
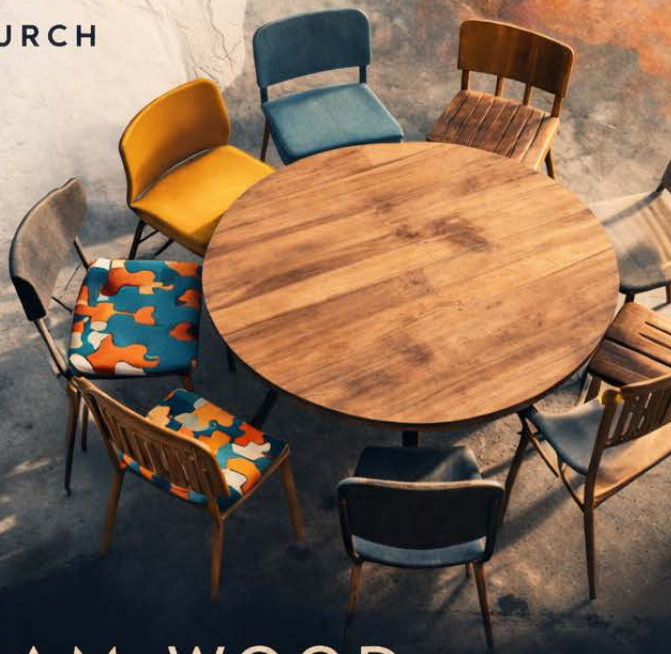


AUTISM AND FAITH



A SMALL GROUP JOURNEY
TO NEURODIVERSITY
IN THE CHURCH



ADAM WOOD

FOREWORD: DR. CARLA SUNBERG

AUTISM & FAITH

A SMALL GROUP JOURNEY TO
NEURODIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

ADAM WOOD

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Foreword by:

Dr. Carla Sunberg

General Superintendent | Church of the Nazarene

DEDICATION

This training devotional is dedicated to Klayton. - my son, my best friend, and my favorite person on the planet. Without you, life would just seem ordinary.

CONTENTS

Foreword.. 9

Introduction.. 10

52-WEEK AUTISM INCLUSIVENESS TRAINING

WEEKS 1-10

Awareness and Understanding.. 15

WEEK 1. **Understanding Neurodivergence as God’s Design.. 16**

WEEK 2. **Challenging Stereotypes About Neurodivergence 18**

WEEK 3. **Embracing Neurodiversity in the Body of Christ 20**

WEEK 4. **Recognizing the Challenges Faced by
Neurodivergent Individuals 22**

WEEK 5. **Listening to Neurodivergent Voices 24**

WEEK 6. **Educating Church Leadership on Neurodivergence 26**

WEEK 7. **Promoting Inclusive Language.. 28**

WEEK 8. **Addressing Unconscious Bias.. 30**

WEEK 9. **Fostering Empathy and Compassion.. 32**

WEEK 10. **Encouraging Continuous Learning and Growth.. . . . 34**

WEEKS 11-20

Communication.. 36

WEEK 11. **Practicing Clear and Direct Communication 37**

WEEK 12. **Being Mindful of Non-Verbal Communication 39**

WEEK 13. **Practicing Active Listening 41**

WEEK 14. **Adapting Communication Styles 43**

WEEK 15. **Recognizing Sensory Sensitivities in Communication 45**

WEEK 16. **Using Visual Supports to Enhance Communication 47**

WEEK 17. **Encouraging Open and Honest Dialogue 49**

WEEK 18. **Avoiding Over-Simplification.. 51**

WEEK 19. **Building Trust Through Consistent Communication 53**

WEEK 20. **Providing Clear Instructions for Participation 55**

WEEKS 21-30

Environment and Accessibility.. 57

WEEK 21. **Creating Sensory-Friendly Spaces. 58**

WEEK 22. **Implementing Inclusive Signage 60**

WEEK 23. **Providing Alternative Seating Options 62**

WEEK 24. **Ensuring Accessibility for All Abilities 64**

WEEK 25. **Creating Calm and Orderly Spaces.. 66**

WEEK 26. **Providing Clear Expectations for Behavior 68**

WEEK 27. **Offering Flexible Participation Options 70**

WEEK 28. **Incorporating Routine and Predictability.** 72
 WEEK 29. **Providing Quiet Spaces for Reflection** 74
 WEEK 30. **Making Worship Accessible to All** 76

WEEKS 31-40

Worship and Teaching 78
 WEEK 31. **Adapting Sermons for Different Learning Styles** 79
 WEEK 32. **Offering Alternative Worship Formats** 81
 WEEK 33. **Encouraging Participation in Worship** 83
 WEEK 34. **Creating Visual and Tactile Worship Elements.** 85
 WEEK 35. **Providing Clear and Accessible Sermon Notes.** 87
 WEEK 36. **Incorporating Music and Movement into Teaching** .. 89
 WEEK 37. **Offering Opportunities for Reflection and Discussion** .. 91
 WEEK 38. **Supporting Different Learning Paces** 93
 WEEK 39. **Encouraging Creative Expression in Worship** 95
 WEEK 40. **Providing Multi-Sensory Worship Experiences.** 97

WEEKS 41-52

Community Support and Engagement 99
 WEEK 41. **Building Support Networks for Neurodivergent
 Individuals and Their Families** 100
 WEEK 42. **Offering Respite Care for Families** 102
 WEEK 43. **Promoting Inclusion in Church Activities** 104
 WEEK 44. **Educating the Congregation on Neurodiversity** 106
 WEEK 45. **Encouraging Peer Support and Friendship.** 108
 WEEK 46. **Advocating for Inclusion Beyond the Church** 110
 WEEK 47. **Celebrating Neurodivergent Individuals** 112
 WEEK 48. **Providing Mentorship and Discipleship Opportunities** 114
 WEEK 49. **Encouraging Neurodivergent Leadership** 116
 WEEK 50. **Offering Support During Transitions** 118
 WEEK 51. **Creating an Inclusive Culture in All Church Ministries.** 120
 WEEK 52. **Committing to Long-Term Inclusion and Growth.** . 122
Training Conclusion. 124

52-WEEK DEVOTIONAL

WEEKS 1-3

Foundations of Faith 128
 WEEK 1. **God’s Unfailing Love** 129
 WEEK 2. **Created with Purpose** 131
 WEEK 3. **God’s Strength in Our Weakness** 133

WEEKS 4-6

Growing in Faith 135
 WEEK 4. **The Power of Prayer.** 136

WEEK 5. Trusting in God's Plan.	138
WEEK 6. Finding Peace in God.	140

WEEKS 7-9

Living Out Faith.	142
WEEK 7. Serving Others with Love.	143
WEEK 8. Forgiving as God Forgives.	145
WEEK 9. Living with Integrity.	147

WEEKS 10-12

Strengthening Community	149
WEEK 10. Encouraging One Another	150
WEEK 11. Building Strong Relationships	152
WEEK 12. Loving Your Neighbor.	154

WEEKS 13-16

Personal Growth in Faith	156
WEEK 13. Growing in Patience	157
WEEK 14. Developing a Heart of Gratitude	159
WEEK 15. The Importance of Humility	161
WEEK 16. Building a Faith That Endures	163

WEEKS 17-20

Overcoming Challenges.	165
WEEK 17. Finding Strength in God.	166
WEEK 18. Overcoming Fear with Faith.	168
WEEK 19. Trusting God in Difficult Times	170
WEEK 20. Finding Hope in God	172

WEEKS 21-24

Deepening Your Relationship with God	174
WEEK 21. Spending Time with God	175
WEEK 22. Listening to God's Voice.	177
WEEK 23. Trusting in God's Goodness.	179
WEEK 24. Seeking God's Will.	181

WEEKS 25-27

Living Out Your Faith in the World	183
WEEK 25. Being a Light in the World	184
WEEK 26. Sharing Your Faith with Others.	186
WEEK 27. Standing Firm in Your Faith.	188

WEEKS 28-31

Persevering Through Trials	190
WEEK 28. Finding Joy in Trials	191
WEEK 29. Trusting God's Faithfulness	193

WEEK 30. Finding Comfort in God.	195
WEEK 31. Holding Onto Hope.	197

WEEKS 32-35

Deepening Trust in God	199
WEEK 32. Trusting God's Plan.	200
WEEK 33. God's Faithfulness to His Promises.	202
WEEK 34. Relying on God's Strength.	204
WEEK 35. God's Perfect Timing	206

WEEKS 36-39

Walking in the Spirit.	208
WEEK 36. Being Led by the Spirit	209
WEEK 37. Producing the Fruit of the Spirit	211
WEEK 38. Walking in Love	213
WEEK 39. Living in God's Peace.	215

WEEKS 40-43

Fulfilling Your Purpose in God's Kingdom.	217
WEEK 40. Discovering Your God-Given Purpose	218
WEEK 41. Using Your Gifts for God's Glory	220
WEEK 42. Living a Life of Service	222
WEEK 43. Making a Difference in the World.	224

WEEKS 44-47

Finishing Strong in Faith	226
WEEK 44. Staying Faithful to the End	227
WEEK 45. Leaving a Legacy of Faith.	229
WEEK 46. The Reward of Faithfulness.	231
WEEK 47. Persevering in Prayer	233

WEEKS 48-52

Embracing God's Promises	235
WEEK 48. Embracing God's Grace	236
WEEK 49. Resting in God's Peace	238
WEEK 50. Living in God's Strength.	240
WEEK 51. Holding Fast to God's Promises	242
WEEK 52. Rejoicing in God's Love.	244

Devotional Conclusion	246
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FOREWORD

DR. CARLA SUNBERG

Autism has become a part of our regular vocabulary as more and more children are given this diagnosis. Of course, there is no singular understanding of Autism as it encompasses a broad spectrum, but just the diagnosis itself can put fear in the heart of a parent, and a church community. We need to have resources that can help us better minister to children, adults, and families who are autistic or neurodivergent. This has become a huge need within the life of the church.

As a minister and parent of an autistic son, Adam Wood has sought to help those within faith communities understand the potential complexity of needs and a way in which to have greater understanding and ability to engage. Sometimes, the concepts are too much to handle all at once, and so, this book on “Autism and Faith” comes to us as a devotional reader, taking us on a weekly journey over the period of an entire year. You will be challenged to engage with others within the faith community, as together, you will discover the pathways to true inclusion.

Every human being is created in the image of God. In Luke’s gospel we read about the woman with the lost coin. Some have suggested that it represents the image of God having been lost in humankind, however, it’s not been totally lost because it’s still in the house. It just had to be found, cleaned up and restored. Then everyone joined in with her in rejoicing. Every person has the capacity to reflect the image of God, but sometimes we need a community to welcome us, make us feel at home, and point us in the direction of Jesus. May we all work together to love those whom God has placed into our care and circle of influence to know the love of Christ in and through us. Thank you, Pastor Wood, for this work; and thank you Klayton, for your precious life.

Carla Sunberg
General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

INTRODUCTION

Hey friend! My name is Adam Wood. At the moment of typing this (2026), I'm a divorced 42-year-old dad to Klayton. His mother and I co-parent very well and she is remarried, so he has a great step-dad, also! Klayton is currently 10 years old and was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Level 2 when he was 2 years old. I am an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene also holding an AA degree in Psychology (Christian Counseling) and currently finishing a BA in Psychology with a minor in Autism, from Liberty University.

When Klayton entered the world in 2016, my entire ex-istence was turned upside down. I believed I could never love as much as I did on that day. That is, until his Autism diagnosis in 2018. On that day, I began learning how to see the world through a different lens and embrace the incredible and extraordinary gift that God placed in our lives. Since then, I've learned how to navigate different challenges in life from a Neurodivergent perspective – divorce, co-parenting, education, environmental changes, and adjustment to the church environment.

The body of Christ is a diverse and vibrant community, called to reflect the love and grace of God to all people. Yet, within our churches, many individuals with Autism and other forms of Neurodivergence often face challenges that can make it difficult for them to fully participate in and benefit from the life of the church. This reality calls us to

action—to become more aware, more understanding, and more inclusive.

