

May all the peoples praise you. - Ps 67:3

Creating Belongingness For People With Disabilities In Churches



When Adults With Developmental Disabilities Belong

At AbleLight, we believe in a world where all people with developmental disabilities are loved, secure, and flourishing in their communities. We are committed to empowering individuals by partnering with local churches to foster a sense of belonging. **Imagine the Impact!**

Research shows people with disabilities feel they belong when these ten markers are experienced at church:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| ♥ Present | ♥ Supported |
| ♥ Invited | ♥ Cared For |
| ♥ Welcomed | ♥ Befriended |
| ♥ Known | ♥ Needed |
| ♥ Accepted | ♥ Loved |

The Benefits of Providing Belonging

Research also shows churches experience benefits when they provide belongingness to those with developmental disabilities, such as increased:*

- ↑ **Accessibility** – Creating spaces that welcomes everyone.
- ↑ **Membership** – Growing the church community.
- ↑ **Compassion** – Deepening Christ-like love and empathy.
- ↑ **Sense of Community** – Building stronger, more connected congregations.
- ↑ **Diversity** – Celebrating the beauty of God's diverse creation.
- ↑ **Understanding** – Fostering a culture of acceptance and love.

When these experiences happen, lives are transformed. Individuals gain confidence, a sense of purpose, and a supportive faith community. At the same time, your church becomes a place of richer diversity, deeper compassion, and stronger community bonds.

This is the power of belonging!

*Research insights compiled by Erik Carter, PhD, Baylor University

Let's Build Community Together!

Connect with us to explore ways we can partner in creating an environment of belongingness for people with disabilities! **Contact AbleLight today for a free collaborative phone discussion, on-site workshop, and partnership planning!**

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