Top 10 Reasons I am Disabled on page 67.

4. Read **I Corinthians 12:12-31 Unity and Diversity in the Body**
In this passage Paul describes the many parts and the body. Why is it important to make sure all parts of the body are included in the life of the church?
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What do we risk losing if we don't include all parts of the body?

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Discussion Questions for Chapter 5 Disability Blessings:

Scripture Reading: Genesis 32:22-32 Jacob Wrestles with God

1. On page 71, Amy Kenny talks about what "Quality of Life" means to her. What does "Quality of Life" mean to you?
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2. What are some things that can affect your quality of life and would you want them fixed?
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3. Discuss how using mobility devices can provide freedom for someone with a disability.
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Read **Genesis 32:22-32**

4. Amy Kenny states that this passage can teach us how disability can become a blessing and a mark of a covenant with God. What are the two changes that occur in this passage that suggest a blessing and a covenant?
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Discuss how these are seen as both a blessing and a covenant.

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5. How can the church use Jacob's story to decrease ableism?

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Additional Activities:

Carol Gill at the Chicago Institute of Disability Research believes that there has been an overemphasis on the medical model of disability which has kept people with disabilities from being able to fully participate in society. She points out several differences between the medical model of disability and the social model of disability. Based on the following, which model do you think is more inclusive and why?

- The medical model says that disability is an abnormality/impairment whereas the social model says that disability is a difference (like age, race, gender etc).
- The medical model says that disability is your (the disabled persons) problem whereas the social model says that disability issues stem from disabled people trying to function in an inaccessible society.
- The medical model says that the disability should be "fixed" whereas the social model says that society should be "fixed".
- The medical model looks at what is "wrong" with the person whereas the social model looks at what is "wrong" with society.

<https://canbc.org/blog/medical-model-of-disability-versus-social-model-of-disability>

Watch *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (2020)*, available on Netflix as a documentary. (Contains mature audience content including language and sexuality).

Terms:

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

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

Closing Prayer

God of creativity, of diversity, and accessibility, You say in your house are many rooms.

You build a space where all can dwell and live exactly as who we are without shame.

So forgive us for the ways that your Church has shut out and shut in - for making barriers to your presence, forging walls to togetherness, creating hierarchies of bodies and minds, and building environments that are disabling.

Help us co-create with you a house that welcomes the fullness of ourselves. Inspire creativity for universal design marked not just by widened doors and ramped walkways, but also widened language and open processes.

Give us fortitude to build spaces that are physically accessible and psychologically safe, welcoming of neurodiversity, acknowledging the wholeness of who we are, our complete need for each other, and every gift we bring.

May your way of Shalom-in which every kind of mind, body, and spirit are honored as valuable and good be made manifest in our world, so that all your children have room to flourish.

Amen

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