This 52-week training guide is just the beginning. In order to build a solid foundation, we need to start the conversation at the beginning. It is designed to equip churches to be more inclusive and welcoming to individuals with Autism and Neurodivergence. Over the course of a year, this guide will lead your church through a journey of education, reflection, and transformation, helping to create an environment where everyone can belong and thrive.

Why This Training Matters

Autism and Neurodivergence encompass a wide range of experiences and needs. For many individuals, navigating the social, sensory, and communicative aspects of church life can be challenging. While well-intentioned, traditional church practices and environments may unintentionally exclude or overwhelm those with different neurological makeups.

This training is not just about making accommodations—it's about reimagining what it means to be the body of Christ. It's about recognizing that every person, regardless of their Neurodivergence, is made in the image of God and has a vital role to play in the life of the church. It's about understanding that inclusion is not an optional extra but a fundamental expression of the gospel.

What to Expect

Each week, you'll engage with a specific topic that relates to Autism and Neurodivergence, grounded in Scripture and practical application. The training is designed to be accessible and actionable, with a focus on building empathy, understanding, and practical skills.

- **Educational Content:** Each week begins with a brief overview of a key concept related to Autism and

Neurodivergence. This content is designed to build a foundational understanding that will inform your church's approach to inclusion.

- **Reflection and Discussion:** Thought-provoking questions and discussion prompts will help your team reflect on what they've learned and consider how it applies to your church context.
- **Practical Action Steps:** Concrete actions and strategies are provided each week, empowering your church to make meaningful changes that enhance inclusivity. These steps are designed to be adaptable, recognizing that every church community is unique.
- **Prayer and Scripture:** Each session is rooted in prayer and Scripture, guiding your church to seek God's heart for inclusion and to depend on His wisdom and strength throughout this journey.

A Journey Toward True Inclusion

While I may find my home in the Church of the Nazarene, I approached this project so that it could be used by everyone – regardless of your denomination. This training is more than a checklist of actions; it's a call to embody the inclusive love of Christ in every aspect of church life. As you progress through these 52 weeks, your church will not only learn how to support individuals with Autism and Neurodivergence but will also grow in understanding what it means to be a truly inclusive community—a place where every person is seen, valued, and loved. While you're encouraged to move through this slowly with your team, you are welcome to complete each section at your own pace.

You'll notice that there's nothing groundbreaking here. This entire book was designed to be a very simplistic reframing of how we think and approach worship and faith for Neurodivergent people. These pages are just a guide to help

INTRODUCTION

facilitate discussion and reflection within your church leadership and congregation so that everyone can understand how important this is.

By committing to this year-long journey, your church is taking a significant step toward becoming a place where the diverse beauty of God's creation is celebrated, and where every member can fully experience the love of Christ and the fellowship of His people. Together, let's make our churches places where everyone can belong.

If you need support in the area of Autism and Neurodivergence within your church, please do not hesitate to reach out. I'm happy to engage in discussion and brainstorming as much as I'm able.

Adam Wood

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52-WEEK
AUTISM
INCLUSIVENESS
TRAINING



WEEKS 1-10

AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING NEURODIVERGENCE AS GOD'S DESIGN

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

DEVOTION

The psalmist acknowledges the intricate and purposeful design of every human being. Neurodivergence, including Autism and other neurological differences, is part of God's wonderful creation. Each person reflects the creativity and diversity of God's work, and these differences should be embraced rather than feared or misunderstood.

Example

Host a training session where staff learn about neurodivergence from a theological perspective, emphasizing that neurodivergent individuals are uniquely designed by God with inherent value. Include guest speakers who are neurodivergent,

and provide materials that frame neurodiversity as a reflection of God's creative diversity.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How does recognizing neurodivergence as part of God's design change the way we view individuals within our church?

What biblical examples can we draw from to understand God's intention in creating diversity within the Body of Christ?

How can we, as a church, better communicate that neurodivergent individuals are fearfully and wonderfully made?

In what ways can we celebrate neurodivergent individuals as integral members of our church community?

How can acknowledging God's design in neurodivergence influence the way we structure our ministries and programs?

WEEK 2

CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES ABOUT NEURODIVERGENCE

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

DEVOTION

The world often promotes stereotypes and misconceptions about Neurodivergence, portraying it as something to be “fixed” or “cured.” As Christians, we are called to renew our minds and see each person as God sees them. This means rejecting harmful stereotypes and embracing a fuller understanding of Neurodivergent individuals.

Example

Facilitate a workshop where staff identify and discuss common stereotypes about neurodivergent individuals. Use role-playing scenarios to practice challenging these stereotypes in respectful and constructive ways. Provide resources

that debunk myths and highlight the strengths and contributions of neurodivergent individuals.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some common stereotypes about neurodivergent individuals that we've encountered in society or within our church?

How can we identify and challenge our own unconscious biases related to neurodivergence?

What practical steps can we take to ensure that we're not perpetuating stereotypes in our church activities and teachings?

How can we use our platform as church leaders to educate others about the dangers of stereotyping neurodivergent individuals?

How might challenging stereotypes about neurodivergence positively impact our church community?

WEEK 3

EMBRACING NEURODIVERSITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”

DEVOTION

The church is described as a body with many parts, each essential to the whole. Neurodivergent individuals contribute to the church’s diversity, offering unique perspectives, talents, and experiences. Recognizing the value of these contributions is essential to creating an inclusive community where everyone is honored.

Example

Encourage staff to create a visual representation (like a mosaic or collage) of the Body of Christ, showing how each member, including neurodivergent individuals, contributes to the whole. Discuss how embracing neurodiversity

enriches the church and allows for a fuller expression of God's kingdom.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to truly embrace neurodiversity within the context of our church?

How can we create an environment where neurodivergent individuals feel like they belong and are valued?

What are some ways we can ensure that our church's activities and services reflect the diversity of God's creation?

How can we engage neurodivergent individuals in roles and responsibilities that honor their unique gifts and strengths?

What changes can we make to better integrate neurodiversity into every aspect of our church life?

WEEK 4

RECOGNIZING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY NEURODIVERGENT INDIVIDUALS

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

DEVOTION

Empathy and support are crucial when we consider the unique challenges that Neurodivergent individuals may face. This includes sensory sensitivities, communication difficulties, and social challenges. By carrying each other’s burdens, we fulfill Christ’s law of love and create a more supportive and understanding community.

Example

Organize a panel discussion featuring neurodivergent individuals and their families, where they can share the challenges they face in church settings. Staff should listen actively

and take notes on areas for improvement, which can then be incorporated into action plans for creating a more inclusive environment.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some specific challenges that neurodivergent individuals might face within our church setting?

How can we listen more effectively to neurodivergent individuals to better understand their experiences?

In what ways might our current church practices unintentionally create barriers for neurodivergent individuals?

How can we adapt our services and programs to address these challenges while maintaining the integrity of our worship and community?

What resources or support can we provide to neurodivergent individuals and their families to help them overcome these challenges?

WEEK 5

LISTENING TO NEURODIVERGENT VOICES

SCRIPTURE

James 1:19 (NIV)

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.”

DEVOTION

Listening to the experiences and perspectives of Neurodivergent individuals is vital for understanding their needs and ensuring they feel heard and valued. When we listen before we speak, we open ourselves up to learning and growing in empathy and compassion.

Example

Implement a “listening session” where neurodivergent members of the congregation can share their experiences, needs, and suggestions. Staff should be trained on active listening techniques, ensuring they approach these sessions with humility and a willingness to learn.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to prioritize listening to neurodivergent voices within our church community?

What can we learn from neurodivergent individuals about the ways they experience faith and community?

How can we create safe spaces for neurodivergent individuals to share their stories and perspectives?

What practical changes can we implement based on the feedback we receive from neurodivergent members of our church?

How can we ensure that neurodivergent voices are not just heard but actively influence the decisions we make as a church?

WEEK 6

EDUCATING CHURCH LEADERSHIP ON NEURODIVERGENCE

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”

DEVOTION

For a church to be truly inclusive, its leadership must be knowledgeable about Neurodivergence. Wisdom in this area allows leaders to make informed decisions that reflect the needs and contributions of all members of the congregation, including those who are Neurodivergent.

Example

Develop a training module specifically for church leaders, focusing on the importance of understanding and supporting neurodivergent members. Include case studies, practical examples, and theological reflections on leadership that embraces diversity.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How well do our church leaders currently understand neurodivergence, and what gaps exist in their knowledge?

What specific topics should be included in training sessions for our church leadership regarding neurodivergence?

How can we ensure that education on neurodivergence becomes an ongoing priority for our leadership, rather than a one-time event?

What role should neurodivergent individuals play in the education and training of our church leaders?

How can better education for our leaders improve the overall inclusivity and culture of our church?

WEEK 7

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

DEVOTION

Language shapes our reality and influences how we perceive and treat others. Using inclusive language helps to build up and affirm Neurodivergent individuals, rather than alienating or marginalizing them. It's important to speak in ways that reflect respect, dignity, and understanding.

Example

Conduct a language sensitivity training where staff learn how to use inclusive and respectful language when referring to neurodivergent individuals. Provide a guide or cheat sheet with examples of phrases to use and phrases to avoid, encouraging ongoing reflection and adjustment in communication.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How does the language we use in church settings affect the inclusivity of our community, particularly for neurodivergent individuals?

What are some examples of inclusive language that we can incorporate into our sermons, announcements, and communications?

How can we train our church members and leaders to be mindful of the language they use, especially when discussing neurodiversity?

What steps can we take to correct language that might unintentionally exclude or offend neurodivergent individuals?

How can we model the use of inclusive language in all areas of our church, from formal services to casual conversations?

WEEK 8

ADDRESSING UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV)

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

DEVOTION

Unconscious biases are attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding and behavior toward others. These biases can lead to unjust treatment of Neurodivergent individuals within the church. Recognizing and addressing these biases is a step toward creating a more just and inclusive community.

Example

Facilitate an unconscious bias workshop where staff take assessments to uncover their own biases. Discuss the implications of these biases in church settings and develop strategies to mitigate their impact, ensuring that neurodivergent individuals are treated with equity and respect.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some unconscious biases we might hold that could impact how we interact with neurodivergent individuals?

How can we create an environment where staff and volunteers feel safe to explore and address their own biases?

In what ways might our unconscious biases influence the way we design church programs or services?

What are some strategies we can use to minimize the impact of unconscious bias in our decision-making processes?

How can addressing unconscious bias contribute to creating a more inclusive and welcoming church community?

WEEK 9

FOSTERING EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

DEVOTION

Compassion and empathy are at the heart of Christian love. Fostering these qualities within the church means understanding the experiences of Neurodivergent individuals and responding with kindness, patience, and support.

Example

Organize an empathy-building exercise where staff are paired with neurodivergent individuals to engage in shared activities, such as art projects or storytelling. Afterward, staff reflect on the experience and discuss how empathy and compassion can be integrated into their daily interactions within the church.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can empathy and compassion transform the way we interact with neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What are some practical ways we can demonstrate empathy and compassion in our church's day-to-day activities?

How can we encourage our church community to view empathy and compassion as central to our mission?

What role does empathy play in understanding the unique challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals?

How can fostering empathy and compassion among our staff and congregation lead to a more inclusive church environment?

WEEK 10

ENCOURAGING CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND GROWTH

SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

DEVOTION

Learning about Neurodivergence is a continuous process that requires humility and a willingness to grow. As we seek to understand more about the experiences of Neurodivergent individuals, we also grow in our capacity to love and serve them as Christ would.

Example

Create a continuing education plan for staff that includes regular workshops, seminars, and reading materials on neurodiversity. Encourage staff to set personal learning goals

related to inclusion and provide opportunities for them to share what they learn with the broader church community.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important for our church to commit to continuous learning and growth in the area of neurodiversity?

What resources or opportunities for learning about neurodiversity are available to our church, and how can we take advantage of them?

How can we encourage staff and volunteers to view learning about neurodiversity as a lifelong journey rather than a one-time training?

In what ways can we incorporate new knowledge about neurodiversity into our church practices and programs?

How can we measure and celebrate the growth we achieve as a church in becoming more inclusive and understanding of neurodiversity?



