# HOW CHURCH LEADERSHIP CAN SUPPORT AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



## **Be Knowledgeable**

- · Get educated about autism.
- Attend disability ministry conferences.



#### **Be an Advocate**

- Talk to your congregation about autism in a positive way.
- Speak out against harmful stigmas.

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### **Be Accommodating**

- Have volunteers, a sensory room, or alternative activities available.
- Be available for support if needed outside of scheduled service times.



#### **Be Inclusive**

- Include autistic children in church activities and special events.
- Remove barriers that may keep families from participating in services.



# **Be Welcoming**

- Advertise accommodations you provide on your website and social media.
- Create an atmosphere where autistic children and their families have a sense of belonging.



## **Be Understanding**

- Autism affects each person differently and triggers may vary.
- There may be aspects of service that are hard for families, even with accommodations.

Be sure to visit our website, autismfaithnetwork.com, for more resources!



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