

## Leader's Guide

### Chapter 4 Disability Justice Chapter 5 Disability Blessings

### The Fourth Week of Lent

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#### 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**

**Video: – Grace Trumpower**

#### 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?
  - No body, disabled or otherwise, is worth more than another.
  - All bodies have needs that must be met without shame.
  - All humans bear God's image.
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?
  - Being a part of a community that meets you where you are.
  - Recognizing that one person's struggle is everyone's struggle.
  - Treating a person with a disability as a capable human, not a scary diagnosis.
3. What are your initial thoughts when you meet someone with a disability?
  -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?
  - We all have unique spiritual gifts.
  - It takes all types of gifts and personalities to represent Christ.

What do we risk losing if we don't include all parts of the body?

- In order for the church to represent Christ, all must be included.
- People with disabilities have gifts to offer to the church and community.
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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?
  - The medical community always wanted to fix her disability. Amy Kenny did not see her disability as a problem.
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2. What are some things that can affect your quality of life and would you want them fixed?
  - Breathing tube
  - Feeding tube
  - Diabetes
  - Broken leg
  - Cancer treatment
  - Dialysis
  - Vision impairment
  - Hearing Loss
3. Discuss how using mobility devices can provide freedom for someone with a disability.
  - Faster
  - Easier
  - Less painful

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?
  - The name change (Israel).
  - The physical change (limp).

Discuss how these are seen as both a blessing and a covenant.

- The limp is a sign of strength and determination.
- The limp is a sign of transformation.
- The limp shows he is a fighter and a survivor.

- The divine encounter heals Jacob, transforming his perspective.
- Jacob stops trying to fix everything and learns to depend on God.
- Jacob learns to trust God.

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

- Discuss with others how disability can be a blessing.
- Share with others how disability is not the result of sin.
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### **Additional Activities:**

Watch *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (2020)*, available on Netflix as a documentary. (Contains mature audience material 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*

***Written by Erina Kim-Eubanks***