WEEKS 11-20

COMMUNICATION

WEEK 11

PRACTICING CLEAR AND DIRECT COMMUNICATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:37 (NIV)

“All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

DEVOTION

Jesus teaches the importance of clear and direct communication. This is especially important when communicating with Neurodivergent individuals, who may find ambiguous language confusing or overwhelming. Being straightforward and clear ensures that everyone can understand and participate fully.

Example

Train staff in techniques for clear and direct communication, such as using simple language, avoiding jargon, and confirming understanding. Role-play different scenarios to practice these skills, particularly in situations where instructions or church information need to be communicated effectively.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is clear and direct communication particularly important when interacting with neurodivergent individuals?

What are some common communication challenges neurodivergent individuals might face in our church, and how can we address them?

How can we train our staff and volunteers to be more mindful of their communication style, ensuring clarity and understanding?

What tools or techniques can we use to enhance the clarity of our communications during services, meetings, and events?

How can improving our communication practices contribute to a more inclusive and supportive environment for all members?

WEEK 12

BEING MINDFUL OF NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:18 (NIV)

*“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth.”*

DEVOTION

Non-verbal communication, such as body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice, is a powerful way of expressing love and acceptance. However, for Neurodivergent individuals, non-verbal cues can sometimes be difficult to interpret. It's important to be mindful of how our actions might be perceived.

Example

Conduct a session on the importance of non-verbal communication, focusing on how body language, facial expressions, and gestures can impact interactions with neurodivergent individuals. Use video examples to analyze different forms of non-verbal communication and discuss their effects.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can non-verbal communication impact the way neurodivergent individuals experience church services and interactions?

What are some examples of non-verbal cues that might be misunderstood or overlooked by neurodivergent individuals?

How can we train our staff and volunteers to be more aware of their own non-verbal communication and its effects?

What adjustments can we make to our worship services and interactions to ensure that our non-verbal communication is inclusive and welcoming?

How can being mindful of non-verbal communication improve our overall ability to connect with and support neurodivergent individuals?

WEEK 13

PRACTICING ACTIVE LISTENING

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 18:13 (NIV)

“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.”

DEVOTION

Active listening is crucial in building understanding and trust, especially when communicating with Neurodivergent individuals who may express themselves differently. By truly listening before responding, we show respect and care for their perspectives and needs.

Example

Provide active listening training that includes techniques like reflective listening, summarizing, and asking clarifying questions. Staff can practice in pairs, taking turns being the speaker and listener, then discussing how these skills improve their ability to support neurodivergent individuals.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are the key components of active listening, and why is it important in our interactions with neurodivergent individuals?

How can we ensure that we're truly hearing and understanding the needs and concerns of neurodivergent members of our church?

What role does active listening play in building trust and relationships within our church community?

How can we model active listening in our leadership and ministry teams to encourage others to follow suit?

What changes can we make to our communication practices to better incorporate active listening?

WEEK 14

ADAPTING COMMUNICATION STYLES

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 9:22 (NIV)

“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”

DEVOTION

Paul’s willingness to adapt his approach to reach different people serves as a model for us. Adapting our communication styles to meet the needs of Neurodivergent individuals shows our commitment to inclusivity and ensures that everyone can fully engage with the church community.

Example

Offer training on how to adapt communication styles to meet the needs of neurodivergent individuals, such as slowing down speech, using visual aids, or providing written follow-ups. Create scenarios where staff must adapt their style based on the individual’s preferences and needs.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can we adapt our communication styles to meet the diverse needs of neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What are some specific communication adaptations that might be helpful for different neurodivergent individuals?

How can we assess and respond to the communication preferences of neurodivergent individuals in real-time?

What training can we provide to our staff and volunteers to help them feel confident in adapting their communication styles?

How can flexible communication practices enhance the inclusivity of our church environment?

WEEK 15

RECOGNIZING SENSORY SENSITIVITIES IN COMMUNICATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:12 (NIV)

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

DEVOTION

Sensory experiences, like the sounds of worship or the environment of a church service, can be overwhelming for Neurodivergent individuals. Recognizing and accommodating these sensitivities allows everyone to experience the joy and peace of worship without distress.

Example

Educate staff about sensory sensitivities that can affect communication, such as sensitivity to noise, light, or touch. Provide practical tips on how to adjust the environment or

communication method to accommodate these sensitivities, ensuring a more comfortable interaction.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some common sensory sensitivities that neurodivergent individuals might experience during communication?

How can we adjust our communication practices to be mindful of these sensory sensitivities?

What role do environmental factors (like noise levels or lighting) play in the communication process, and how can we manage them?

How can we create a communication environment that is comfortable and accommodating for individuals with sensory sensitivities?

What are some practical steps we can take to reduce sensory overload during church services and activities?

WEEK 16

USING VISUAL SUPPORTS TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 2:2 (NIV)

“Then the Lord replied: ‘Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.’”

DEVOTION

Visual supports, like written words or images, can enhance understanding and help Neurodivergent individuals process information more effectively. Just as God instructed Habakkuk to make His message clear and visible, we should strive to communicate in ways that are accessible to all.

Example

Train staff on how to create and use visual supports, such as picture schedules, visual instructions, or cue cards. Demonstrate how these tools can enhance understanding

and reduce anxiety for neurodivergent individuals during church activities.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can visual supports improve communication and understanding for neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What types of visual aids might be most helpful during services, classes, and other church activities?

How can we integrate visual supports into our regular communication practices without overwhelming or distracting other members?

What training do our staff and volunteers need to effectively use visual supports in their interactions?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent individuals about the effectiveness of our visual communication tools?

WEEK 17

ENCOURAGING OPEN AND HONEST DIALOGUE

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

DEVOTION

Open and honest dialogue fosters trust and understanding within the church. Encouraging Neurodivergent individuals to share their thoughts and feelings openly can help bridge gaps in communication and promote a more inclusive community.

Example

Facilitate workshops on fostering an open dialogue within the church, where neurodivergent individuals feel safe to express their needs and concerns. Encourage staff to practice humility and openness in these conversations, creating a culture of mutual respect and understanding.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is open and honest dialogue important for creating an inclusive church environment?

How can we encourage neurodivergent individuals to share their thoughts and feelings openly within our church?

What barriers might exist that prevent open dialogue, and how can we work to remove them?

How can we model vulnerability and transparency in our leadership to foster a culture of open communication?

What strategies can we implement to ensure that all voices are heard and respected during church discussions?

WEEK 18

AVOIDING OVER-SIMPLIFICATION

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:13 (NIV)

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding.”

DEVOTION

While clarity in communication is essential, it's important not to oversimplify complex topics. Neurodivergent individuals may need more detailed explanations to fully understand, and we should strive to provide the depth and richness of God's Word in a way that is accessible to all.

Example

Provide training on avoiding the over-simplification of complex ideas or instructions when communicating with neurodivergent individuals. Teach staff how to balance simplicity with respect for the individual's intelligence, ensuring that communication is clear but not condescending.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to avoid over-simplifying communication with neurodivergent individuals?

How can we ensure that we are respectful of the intelligence and capabilities of neurodivergent individuals in our interactions?

What are some common pitfalls of over-simplification, and how can we avoid them?

How can we balance the need for clear communication with the need to respect the complexity of the topics we discuss?

What training can we provide to help staff and volunteers avoid the trap of over-simplifying?

WEEK 19

BUILDING TRUST THROUGH CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:37 (NIV)

“All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

DEVOTION

Consistency in communication builds trust, especially for Neurodivergent individuals who may rely on predictability and routine. By being consistent in what we say and how we say it, we create a stable environment where everyone feels secure.

Example

Emphasize the importance of consistency in communication, such as following through on promises and providing regular updates. Train staff to be reliable communicators,

helping to build trust with neurodivergent individuals who may rely on routine and predictability.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How does consistent communication help build trust with neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What are some examples of consistent communication practices that we can implement in our church?

How can we ensure that our communication remains consistent across different staff members and ministry teams?

What role does follow-through play in maintaining trust through communication?

How can we create a culture of reliability and dependability in our communication with all members of our church?

WEEK 20

PROVIDING CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 14:40 (NIV)

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

DEVOTION

Providing clear instructions for participation in church activities helps everyone, especially Neurodivergent individuals, to feel confident and included. When we ensure that instructions are simple, clear, and easy to follow, we make it possible for everyone to contribute to the life of the church.

Example

Create a standard process for providing clear, step-by-step instructions for church activities. Staff can practice delivering these instructions in different formats—verbally, in writing, and through visual aids—to ensure they are accessible to everyone.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to provide clear and specific instructions for participation in church activities?

What are some common misunderstandings that might arise from unclear instructions, and how can we prevent them?

How can we tailor our instructions to be accessible to neurodivergent individuals without making them feel singled out?

What tools or techniques can we use to reinforce verbal instructions, such as written or visual aids?

How can providing clear instructions contribute to a more inclusive and engaging church experience for everyone?



WEEKS 21-30

ENVIRONMENT
AND ACCESSIBILITY

WEEK 21

CREATING SENSORY-FRIENDLY SPACES

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.”*

DEVOTION

The church should be a place of rest and comfort for all who enter, including those who are Neurodivergent. Sensory-friendly spaces, where individuals can retreat from overwhelming stimuli, help create a welcoming and peaceful environment for everyone.

Example

Guide staff in assessing and modifying church spaces to be more sensory-friendly. This could include reducing bright lights, minimizing background noise, and creating designated quiet areas. Encourage regular feedback from neurodivergent individuals to continuously improve these spaces.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are the key elements that make a space sensory-friendly for neurodivergent individuals?

How can we assess our current church spaces to identify areas that might be overwhelming or uncomfortable?

What specific changes can we make to our worship spaces to make them more sensory-friendly?

How can we involve neurodivergent individuals in the process of designing and refining sensory-friendly spaces?

How can maintaining sensory-friendly spaces improve the overall worship experience for neurodivergent individuals?

WEEK 22

IMPLEMENTING INCLUSIVE SIGNAGE

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 2:2 (NIV)

“Then the Lord replied: ‘Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.’”

DEVOTION

Clear and inclusive signage throughout the church helps Neurodivergent individuals navigate the space confidently. Signage should be easy to read, with both text and visual symbols, to ensure that everyone can understand and follow directions.

Example

Develop and implement signage around the church that is clear, visually appealing, and accessible to neurodivergent individuals. This might include using symbols, pictures, or color-coded signs that are easy to understand and navigate.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are the characteristics of effective and inclusive signage in a church setting?

How can we ensure that our signage is accessible to neurodivergent individuals, including those with different sensory needs?

What role does clear and inclusive signage play in helping neurodivergent individuals feel more comfortable and welcome?

How can we assess and improve our existing signage to better meet the needs of all congregants?

What feedback can we gather from neurodivergent members to ensure our signage is truly inclusive?

WEEK 23

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE SEATING OPTIONS

SCRIPTURE

James 2:3-4 (NIV)

“If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Here’s a good seat for you,’ but say to the poor man, ‘You stand there’ or ‘Sit on the floor by my feet,’ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”

DEVOTION

Offering a variety of seating options within the church ensures that everyone, regardless of their sensory or physical needs, can find a place where they feel comfortable and included. This might include seating arrangements that accommodate different sensory preferences or physical needs.

Example

Arrange different seating options within the church, such as soft chairs, rocking chairs, or sensory-friendly seating, and train staff on how to help neurodivergent individuals find the seating that best meets their needs.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to offer alternative seating options for neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What types of seating options could be beneficial, and how can we implement them effectively?

How can we ensure that alternative seating is available without making neurodivergent individuals feel singled out?

What role does seating play in helping neurodivergent individuals feel comfortable and focused during services?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent individuals about their seating preferences and needs?

WEEK 24

ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL ABILITIES

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:13 (NIV)

“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.”

DEVOTION

Jesus calls us to extend hospitality and inclusion to those with disabilities. Ensuring that our church environment is accessible to all abilities, including those with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities, reflects the heart of the gospel and the inclusive nature of God’s kingdom.

