

## Participant's Guide

### Chapter 9 Disabled God Chapter 10 Disabled Church

### The Sixth Week of Lent

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#### Assignments for Week 6:

- Read Chapter 9 Disabled God from My Body is Not a Prayer Request
- Read Chapter 10 Disabled Church from My Body is Not a Prayer Request

#### Scripture Readings:

**Psalm 139**

**Luke 14: 12-14**

**2 Samuel 9:1-13 David and Mephibosheth**

#### Discussion Questions for Chapter 9 Disabled God:

1. One page 148, Amy Kenny states that nondisabled people like to comfort themselves with the idea that disability does not exist in heaven. What ableist attitudes can be displayed with this type of thinking?
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2. Amy Kenny gave a few examples of how she thought of God as disabled: a) God with a massive mobility device and b) God using a sip and puff device to drive a wheelchair. Do you think this is insulting to our God? Why or Why not?
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3. On page 156, Amy Kenny says that we should invite disability to teach us something instead of assuming nondisabled bodies are perfect and complete. Disability is a way of understanding the world by disrupting categories of normalcy. It is a way of discovering the beautiful biodiversity that God has woven throughout the tapestry of creation. If we thought of disability in this way, we would not be bothered that God is described as disabled throughout the Bible. List several of the examples that Amy Kenny shares that display God as disabled in the Bible.

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4. Read Psalm 139 and discuss its meaning from a disability-theology perspective.

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5. On page 167 and 168, Amy Kenny states that Jesus' power is in disability. Jesus on the cross is disabled. What does she mean by this?

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6. What does taking up a cross mean to you?

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### **Discussion Questions for Chapter 10 Disabled Church:**

1. On page 174, Amy Kenny says "Everyone loves disabled people until we stop being inspirational and start asking for our access needs to be met." "If you are worried that spending money on a ramp or an elevator isn't worth it, you probably aren't as welcoming to disabled people as you think."  
Do you ever find yourself putting money over people?

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2. On page 175, she goes on to say that in "The Charity Model", people with disabilities become objects of pity rather than people with their own gifts. Pity is a form of ableism because it dehumanizes the disabled person as an object of suffering, all the while masquerading as a caring voice of support. Pity reinforces the power structure. It suggests that you oversee the guest list when it comes to the Lord's Table. This is not the model that Jesus describes when instructing us on how the kingdom of God functions. Read **Luke 14: 12-14.**  
What does Jesus' model for the Lord's Table look like?

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**3. Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 David and Mephibosheth**

What was Mephibosheth's disability?

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What did David do?

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4. What can we do as a church to create a community for those with disabilities?

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**Additional Activities:**

Review the Top Ten Disability Theologies on page 172 and share your thoughts on them.

Review the Top Ten Disability Dreams on page 184 and share your thoughts on them.

**Terms:**

**Closing Prayer**

Read the Benediction for Nondisabled and Disabled People on pages 185 and 187.