

# Planning Worksheet: Take Inventory

## Toolbox II: Working with Students with Special Needs – Part I

There are many things we can do, adjust, and add to make our ministry a welcoming place for children with disabilities. Knowing what to do first can be overwhelming. Before making any changes, take inventory.

### 1. Take Inventory of Your Current Needs

What disabilities are present in your church family at this moment?

- Physical Disabilities (Examples: muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, some forms of arthritis, vision impairment, hearing impairment, etc.)
- Intellectual Disabilities (Examples: Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, genetic conditions, birth defects, etc.)
- Hidden Disabilities (Examples: Autism, ADHD, emotional/behavioral)

### 2. Take Inventory of Your Current Resources

Is there anyone in your congregation who is uniquely qualified or passionate about ministering to people with disabilities?

- Are there any special education teachers or parents of children with special needs who may be willing to get involved?
- Is there someone in your congregation who knows sign language?
- Is there someone who is skilled in carpentry or construction who might be able to help you add physical accommodations (such as ramps or railings) to your ministry space?
- Are there any teens or young adults who may be called to serve with this group of people?
- Is there someone with a medical background, such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist, who has experience working with kids?
- Are there any nurses, CNAs, or other caregivers who care for children with special needs?