Example

Conduct an accessibility audit of the church’s facilities, focusing on physical, sensory, and cognitive accessibility. Train staff to assist individuals with different needs, ensuring that everyone can fully participate in church activities.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are the key areas of accessibility we need to address in our church to ensure everyone can participate fully?

How can we assess our current facilities and programs for accessibility gaps, particularly for neurodivergent individuals?

What practical steps can we take to improve accessibility in our physical spaces, communication, and programming?

How can we ensure that our efforts to improve accessibility are ongoing and responsive to the changing needs of our congregation?

How can improving accessibility benefit not only neurodivergent individuals but the entire church community?

WEEK 25

CREATING CALM AND ORDERLY SPACES

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 14:33 (NIV)

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.”

DEVOTION

A calm and orderly environment reflects God’s nature and helps create a space where Neurodivergent individuals can feel at peace. This involves minimizing unnecessary distractions, creating clear structures, and ensuring that the church environment promotes a sense of calm.

Example

Educate staff on how to maintain calm and orderly spaces, particularly in high-traffic areas like the lobby or fellowship hall. This could include minimizing clutter, managing noise levels, and creating a layout that is easy to navigate.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How do calm and orderly spaces contribute to the comfort and focus of neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What are some specific environmental factors (e.g., noise, lighting, layout) that can affect the sense of calm in our spaces?

How can we design or modify our church spaces to minimize chaos and create a more serene environment?

How can we involve neurodivergent individuals in providing input on what makes a space feel calm and orderly to them?

What role does maintaining calm and orderly spaces play in fostering an inclusive church environment?

WEEK 26

PROVIDING CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR BEHAVIOR

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.”

DEVOTION

Clear expectations for behavior help everyone, especially Neurodivergent individuals, understand what is expected of them in different church settings. This can reduce anxiety and promote a sense of belonging and participation.

Example

Develop clear guidelines for expected behavior during church services and events, and train staff on how to communicate these expectations to neurodivergent individuals in a supportive and non-judgmental way.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to clearly communicate behavioral expectations to neurodivergent individuals in our church?

How can we deliver these expectations in a way that is respectful and supportive, rather than punitive?

What tools or methods can we use to reinforce behavioral expectations, such as visual aids or role-playing?

How can clear behavioral expectations help neurodivergent individuals feel more confident and secure in their participation?

How can we balance maintaining behavioral standards with being flexible and accommodating to individual needs?

WEEK 27

OFFERING FLEXIBLE PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

SCRIPTURE

Romans 14:5 (NIV)

“One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.”

DEVOTION

Flexibility in participation allows Neurodivergent individuals to engage with church life in ways that are comfortable and meaningful for them. This might include providing alternative ways to participate in services or activities that accommodate different needs and preferences.

Example

Encourage staff to offer multiple ways for neurodivergent individuals to participate in church activities, such as providing options for virtual participation, offering alternative roles, or allowing flexible attendance.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to offer flexible participation options for neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What are some examples of flexible participation options that we can implement in our services and activities?

How can we communicate these options to neurodivergent individuals in a way that encourages their involvement?

What role does flexibility play in making church activities more accessible and enjoyable for everyone?

How can offering flexible participation options help neurodivergent individuals feel more included and valued in our community?

WEEK 28

INCORPORATING ROUTINE AND PREDICTABILITY

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)
“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

DEVOTION

Routine and predictability can be very comforting for Neurodivergent individuals, who may find sudden changes or unexpected events distressing. Incorporating consistent routines into church life helps create a sense of safety and stability.

Example

Train staff on the importance of routine and predictability for neurodivergent individuals. This might include creating consistent schedules for services and events, and clearly communicating any changes in advance.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How do routine and predictability benefit neurodivergent individuals in a church setting?

What aspects of our church services and activities can be made more predictable to reduce anxiety and increase comfort?

How can we communicate changes to routines in a way that minimizes disruption for neurodivergent individuals?

What role does predictability play in helping neurodivergent individuals feel more secure and engaged in our church community?

How can we balance the need for routine with the flexibility required to meet the diverse needs of our congregation?

WEEK 29

PROVIDING QUIET SPACES FOR REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

“He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’”

DEVOTION

Quiet spaces for reflection allow individuals to connect with God in stillness, away from the noise and activity of the world. This is especially important for Neurodivergent individuals who may need time and space to process their thoughts and feelings.

Example

Designate and maintain quiet spaces for reflection within the church. Train staff on how to guide neurodivergent individuals to these spaces when they need a break from sensory input or social interaction.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why are quiet spaces important for neurodivergent individuals during church services and activities?

What are the key characteristics of an effective quiet space, and how can we create such spaces in our church?

How can we communicate the availability of quiet spaces to those who might benefit from them without making them feel singled out?

What role do quiet spaces play in helping neurodivergent individuals manage sensory overload and stay engaged in church life?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent individuals to continually improve the design and accessibility of our quiet spaces?

WEEK 30

MAKING WORSHIP ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 150:6 (NIV)

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”

DEVOTION

Worship is a central part of church life, and it should be accessible to everyone, including Neurodivergent individuals. This means creating worship experiences that accommodate different sensory, cognitive, and emotional needs, ensuring that everyone can participate fully in praising the Lord.

Example

Educate staff on how to make worship services accessible, such as by offering sensory-friendly services, using clear and simple language, and providing worship materials in multiple formats (e.g., large print, Braille, or digital).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean for worship to be truly accessible to all members of our church, including neurodivergent individuals?

How can we evaluate our current worship practices and identify areas where accessibility can be improved?

What are some specific changes we can make to our worship services to ensure they are inclusive and accessible?

How can we involve neurodivergent individuals in the process of designing accessible worship experiences?

How can making worship more accessible enhance the spiritual growth and participation of all congregants?



WEEKS 31-40

WORSHIP
AND TEACHING

WEEK 31

ADAPTING SERMONS FOR DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:34 (NIV)

“Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.”

DEVOTION

Jesus used parables and stories to teach complex truths in ways that were accessible to everyone. Similarly, adapting sermons to accommodate different learning styles helps ensure that all members of the congregation can understand and apply God’s Word.

Example

Work with the pastoral team to adapt sermons to accommodate various learning styles, incorporating visual aids, storytelling, and interactive elements. Train staff to identify and support different learning preferences during services.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can adapting sermons to different learning styles improve engagement for neurodivergent individuals?

What are some specific ways we can incorporate multiple learning styles into our sermon delivery?

How can we ensure that these adaptations are integrated seamlessly into our sermons without distracting from the message?

What feedback mechanisms can we use to assess the effectiveness of these adaptations for neurodivergent members?

How can adapting sermons for different learning styles benefit the entire congregation, not just neurodivergent individuals?

WEEK 32

OFFERING ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP FORMATS

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 149:3 (NIV)

“Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.”

DEVOTION

Worship can take many forms, and offering alternative worship formats allows Neurodivergent individuals to connect with God in ways that resonate with their unique needs and preferences. This might include quieter services, sensory-friendly worship, or opportunities for creative expression.

Example

Explore alternative worship formats that might be more accessible to neurodivergent individuals, such as small group worship, outdoor services, or interactive worship sessions. Train staff to support these alternative formats and ensure they are inclusive.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are the benefits of offering alternative worship formats for neurodivergent individuals in our church?

How can we determine which alternative worship formats might be most effective for our community?

What steps can we take to implement these alternative formats in a way that complements our existing services?

How can we communicate the availability of alternative worship formats to encourage participation from neurodivergent individuals?

How can offering alternative worship formats contribute to a more inclusive and diverse worship experience?

WEEK 33

ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NIV)

“What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.”

DEVOTION

Worship is a communal experience where everyone has something to contribute. Encouraging Neurodivergent individuals to participate in worship, whether through leading a prayer, reading Scripture, or sharing a testimony, helps build up the entire church.

Example

Develop strategies to encourage neurodivergent individuals to participate in worship, such as providing clear cues, offering different roles (e.g., reading scripture, assisting with communion), and ensuring they feel comfortable and welcomed.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to encourage neurodivergent individuals to actively participate in worship, and what barriers might exist?

What are some specific roles or opportunities for participation that we can offer to neurodivergent individuals during worship?

How can we ensure that these participation opportunities are accessible and comfortable for neurodivergent individuals?

What feedback can we gather from neurodivergent members to help us identify the best ways to encourage their involvement in worship?

How can encouraging participation in worship strengthen the sense of community and belonging for neurodivergent individuals?

WEEK 34

CREATING VISUAL AND TACTILE WORSHIP ELEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 31:3-5 (NIV)

“And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.”

DEVOTION

God has given us the ability to create beauty through art and craftsmanship. Incorporating visual and tactile elements into worship helps Neurodivergent individuals connect with God in a more concrete and sensory way.

Example

Incorporate visual and tactile elements into worship, such as using art, banners, or hands-on prayer stations. Train staff to engage neurodivergent individuals with these elements in ways that are meaningful and respectful.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can visual and tactile elements enhance the worship experience for neurodivergent individuals?

What are some specific examples of visual and tactile elements that we can incorporate into our worship services?

How can we ensure that these elements are integrated in a way that is meaningful and not overwhelming for neurodivergent individuals?

What role do visual and tactile elements play in making worship more accessible and engaging for everyone?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to refine and improve the use of visual and tactile elements in worship?

WEEK 35

PROVIDING CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE SERMON NOTES

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 8:8 (NIV)

“They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.”

DEVOTION

Clear and accessible sermon notes help ensure that everyone can follow along with the message and understand its meaning. This is especially important for Neurodivergent individuals who may benefit from having the information presented in multiple formats.

Example

Prepare sermon notes that are clear, concise, and available in accessible formats (e.g., large print, digital). Train staff on how to distribute and explain these notes to neurodivergent individuals who may benefit from them.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can providing clear and accessible sermon notes benefit neurodivergent individuals in our congregation?

What are some specific strategies for creating sermon notes that are easy to understand and follow?

How can we ensure that sermon notes are available in multiple formats to accommodate different needs?

What role do sermon notes play in helping neurodivergent individuals stay engaged and retain the message of the sermon?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve the clarity and accessibility of our sermon notes?

WEEK 36

INCORPORATING MUSIC AND MOVEMENT INTO TEACHING

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 6:14 (NIV)

“Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might.”

DEVOTION

Music and movement can be powerful tools for worship and teaching, helping individuals express their faith in ways that resonate with their sensory and emotional needs. Incorporating these elements into teaching can make the message more engaging and memorable for Neurodivergent individuals.

Example

Encourage the use of music and movement in teaching, such as incorporating worship songs with simple choreography or

using rhythmic activities to reinforce learning. Train staff to lead these activities in a way that includes everyone.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can incorporating music and movement into teaching enhance the learning experience for neurodivergent individuals?

What are some specific ways we can integrate music and movement into our worship services and classes?

How can we ensure that these elements are accessible and enjoyable for neurodivergent individuals without being overstimulating?

What role does music and movement play in helping neurodivergent individuals connect with the message and with each other?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to assess the effectiveness of music and movement in teaching?

WEEK 37

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:13-15 (NIV)

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’”

DEVOTION

Reflection and discussion are essential parts of learning and growth in faith. Offering opportunities for Neurodivergent individuals to reflect on and discuss the message helps them process and apply what they have learned in a supportive environment.

Example

Create opportunities for reflection and discussion after services or events, providing a structured format where neurodivergent individuals can share their thoughts and questions. Train staff to facilitate these discussions, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can offering opportunities for reflection and discussion benefit neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What are some specific strategies for facilitating reflection and discussion in a way that is accessible and comfortable for neurodivergent members?

How can we create a safe and welcoming environment where neurodivergent individuals feel encouraged to share their thoughts and insights?

What role does reflection and discussion play in helping neurodivergent individuals process and apply the messages they hear in church?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to improve the effectiveness of our reflection and discussion opportunities?

WEEK 38

SUPPORTING DIFFERENT LEARNING PACES

SCRIPTURE

James 1:5 (NIV)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

DEVOTION

Everyone learns at their own pace, and this is especially true for Neurodivergent individuals who may need more time to process information. Supporting different learning paces ensures that everyone has the opportunity to fully grasp and apply the teachings of the church.

