

ACTIVITY IDEAS



Did you know that going to church can be difficult for autistic persons and their families? The lighting, sounds, crowds, and social expectations can be very overwhelming without proper support. There are many things that you can do to promote an autism-friendly environment.

Activities During the Announcements

- Include information about autism in the church bulletin or newsletter.
- Share facts about autism during the announcements or sermon.
- Show a video about autism to the congregation.

Activities with Children

- Teach about autism awareness, acceptance, and inclusion in children's church.
- Teach children how to develop meaningful relationships with children who have disabilities.
- Present several options for disabled children to participate in worship, such as written lyrics, musical instruments, and dance. Provide headphones if needed.
- Create modified activity options for children who may need more assistance during the lesson.
- Talk about people in the Bible who had disabilities, such as Moses. Explain their accomplishments and things they found to be difficult. Discuss how people supported them.
- Host a respite care event to support the parents and caregivers of those with disabilities. Provide fun and engaging activities based on the needs of the children who attend.

Weekly Activities That Can Be Done Every Sunday

- Have noise canceling headphones available for those sensitive to sound levels.
- Have a separate room available for people to watch the service on TV. This is helpful for those who cannot sit in the service for a variety of reasons.
- Open a sensory room for persons that may get overwhelmed during service.
- Have a buddy system available as needed for disabled persons.

Special Activities

- Wear autism awareness t-shirts during a service.
- Invite an autistic person to share their story with the congregation.
- Put up a display table with information about autism and local resources.
- Take up a special offering to assist autistic persons in need.
- Preach a sermon about God's love for persons with disabilities and their families.
- Proclaim a designated Sunday to be focused on autism each year.
- Offer opportunities for disabled persons to lead parts of the worship service, such as the prayer, bible lesson, or musical selection. Make accommodations as necessary.
- Host a fundraiser to create a sensory room.
- Host an autism awareness event on social media to educate your followers.

Community Activities

- Reach out to autistic persons and their families. Ask them how the church can help with their unmet needs.
- Do a service project with an organization that provides assistance for autistic persons.
- Give a financial contribution to an autism service organization.
- Host an event for autistic persons and their families in your local community.

Staff Development Activities

- Have a designated person that regularly connects with families impacted by disabilities at your church.
- Teach leadership, staff members and volunteers about autism.
- Pay for staff to attend an in-person or virtual disability ministry conference.
- Hire staff persons with disabilities so that their unique perspective will be included in decisions for the church.



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