Example

Acknowledge that individuals learn at different paces, and provide support for those who need extra time to process information. Train staff on how to offer additional explanations, one-on-one support, or follow-up materials without making anyone feel rushed.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to support different learning paces within our church, particularly for neurodivergent individuals?

What are some specific strategies we can implement to accommodate different learning paces during sermons, classes, and activities?

How can we ensure that neurodivergent individuals do not feel rushed or pressured to keep up with others in the church?

What role does supporting different learning paces play in helping neurodivergent individuals fully engage and grow in their faith?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve our support for different learning paces?

WEEK 39

ENCOURAGING CREATIVE EXPRESSION IN WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 35:31-32 (NIV)

“And he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, and bronze.”

DEVOTION

God has gifted us with creativity, and encouraging creative expression in worship allows Neurodivergent individuals to connect with God in unique and meaningful ways. This might include visual art, music, dance, or other forms of creative expression that reflect their gifts and passions.

Example

Provide opportunities for creative expression in worship, such as art, poetry, or drama. Train staff to encourage neurodivergent individuals to participate in these activities, highlighting that creativity is a valuable form of worship.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can encouraging creative expression in worship benefit neurodivergent individuals and the church as a whole?

What are some specific opportunities for creative expression that we can offer during worship services and events?

How can we ensure that these opportunities are accessible and meaningful for neurodivergent individuals?

What role does creative expression play in helping neurodivergent individuals connect with God and with the church community?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to refine and enhance our approach to creative expression in worship?

WEEK 40

PROVIDING MULTI-SENSORY WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 34:8 (NIV)

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

DEVOTION

Worship that engages all the senses helps Neurodivergent individuals connect with God in a more holistic way. Multi-sensory worship experiences can include sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touch, allowing everyone to experience the presence of God through their senses.

Example

Design multi-sensory worship experiences that engage sight, sound, touch, and even smell or taste. Train staff to facilitate these experiences in ways that respect neurodivergent individuals’ sensory preferences and boundaries.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can multi-sensory worship experiences enhance the engagement and spiritual growth of neurodivergent individuals?

What are some specific examples of multi-sensory elements that we can incorporate into our worship services?

How can we ensure that these elements are integrated in a way that is meaningful and not overwhelming for neurodivergent individuals?

What role do multi-sensory experiences play in making worship more accessible and engaging for everyone?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve the effectiveness of our multi-sensory worship experiences?



WEEKS 41-52

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

WEEK 41

BUILDING SUPPORT NETWORKS FOR NEURODIVERGENT INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.”

DEVOTION

Support networks are vital for the well-being of Neurodivergent individuals and their families. Building strong, supportive communities within the church helps everyone feel connected, cared for, and valued.

Example

Establish support groups or networks within the church for neurodivergent individuals and their families. Train staff to

provide resources, facilitate connections, and offer pastoral care to those involved in these networks.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to build support networks for neurodivergent individuals and their families within our church?

What specific needs and challenges do neurodivergent individuals and their families face, and how can we address them?

How can we encourage neurodivergent individuals and their families to participate in and contribute to these support networks?

What role do these support networks play in helping neurodivergent individuals and their families feel connected and valued in our church community?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members and their families to continually improve the effectiveness of our support networks?

WEEK 42

OFFERING RESPITE CARE FOR FAMILIES

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

DEVOTION

Families of Neurodivergent individuals often experience significant stress and fatigue. Offering respite care through the church provides much-needed rest and support, allowing families to recharge and take care of their own well-being.

Example

Develop a respite care program where trained volunteers provide care for neurodivergent individuals, allowing their families time to rest. Train staff on how to safely and effectively manage the care needs of neurodivergent individuals during these sessions.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can offering respite care benefit families of neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What specific challenges might these families face in accessing respite care, and how can we address them?

How can we ensure that our respite care program is accessible, safe, and supportive for neurodivergent individuals?

What role does respite care play in helping families of neurodivergent individuals feel supported and valued by the church community?

How can we gather feedback from families to continually improve the effectiveness of our respite care program?

WEEK 43

PROMOTING INCLUSION IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

DEVOTION

Inclusion means ensuring that Neurodivergent individuals are welcomed and valued in all aspects of church life. This involves actively inviting them to participate in church activities, events, and ministries, and making any necessary accommodations to ensure they can do so comfortably.

Example

Make sure that all church activities, from social events to ministry opportunities, are accessible and inclusive for Neurodivergent individuals. This might include providing sensory accommodations, offering alternative communication methods, or assigning a buddy to help them navigate the event.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

How can promoting inclusion in all church activities benefit neurodivergent individuals and the church as a whole?

What specific barriers might neurodivergent individuals face in participating in church activities, and how can we address them?

How can we ensure that all church activities are designed to be inclusive and accessible to everyone?

What role does inclusion play in helping neurodivergent individuals feel connected and valued in our church community?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve the inclusivity of our church activities?

WEEK 44

EDUCATING THE CONGREGATION ON NEURODIVERSITY

SCRIPTURE

Hosea 4:6 (NIV)

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”

DEVOTION

Education is key to building an inclusive community. By educating the congregation about Neurodiversity, we can break down barriers of misunderstanding, prejudice, and fear, and create a more welcoming and supportive church environment for everyone.

Example

Organize educational sessions or workshops for the entire congregation on neurodiversity. Train staff on how to present these sessions effectively, using personal stories, guest speakers, and interactive elements to foster understanding and acceptance.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to educate the entire congregation on neurodiversity, and what benefits can this bring to our church?

What are some specific topics that should be covered in our educational efforts about neurodiversity?

How can we engage the congregation in these educational efforts in a way that is meaningful and impactful?

What role does education play in fostering a more inclusive and supportive church environment for neurodivergent individuals?

How can we gather feedback from the congregation to continually improve our neurodiversity education efforts?

WEEK 45

ENCOURAGING PEER SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)
*“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is
born for a time of adversity.”*

DEVOTION

Friendship and peer support are essential components of a healthy church community. Encouraging friendships between Neurodivergent and neurotypical individuals helps build a more inclusive and supportive environment where everyone feels valued and connected.

Example

Implement a peer support program where neurotypical and neurodivergent individuals are paired as buddies. Train staff to oversee these relationships, providing guidance and support as needed to ensure they are positive and enriching for both parties.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can encouraging peer support and friendship benefit neurodivergent individuals and the church community?

What are some specific strategies we can implement to foster peer support and friendships within our church?

How can we ensure that neurodivergent individuals feel welcomed and included in these peer support and friendship initiatives?

What role does peer support play in helping neurodivergent individuals feel connected and valued in our church community?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve our peer support and friendship programs?

WEEK 46

ADVOCATING FOR INCLUSION BEYOND THE CHURCH

SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

DEVOTION

Our commitment to inclusion should extend beyond the walls of the church. Advocating for the rights and inclusion of Neurodivergent individuals in society reflects God’s call to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

Example

Encourage staff to advocate for neurodivergent individuals beyond the church, such as in local schools, workplaces, or community organizations. Provide training on how to be effective advocates, including how to communicate the church’s commitment to inclusion.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important for our church to advocate for inclusion beyond our walls, and what impact can this have on the broader community?

What specific actions can we take to advocate for neurodivergent individuals in our local schools, workplaces, and community organizations?

How can we encourage our congregation to be active advocates for inclusion in their daily lives?

What role does advocacy play in demonstrating our commitment to the principles of inclusivity and justice?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent individuals and their families to inform and strengthen our advocacy efforts?

WEEK 47

CELEBRATING NEURODIVERGENT INDIVIDUALS

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

DEVOTION

Celebrating the unique contributions and gifts of Neurodivergent individuals helps them feel valued and appreciated within the church community. Just as God delights in each of us, we should take delight in the diversity and creativity that Neurodivergent individuals bring to our community.

Example

Organize events or services that specifically celebrate the contributions and talents of neurodivergent individuals within the church. Train staff to plan these events in a way that honors neurodivergent voices and showcases their gifts.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can celebrating neurodivergent individuals contribute to a more inclusive and supportive church community?

What are some specific ways we can recognize and celebrate the contributions and talents of neurodivergent individuals in our church?

How can we ensure that these celebrations are meaningful and affirming for neurodivergent individuals?

What role does celebration play in helping neurodivergent individuals feel valued and appreciated by the church community?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve our efforts to celebrate their contributions?

WEEK 48

PROVIDING MENTORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

DEVOTION

Mentorship and discipleship are key to spiritual growth and development. Providing mentorship opportunities for Neurodivergent individuals helps them deepen their faith, develop their gifts, and build strong, supportive relationships within the church.

Example

Establish a mentorship or discipleship program that pairs Neurodivergent individuals with mature, supportive mentors who can guide them in their faith journey, help them develop their gifts, and offer encouragement and support.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can providing mentorship and discipleship opportunities benefit neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What specific challenges might neurodivergent individuals face in accessing mentorship and discipleship, and how can we address them?

How can we design our mentorship and discipleship programs to be inclusive and supportive of neurodivergent individuals?

What role do mentorship and discipleship play in helping neurodivergent individuals grow in their faith and connection to the church?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve the effectiveness of our mentorship and discipleship programs?

WEEK 49

ENCOURAGING NEURODIVERGENT LEADERSHIP

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

DEVOTION

Neurodivergent individuals have valuable perspectives and gifts that can contribute to church leadership. Encouraging and supporting Neurodivergent individuals to take on leadership roles helps build a more inclusive and diverse church community.

Example

Identify neurodivergent individuals with leadership potential and provide them with opportunities to lead in various church ministries. Train staff on how to support these leaders, offering mentorship and accommodations as needed to help them succeed.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important to encourage and support neurodivergent individuals in taking on leadership roles within the church?

What specific leadership opportunities can we offer to neurodivergent individuals, and how can we support them in these roles?

How can we ensure that our church leadership is inclusive and representative of the diversity within our congregation?

What role does neurodivergent leadership play in enriching the overall mission and ministry of the church?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent individuals to continually improve our efforts to encourage and support their leadership?

WEEK 50

OFFERING SUPPORT DURING TRANSITIONS

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”*

DEVOTION

Transitions, such as moving to a new church, changing routines, or experiencing life changes, can be particularly challenging for Neurodivergent individuals. Offering support during these times helps them navigate changes with confidence and faith.

Example

Create a support system for neurodivergent individuals during transitions, such as starting a new job, moving, or experiencing changes in church leadership. Train staff on how to provide consistent support, including check-ins, resources, and prayer.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can offering support during life transitions benefit neurodivergent individuals in our church?

What specific challenges might neurodivergent individuals face during transitions, and how can we address them?

How can we design our support programs to be inclusive and responsive to the unique needs of neurodivergent individuals during transitions?

What role does support during transitions play in helping neurodivergent individuals feel secure and connected to the church community?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent individuals to continually improve our support during transitions?

WEEK 51

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE IN ALL CHURCH MINISTRIES

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (NIV)

“So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

DEVOTION

Inclusion should be a core value in all church ministries, ensuring that Neurodivergent individuals are fully integrated into every aspect of church life. This means creating a culture of inclusion where everyone is valued, supported, and celebrated.

Example

Assess all church ministries for inclusivity, making adjustments where necessary to ensure that neurodivergent individuals are welcomed and supported. Train staff across all

ministries on best practices for inclusivity, encouraging a church-wide culture of acceptance.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to create an inclusive culture across all church ministries, and why is this important?

How can we assess the inclusivity of our current ministries and identify areas for improvement?

What specific steps can we take to ensure that inclusivity is a core value in every ministry of our church?

How can we involve neurodivergent individuals in the process of creating and sustaining an inclusive church culture?

How can we gather feedback from neurodivergent members to continually improve the inclusivity of our church ministries?

WEEK 52

COMMITTING TO LONG-TERM INCLUSION AND GROWTH

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

DEVOTION

Inclusion is not a one-time effort but a long-term commitment to growth and improvement. By committing to the ongoing work of inclusion, we ensure that our church continues to grow in love, understanding, and support for Neurodivergent individuals.

Example

Establish a long-term plan for continuing to grow in inclusivity, setting goals for the next year and beyond. Train staff to take ownership of this plan, ensuring that inclusion remains

a priority in all aspects of church life, from leadership decisions to day-to-day interactions.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why is it important for our church to commit to long-term inclusion and growth, particularly for neurodivergent individuals?

What specific goals should we set for the next year to continue our progress in inclusivity?

How can we ensure that our commitment to inclusion remains a priority in all areas of church life?

What role does ongoing reflection and feedback play in sustaining our efforts toward long-term inclusion?

How can we celebrate the progress we've made while continuing to strive for greater inclusion and support for neurodivergent individuals?

TRAINING CONCLUSION

As you reach the end of this 52-week journey, take a moment to reflect on the transformation that has taken place within your church. You have dedicated a year to learning, growing, and reimagining what it means to be the body of Christ—a body that is truly inclusive of all its members, including those with Autism and other forms of Neurodivergence.

This training was never intended to be a one-time initiative, but rather the beginning of an ongoing commitment to inclusion and understanding. The principles and practices you have explored over these weeks are meant to be woven into the very fabric of your church community, influencing how you worship, serve, and fellowship together.

CELEBRATING PROGRESS

Throughout this journey, you've likely encountered challenges and had to confront assumptions or practices that may have unintentionally excluded others. Yet, through prayer, reflection, and action, your church has taken meaningful steps toward creating an environment where everyone is welcome, valued, and able to fully participate.

Celebrate the progress you've made—both the big milestones and the small, everyday moments where inclusion has become a natural part of your church's life. Acknowledge the growth in empathy, understanding, and compassion among your members, and recognize the positive impact this has

had on individuals with Autism and Neurodivergence within your community.

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

While this 52-week training has come to an end, the journey toward greater inclusivity continues. Inclusion is not a destination but an ongoing process that requires constant attention and commitment. As your church moves forward, continue to seek out opportunities to learn and grow in this area. Be proactive in adapting your practices and environments to meet the diverse needs of your community.

Consider how you can build on the foundation you've laid over the past year. Perhaps this means developing additional resources, forming a dedicated inclusion team, or partnering with organizations that support individuals with Autism and Neurodivergence. Whatever your next steps may be, approach them with the same dedication and openness that has brought you this far.

We also invite you to continue the journey with the next part of this book. As a tool, we have designed a 52-week devotional geared towards the community of Neurodiversity. Use this devotional as a guide to help facilitate discipleship and community with people of all neuro-types.

A DEVOTIONAL DESIGNED FOR THE NEURODIVERGENT COMMUNITY

Devotional Introduction

Welcome to this 52-week devotional guide, designed specifically to help churches create a more inclusive and supportive environment for small groups that include Neurodivergent individuals, particularly those with Autism. This guide is structured to accommodate various learning styles, ensuring that everyone in your church community can engage meaningfully with their faith.

Supporting Diverse Learning Styles

Understanding that everyone learns differently, this devotional offers a mix of Scripture, reflective devotions, prayers, and hands-on activities. These elements are designed to connect with each group member's unique way of experiencing and understanding God's love.

Engaging Activities

Each week includes a suggested activity that helps reinforce the week's theme through creative and interactive means. These activities are an essential part of the devotional, encouraging deeper engagement. Since some activities require specific supplies, we recommend leaders review the upcoming week in advance to ensure they're prepared, making the experience seamless and enjoyable for all participants.

Building a Welcoming Community

This devotional is more than just a series of simple lessons—it's a tool to help your church grow in its ability to welcome, support, and nurture the Neurodivergent members of your community. It's about creating spaces where everyone feels valued and can fully participate in the life of the church.

As you use this guide with your small groups, you'll be fostering a church culture that celebrates diversity and ensures that every person, regardless of how they learn or experience the world, can connect with God and grow in their faith.

Let's begin this journey together, embracing the richness that Neurodiversity brings to our church communities.

52-WEEK
DEVOTIONAL



WEEKS 1-3

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Goal:

Establishing a strong foundation in understanding
God's love and our identity in Christ.

WEEK 1

GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

DEVOTION

God's love for us is constant and unchanging, no matter what happens in life. His love is not based on what we do or how we feel, but on His unchanging nature. This means that even on days when things are hard or confusing, God's love is still there, surrounding us and holding us close.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for Your unfailing love that never changes. Help me to remember that nothing can separate me from Your love, even on the days when I feel unsure or overwhelmed. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How does it feel to know that nothing can separate you from God's love?

What are some ways you can remind yourself of God's love during difficult times

How can understanding God's constant love help you in your daily life?

Activity

Create a "Love Jar" – Decorate a jar and fill it with notes about times when you've felt God's love. Add to it throughout the week.

WEEK 2

CREATED WITH PURPOSE

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

DEVOTION

God created each of us with a unique purpose. Every part of who you are has been designed by Him, and He doesn't make mistakes. Even the things that make you different are part of God's wonderful design. Embrace who you are, knowing that you are created with love and intention.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for making me fearfully and wonderfully. Help me to embrace the person You've created me to be and to live out the purpose You have for my life. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to you that God has created you with purpose?

What are some things that make you unique and special?

How can you use your unique qualities to serve others and glorify God?

Activity

Make a “Purpose Collage” – Use magazines, drawings, and words to create a collage that represents your unique qualities and purpose.

WEEK 3

GOD'S STRENGTH IN OUR WEAKNESS

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

DEVOTION

We all have moments when we feel weak or inadequate, but it's in these moments that God's strength shines the brightest. When we rely on His strength instead of our own, we can overcome challenges that seem impossible. God's grace is enough for every situation, and His power is made perfect in our weakness.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your grace that is always enough. Help me to trust in Your strength when I feel weak and to know that Your power is working in me. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have you felt weak and seen God's strength help you?

How can you remember to rely on God's strength in difficult situations?

What does it mean to you that God's power is made perfect in weakness?

Activity

Build a Strength Tower – Using building blocks or household items, build a tower representing God's strength in your life. Discuss how each piece represents God holding you up.



WEEKS 4-6

GROWING IN FAITH

Goal:

Encouraging growth in understanding
and living out one's faith.

WEEK 4

THE POWER OF PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

DEVOTION

Prayer is a powerful way to communicate with God. It's not just about asking for things, but also about sharing your heart with Him and listening for His guidance. When you feel anxious or uncertain, turn to prayer as a way to connect with God and find peace in His presence.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for always being there to listen when I pray. Help me to bring my worries and requests to You in prayer, and to trust that You are always listening and caring for me. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How does prayer help you feel closer to God?

What are some things you can talk to God about in prayer?

How can you make prayer a regular part of your daily routine?

ACTIVITY

Prayer Beads – Create a set of prayer beads where each bead represents something or someone to pray for.

WEEK 5

TRUSTING IN GOD'S PLAN

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

DEVOTION

Sometimes life doesn't make sense, and it can be hard to understand why things happen the way they do. But God has a plan for each of us, and when we trust in Him, He will guide us on the right path. Even when we don't understand, we can have faith that God knows what He's doing.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to trust in Your plan for my life, even when I don't understand it. Give me the faith to follow where You lead and to believe that You are guiding me every step of the way. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to trust God with all your heart?

When have you had to trust God even when you didn't understand what was happening?

How can trusting God's plan help you in your daily life?

Activity

Puzzle Trust – Work on a puzzle without seeing the picture on the box. Discuss how trusting in God is like trusting the pieces will form the picture even when you can't see it.

WEEK 6

FINDING PEACE IN GOD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)

*“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.”*

DEVOTION

Peace can be hard to find in a busy, chaotic world, but God promises to give us perfect peace when we keep our minds focused on Him. This doesn't mean that everything will always be calm, but that we can find a deep, lasting peace in our hearts, knowing that God is in control.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the peace that comes from trusting in You. Help me to keep my mind focused on You so that I can experience the perfect peace that You promise.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have you felt God's peace in your life?

How can you keep your mind focused on God in difficult times?

What are some things that help you feel peaceful?

Activity

Peaceful Painting – Paint or draw a scene that makes you feel peaceful, like a calm ocean or a quiet forest. Reflect on God's peace.



WEEKS 7-9

LIVING OUT FAITH

Goal:

Encouraging practical application of
faith in everyday life.

WEEK 7

SERVING OTHERS WITH LOVE

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

DEVOTION

One of the ways we show our love for God is by serving others. When we serve with humility and love, we reflect God’s love to those around us. It doesn’t have to be something big—small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone’s life.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the freedom You have given me. Help me to use that freedom to serve others with love and humility, and to reflect Your love in all I do. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some ways you can serve others in your daily life?

How does serving others help you grow in your faith?

How can you make serving others a regular part of your life?

Activity

Kindness Cards – Make cards with encouraging messages and give them to people throughout the week, or leave them in public places for others to find.

WEEK 8

FORGIVING AS GOD FORGIVES

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

DEVOTION

Forgiveness is a central part of our faith. Just as God has forgiven us, we are called to forgive others. This doesn't mean that what someone did was okay, but it does mean letting go of anger and hurt, and trusting God to bring healing and justice.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the forgiveness You have given me through Jesus. Help me to forgive others as You have forgiven me, and to let go of any anger or hurt that I may be holding onto. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to you that God has forgiven you?

Is there someone you need to forgive? How can you start that process?

How does forgiving others help you experience more of God's peace and love?

Activity

Forgiveness Stones – Paint or decorate stones, then write the names of people you need to forgive on them. Pray over the stones and then place them somewhere special as a reminder of your decision to forgive.

WEEK 9

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”

DEVOTION

Living with integrity means being honest and doing the right thing, even when it's hard. When we live with integrity, we can have confidence and peace, knowing that we are walking in God's ways. It's about being true to who God has called us to be, in both big and small things.

PRAYER

God, help me to live with integrity in everything I do. Give me the strength to make the right choices, even when they are difficult, and to live in a way that honors You. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to you to live with integrity?

How can you practice integrity in your daily life?

What are some challenges you face in living with integrity, and how can you overcome them?

Activity

Integrity Role Play – Act out scenarios where you must choose between right and wrong. Discuss how living with integrity might feel in each situation.



WEEKS 10-12

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Goal:

Building and nurturing relationships
within the body of Christ.

WEEK 10

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

DEVOTION

We all need encouragement from time to time. God calls us to be a source of encouragement to those around us, helping each other to grow in faith and love. By offering kind words, a listening ear, or a helping hand, we can make a big difference in the lives of others.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the people You have placed in my life. Help me to be an encourager, building others up with my words and actions, and showing Your love in all I do.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Who has been an encouragement to you, and how?

How can you encourage someone in your life this week?

Why is it important to build each other up in faith?

Activity

Encouragement Chain – Create a paper chain where each link contains an encouraging word or phrase for someone you know. See how long you can make the chain.

WEEK 11

BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

DEVOTION

God designed us to be in relationships with others, supporting and helping one another. Strong relationships are built on trust, love, and mutual support. Whether it’s family, friends, or members of your church community, these relationships are important for your spiritual growth and well-being.

PRAYER

God, thank You for the people You have placed in my life.
Help me to build strong, healthy relationships that honor
You, and to be a source of support and encouragement to
those around me. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What makes a relationship strong and healthy?

How can you be a better friend or family member to those in your life?

What can you do to strengthen your relationships with others?

Activity

Friendship Bracelet – Make friendship bracelets to give to people you want to build stronger relationships with.

WEEK 12

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:31 (NIV)

“The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

DEVOTION

Loving our neighbors is one of the most important commands Jesus gave us. This love isn't just about feelings; it's about actions—helping, caring, and showing kindness to those around us. Whether it's someone close to you or a stranger in need, loving your neighbor reflects God's love in the world.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your love that never fails. Help me to love my neighbors as You have loved me, showing kindness and care to everyone I meet. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Who is your neighbor, and how can you show them love?

What are some practical ways you can love others in your community?

How does loving others help you grow in your faith?

Activity

Neighborhood Treasure Hunt – Organize a small treasure hunt with simple, encouraging notes or small gifts hidden around the neighborhood for others to find.



WEEKS 13-16

PERSONAL GROWTH IN FAITH

Goal:

Encouraging ongoing personal spiritual
growth and maturity.

WEEK 13

GROWING IN PATIENCE

SCRIPTURE

James 1:4 (NIV)

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

DEVOTION

Patience is a vital part of spiritual growth. It can be challenging to wait on God’s timing, but patience teaches us to trust in God’s plan and to remain steadfast even when we face difficulties. As we grow in patience, we become more mature in our faith, fully relying on God in every situation.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to grow in patience and to trust in Your perfect timing. Teach me to persevere through challenges, knowing that You are at work in my life, making me complete. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have you needed to be patient and trust in God's timing?

How can practicing patience help you grow in your faith?

What are some areas in your life where you can ask God for more patience?

Activity

Patience Planting – Plant a seed and care for it over the weeks, discussing how patience is needed for it to grow, just like in our spiritual lives.

WEEK 14

DEVELOPING A HEART OF GRATITUDE

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

DEVOTION

Gratitude shifts our focus from what we don’t have to what God has already provided. Even in difficult circumstances, there is always something to be thankful for. Cultivating a heart of gratitude helps us to see God’s goodness in our lives and strengthens our relationship with Him.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for all the blessings You have given me. Help me to see Your hand at work in my life and to give thanks in every situation, knowing that You are always good. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some things you are thankful for today?

How can focusing on gratitude change your perspective during difficult times?

How can you practice gratitude in your daily life?

Activity

Gratitude Journal – Start a gratitude journal and write down three things you're thankful for each day.

WEEK 15

THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:3 (NIV)

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

DEVOTION

Humility is about recognizing that we are not the center of the universe and that others are just as important as we are. It's about putting others first and serving them with love. Jesus is our greatest example of humility, and as we follow Him, we learn to live humbly and serve others.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us what true humility looks like. Help me to follow Your example by putting others first and serving them with love. Teach me to walk humbly with You every day. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does humility mean to you?

How can you practice humility in your relationships with others?

What are some areas in your life where you need to grow in humility?

Activity

Humble Heart Craft – Make a heart-shaped craft where you list ways to practice humility, and hang it somewhere visible.

WEEK 16

BUILDING A FAITH THAT ENDURES

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

DEVOTION

Faith isn't just about starting well; it's about finishing well. Endurance in faith means staying committed to God, even when life is hard. It's about running the race with perseverance, knowing that God is with us every step of the way. As we endure, our faith grows stronger and deeper.

PRAYER

God, help me to run the race of faith with endurance. Give me the strength to keep going, even when things are tough, and to trust that You are with me every step of the way. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What challenges have you faced in your faith journey?

How can you stay committed to God during difficult times?

What does it mean to you to have a faith that endures?

Activity

Endurance Walk – Take a long walk or hike, talking about how faith helps us keep going even when things get tough. Reflect on the journey afterward.



WEEKS 17-20

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Goal:

Providing spiritual tools to overcome life's challenges
with God's help.

WEEK 17

FINDING STRENGTH IN GOD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

DEVOTION

Life can be exhausting, and we all have times when we feel like we can't go on. But God promises to give us strength when we put our hope in Him. When we rely on God's strength instead of our own, we can keep going even when we feel weak, knowing that He will renew our strength.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for being my strength when I am weak. Help me to put my hope in You and to trust that You will give me the strength I need to keep going. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have you experienced God's strength in your life?

How can you rely on God's strength instead of your own?

What are some areas in your life where you need God's strength right now?

Activity

Strength Bracelet – Create a bracelet using strong materials (like leather or rope) to symbolize the strength you find in God.

WEEK 18

OVERCOMING FEAR WITH FAITH

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

DEVOTION

Fear can be paralyzing, but God hasn't given us a spirit of fear. Instead, He has given us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. When fear tries to take over, we can overcome it by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit and remembering that God is with us, giving us the courage to face our fears.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the power, love, and self-discipline You have given me through Your Spirit. Help me to overcome fear with faith and to trust that You are always with me. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What fears are you facing right now, and how can you bring them to God?

How does knowing that God has given you a spirit of power help you face your fears?

What steps can you take to overcome fear with faith?

Activity

Fear Jar – Write down your fears on pieces of paper and place them in a jar. At the end of the week, pray over the jar and destroy the papers as a symbol of overcoming those fears.

WEEK 19

TRUSTING GOD IN DIFFICULT TIMES

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the
mountains fall into the heart of the sea.”*

DEVOTION

Difficult times are inevitable, but we don't have to face them alone. God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help us when we're in trouble. When everything around us feels like it's falling apart, we can trust that God is holding us steady and will see us through.

PRAYER

God, thank You for being my refuge and strength in difficult times. Help me to trust in You, knowing that You are always with me and will never leave me. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How have you seen God help you in difficult times?

What does it mean to you that God is your refuge and strength?

How can you trust God more fully in the challenges you face?

Activity:

Trust Walk – With a partner, take turns guiding each other while one person is blindfolded. Discuss how trusting God is like trusting your partner to lead you safely.

WEEK 20

FINDING HOPE IN GOD

SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

DEVOTION

Hope is essential to our spiritual lives. It’s the confident expectation that God is working, even when we can’t see it. God is the source of all hope, and as we trust in Him, He fills us with joy and peace, enabling us to overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

God of hope, fill me with Your joy and peace as I trust in You. Help me to overflow with hope, even in difficult circumstances, and to share that hope with others. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What gives you hope in difficult times?

How can you trust God more fully to fill you with hope?

Who in your life could use some hope, and how can you share it with them?

Activity

Hope Lantern – Decorate a small lantern or jar, placing a candle or light inside to symbolize the hope that shines even in darkness.



WEEKS 21-24

DEEPENING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Goal:

Encouraging a closer, more intimate
relationship with God.

WEEK 21

SPENDING TIME WITH GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 1:2 (NIV)

“But whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.”

DEVOTION

Building a close relationship with God requires spending time with Him, just like any other relationship. This means reading His Word, praying, and meditating on His truths. The more time we spend with God, the more we grow to delight in Him and His ways.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to spend time with You every day, to delight in Your Word, and to grow closer to You. May my relationship with You deepen as I meditate on Your truths.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you make time to spend with God each day?

What does it mean to delight in God's Word?

How can spending time with God help you in your daily life?

Activity

Prayer Garden – Create a small indoor or outdoor prayer garden with items that help you focus on spending time with God.

WEEK 22

LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE

SCRIPTURE

John 10:27 (NIV)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

DEVOTION

God speaks to us in many ways—through His Word, through prayer, and sometimes in the quiet moments of our day. Learning to recognize and listen to God’s voice is a crucial part of growing in our relationship with Him. As we listen and follow, we find guidance, comfort, and assurance in His presence.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to hear Your voice and to follow where You lead. Teach me to listen closely to what You are saying and to trust that You are guiding me every step of the way.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you become better at recognizing God's voice in your life?

What are some ways God might be speaking to you right now?

How can you respond to what God is saying to you?

Activity

Listening Nature Walk – Go on a walk in nature, focusing on the sounds around you. Discuss how tuning into God's voice can be similar to focusing on the quiet sounds in nature.

WEEK 23

TRUSTING IN GOD'S GOODNESS

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 34:8 (NIV)

*“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes
refuge in him.”*

DEVOTION

God is good, and His goodness is evident in every part of our lives. Sometimes, we need to take a moment to stop and “taste and see” how good He truly is. When we trust in God’s goodness, we can face life’s challenges with confidence, knowing that God is working for our good.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your goodness that is always with me. Help me to trust in Your goodness and to find refuge in You, knowing that You are always working for my good.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How have you experienced God's goodness in your life?

What does it mean to "taste and see" that the Lord is good?

How can trusting in God's goodness help you face challenges?

Activity

Goodness Tree – Draw or craft a tree where each leaf represents a way you've seen God's goodness in your life. Add a new leaf each day.

WEEK 24

SEEKING GOD'S WILL

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

DEVOTION

Seeking God's will means putting His kingdom and His righteousness first in our lives. It's about aligning our desires with God's and trusting that He will provide for our needs. When we seek God's will, we find purpose, direction, and fulfillment in our lives.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to seek Your will above all else. Teach me to desire Your kingdom and righteousness more than anything, and to trust that You will take care of everything else. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to you to seek God's will?

How can you make seeking God's kingdom and righteousness a priority in your life?

What are some areas in your life where you need to seek God's will more fully?

Activity

Compass Craft – Create a simple compass or decorate a real one, symbolizing the way God guides us when we seek His will.



WEEKS 25-27

LIVING OUT YOUR FAITH IN THE WORLD

Goal:

Encouraging practical ways to live out faith in daily life
and witness to others.

WEEK 25

BEING A LIGHT IN THE WORLD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

DEVOTION

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be a light in the world, reflecting His love and truth to those around us. This doesn't mean we have to be perfect, but it does mean living in a way that points others to God. When we live out our faith with integrity and love, we shine God's light into the darkness.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to be a light in the world, reflecting Your love and truth to those around me. Teach me to live in a way that honors You and draws others to Your light.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you be a light to those around you?

What are some ways you can reflect God's love and truth in your daily life?

How does being a light in the world help others see God?

Activity

Candle Making – Make your own candles and discuss how being a light in the world is like shining God's light in dark places.

WEEK 26

SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

DEVOTION

Sharing our faith doesn't have to be intimidating. It's simply about being ready to share the hope we have in Christ when the opportunity arises. This can be through words, actions, or the way we live our lives. And when we share, we do so with gentleness and respect, always pointing others to Jesus.

PRAYER

Father, help me to be ready to share the hope I have in You with others. Give me the courage to speak about my faith when the opportunity arises, and to do so with gentleness and respect. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some ways you can share your faith with others?

How can you prepare yourself to share your faith when opportunities come up?

Who in your life could use some hope, and how can you share it with them?

Activity

Faith Story Stones – Paint or decorate stones that represent parts of your faith story, then use them to share your story with someone else.

WEEK 27

STANDING FIRM IN YOUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”

DEVOTION

Standing firm in our faith means holding onto what we believe, even when it's hard. It's about being courageous and strong, knowing that God is with us. In a world that often challenges our beliefs, it's important to stay grounded in God's truth and to stand firm in our faith.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to stand firm in my faith, no matter what challenges I face. Give me the courage and strength to hold onto Your truth and to live out my faith boldly.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What challenges have you faced in standing firm in your faith?

How can you stay grounded in God's truth in difficult situations?

What does it mean to you to stand firm in your faith?

Activity

Firm Foundation Tower – Build a tower with blocks or other materials, discussing how a strong foundation helps us stand firm in our faith. Test how well the tower stands when you remove key pieces, representing distractions or challenges.



WEEKS 28-31

PERSEVERING THROUGH TRIALS

Goal:

Equipping believers to endure hardships and grow through adversity.

WEEK 28

FINDING JOY IN TRIALS

SCRIPTURE

James 1:2-3 (NIV)

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

DEVOTION

Trials are an inevitable part of life, but they don't have to rob us of our joy. In fact, James tells us to consider it joy when we face trials, because they strengthen our faith and build perseverance. By trusting God through difficult times, we can experience joy even in the midst of hardship, knowing that He is using these challenges to grow us.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to find joy in the trials I face, knowing that You are using them to strengthen my faith and build perseverance in me. Teach me to trust You more deeply during difficult times. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you find joy in the midst of trials?

What has God taught you through difficult times in the past?

How can perseverance in faith help you face future challenges?

Activity

Joyful Jar – Each time you face a challenge, write down something positive or a lesson learned and place it in a jar. Look back at the jar at the end of the week to see how joy can come from trials.

WEEK 29

TRUSTING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

DEVOTION

God’s faithfulness is a foundation we can always rely on, no matter what we’re going through. His love and compassion never fail; they are new every morning. When we face trials, we can find comfort and strength in knowing that God is faithful and will never abandon us.

PRAYER

Faithful God, thank You for Your unfailing love and compassion. Help me to trust in Your faithfulness, especially when I face trials, and to remember that You are always with me. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How have you experienced God's faithfulness in your life?

What does it mean to you that God's compassions are new every morning?

How can trusting in God's faithfulness help you endure trials?

Activity

Faithfulness Timeline – Create a timeline of your life and mark moments where you've seen God's faithfulness. Reflect on how He's been with you through it all.

WEEK 30

FINDING COMFORT IN GOD

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

DEVOTION

God is the ultimate source of comfort in our lives. When we face troubles, He is there to wrap us in His love and bring us peace. Not only does He comfort us, but He also equips us to comfort others who are going through similar trials. By leaning on God’s comfort, we can become vessels of His love and compassion to those around us.

PRAYER

Father of compassion, thank You for the comfort You provide in all my troubles. Help me to receive Your comfort fully and to extend that same comfort to others who are hurting. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How has God comforted you during difficult times?

Who in your life might need God's comfort right now, and how can you help them?

What does it mean to you to be a vessel of God's comfort to others?

Activity

Comfort Blanket – Decorate a small blanket or piece of fabric with words or images that remind you of God's comfort. Use it during prayer time.

WEEK 31

HOLDING ONTO HOPE

SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

DEVOTION

Suffering can feel overwhelming, but God uses it to produce something beautiful in us. As we persevere through trials, our character is shaped, and from that character springs hope. This hope is not just wishful thinking; it's a confident assurance that God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of suffering.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the hope that comes from persevering through trials. Help me to hold onto that hope, knowing that You are using every challenge to shape my character and draw me closer to You. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How has God used suffering to shape your character?

What does hope look like to you in the midst of trials?

How can you encourage others to hold onto hope during difficult times?

Activity

Hope Collage – Gather images, words, and symbols that represent hope to you and create a collage. Display it as a reminder of the hope you have in God.



WEEKS 32-35

DEEPENING TRUST IN GOD

Goal:

Strengthening faith through a deeper understanding of
God's nature and promises.

WEEK 32

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

DEVOTION

God's plans for us are good, even when we can't see the full picture. He knows what's best for us, and He is always working to bring about His purposes in our lives. Trusting in God's plan means letting go of our own need for control and believing that His ways are higher than ours.

PRAYER

Father, help me to trust in Your good plan for my life, even when I don't understand what's happening. Give me the faith to believe that You are always working for my good and leading me into a hopeful future. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you trust God's plan even when it's hard to see where it's leading?

What does it mean to you that God's plans are for your good?

How can trusting in God's plan bring you peace in uncertain times?

Activity

Trust Path – Create a path or obstacle course in your yard or home. Navigate it with guidance from a friend, discussing how it feels to trust God's plan even when you can't see the whole path.

WEEK 33

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PROMISES

SCRIPTURE

Numbers 23:19 (NIV)

“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

DEVOTION

God is faithful to His promises. Unlike humans, who may make promises they can't keep, God always follows through on what He says. His promises are trustworthy and unchanging. When we face uncertainty, we can hold onto God's promises, knowing that He will fulfill them.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness to Your promises. Help me to trust in Your Word and to believe that You will always do what You say. Give me confidence in Your unchanging nature. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What promises of God are you holding onto right now?

How can you trust God's promises even when circumstances seem to contradict them?

What does God's faithfulness to His promises mean for your life?

Activity

Promise Box – Decorate a box and fill it with scripture verses that reflect God's promises. Read one each day as a reminder of His faithfulness.

WEEK 34

RELYING ON GOD'S STRENGTH

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 73:26 (NIV)

*“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.”*

DEVOTION

Our own strength is limited, but God's strength is limitless. When we feel weak or overwhelmed, we can rely on God to be our strength. He is our portion forever, meaning that He is all we need to get through any challenge we face. By leaning on God's strength, we can find the courage to face whatever comes our way.

PRAYER

God, thank You for being my strength when I am weak. Help me to rely on Your power instead of my own and to trust that You are all I need in every situation. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have you needed to rely on God's strength instead of your own?

How can you remind yourself to lean on God's strength in challenging times?

What does it mean to you that God is your portion forever?

Activity

Strength Shield – Make a shield out of cardboard or other materials, decorating it with symbols of God's strength in your life.

WEEK 35

GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

DEVOTION

God's timing is perfect, even when it doesn't align with our own plans. There is a season for everything, and God knows exactly when things should happen. Trusting in His timing means waiting patiently for His plans to unfold and believing that He knows what is best for us, even when we don't understand.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to trust in Your perfect timing. Teach me to wait patiently for Your plans to unfold, knowing that You know what is best for me. Give me peace as I trust in Your timing. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you trust God's timing even when it's different from your own?

What have you learned about God's timing in your life?

How can patience help you to trust in God's perfect plan for you?

Activity

Clock Craft – Create a clock where each number represents a different way God's timing has worked in your life. Discuss the importance of waiting on God's perfect timing.



WEEKS 36-39

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Goal:

Living a Spirit-filled life that reflects God's presence
and power.

WEEK 36

BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:14 (NIV)
*“For those who are led by the Spirit of God
are the children of God.”*

DEVOTION

As children of God, we are called to be led by the Holy Spirit. This means listening to His guidance in our daily lives and allowing Him to direct our paths. When we walk in step with the Spirit, we experience the fullness of life that God intends for us, and we become more like Christ.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, lead me in all that I do. Help me to listen to Your voice and to follow where You guide me. Teach me to walk in step with You every day, becoming more like Jesus. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you be more aware of the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life?

What does it mean to you to be led by the Spirit?

How can you practice walking in step with the Spirit each day?

Activity

Wind Chime – Create a wind chime that represents the Holy Spirit's guidance. Each time you hear it, remind yourself to be open to the Spirit's leading.

WEEK 37

PRODUCING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

DEVOTION

The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of God’s work in our lives. As we grow in our relationship with God, these qualities begin to show more and more in how we live. By staying connected to God through prayer, reading His Word, and walking in the Spirit, we can produce the fruit that reflects His character.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to produce the fruit of the Spirit in my life. Teach me to stay connected to You so that I can grow in love, joy, peace, and all the other qualities that reflect Your character. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Which fruit of the Spirit do you see most in your life right now?

How can you stay connected to God to produce more of the fruit of the Spirit?

What area of the fruit of the Spirit do you want to grow in, and how can you focus on that?

Activity

Fruit Salad – Make a fruit salad where each fruit represents a different Fruit of the Spirit. As you prepare it, discuss what each fruit means in your life.

WEEK 38

WALKING IN LOVE

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

“And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

DEVOTION

Walking in love is a central part of the Christian life. Jesus modeled perfect love for us by giving Himself as a sacrifice, and we are called to follow His example. This means loving others selflessly and sacrificially, putting their needs before our own. When we walk in love, we reflect Christ to the world.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for Your perfect love. Help me to walk in that same love every day, putting others before myself and reflecting Your love to the world. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you walk in love in your daily life?

What does it mean to love others as Christ loved us?

How can you reflect Christ's love to those around you?

Activity

Love Chain – Make a paper chain where each link represents an act of love you've done or received during the week. See how long you can make it.

WEEK 39

LIVING IN GOD'S PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:7 (NIV)

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

DEVOTION

God's peace is different from the peace the world offers. It's a peace that transcends all understanding and guards our hearts and minds. This peace comes from trusting in God and surrendering our worries to Him. When we live in God's peace, we can face any situation with calm and confidence.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Help me to live in that peace, trusting You with all my worries and fears, and resting in the security of Your love. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have you experienced God's peace in your life?

How can you surrender your worries to God to experience His peace?

What does it mean to you that God's peace guards your heart and mind?

Activity

Peaceful Place – Designate a space in your home as your “peaceful place.” Decorate it with items that help you feel calm and connected to God, and spend time there each day.



WEEKS 40-43

FULFILLING YOUR PURPOSE IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Goal:

Encouraging believers to discover and live out their
God-given purpose.

WEEK 40

DISCOVERING YOUR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

DEVOTION

God created each of us with a unique purpose. We are His handiwork, designed to do good works that He has prepared for us. Discovering your God-given purpose is about seeking His will for your life and stepping into the good works He has planned for you. As you walk in your purpose, you glorify God and impact the world for His kingdom.

PRAYER

Father, help me to discover the purpose You have for my life. Guide me into the good works You have prepared for me, and give me the courage to step into them with faith and obedience. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What do you believe God's purpose is for your life?

How can you seek God's guidance in discovering your purpose?

What steps can you take to start walking in your God-given purpose?

Activity

Purpose Puzzle – Create a puzzle that represents different aspects of your life. As you put it together, think about how each piece represents part of God's purpose for you.

WEEK 41

USING YOUR GIFTS FOR GOD'S GLORY

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

DEVOTION

God has given each of us unique gifts to be used for His glory and to serve others. Whether your gifts are in teaching, serving, encouraging, or something else, God wants you to use them to build up His kingdom. By using your gifts, you are being a faithful steward of God's grace and making a difference in the lives of others.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the gifts You have given me. Help me to use them faithfully to serve others and to bring glory to Your name. Show me how I can use my gifts to make a difference in the world. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What gifts has God given you, and how are you using them?

How can you use your gifts to serve others and glorify God?

What steps can you take to develop and use your gifts more fully?

Activity

Gift Boxes – Decorate small boxes or bags, filling each with a note or symbol representing a gift or talent you have. Consider how you can use these gifts for God's glory.

WEEK 42

LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

DEVOTION

Jesus set the ultimate example of service by giving His life for us. As His followers, we are called to live a life of service, putting others before ourselves and meeting their needs. Serving others is a way to reflect Jesus’ love and to fulfill our purpose in God’s kingdom.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for Your example of selfless service. Help me to follow Your example by serving others with love and humility, and to live a life that reflects Your heart. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you follow Jesus' example of serving others?

What opportunities do you have to serve in your community or church?

How does living a life of service help you grow in your faith?

Activity

Service Project – Plan and carry out a small service project, like making care packages or cleaning up a local park. Reflect on how serving others fulfills your purpose in God's kingdom.

WEEK 43

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

DEVOTION

God calls us to be a light in the world, making a difference by reflecting His love and truth in all we do. Our good deeds are not just for our benefit; they are a testimony to God’s goodness and glory. By living out our faith and doing good works, we can impact the world for God’s kingdom and point others to Him.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to let my light shine before others so that they may see Your goodness and glorify You. Show me how I can make a difference in the world through my actions and words. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you let your light shine in your daily life?

What are some ways you can make a difference in your community?

How can your good deeds point others to God?

Activity

Difference Footprints – Trace your feet on paper and decorate each footprint with ways you want to make a difference in the world. Display them as a reminder of your impact.



WEEKS 44-47

FINISHING STRONG IN FAITH

Goal:

Encouraging believers to stay faithful and finish their spiritual race well.

WEEK 44

STAYING FAITHFUL TO THE END

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.”*

DEVOTION

The Christian life is often described as a race, and like any race, it's important to finish strong. Staying faithful to the end means continuing to trust in God, even when the road is hard. It's about keeping the faith and not giving up, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to stay faithful to You until the end. Give me the strength to finish the race well, keeping my eyes fixed on You and trusting in Your promises. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to you to finish the race of faith well?

How can you stay faithful to God in the challenges you face?
What encouragement do you find in knowing that God is with you until the end?

Activity

Faith Path – Create a timeline or path that represents your faith journey. Mark significant milestones and reflect on how you want to continue on this path.

WEEK 45

LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITH

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 145:4 (NIV)

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.”

DEVOTION

Leaving a legacy of faith means passing on what we have learned about God to the next generation. It’s about sharing our stories of God’s faithfulness and teaching others to follow Him. As we live out our faith and share it with others, we leave a lasting impact that continues to glorify God even after we are gone.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to leave a legacy of faith for the next generation. Teach me to share Your goodness with others and to live in a way that reflects Your love and truth.

Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What legacy of faith do you want to leave for others?

How can you share your faith with the next generation?

What impact do you want your life to have on others?

Activity

Legacy Letters – Write letters to loved ones about your faith journey and what you hope to pass on to them. Consider sharing these letters or keeping them for the future.

WEEK 46

THE REWARD OF FAITHFULNESS

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

DEVOTION

God rewards faithfulness. When we are faithful with what God has entrusted to us, whether big or small, He is pleased. The ultimate reward of faithfulness is hearing God say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” As we serve Him with all our hearts, we look forward to sharing in His joy.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to be faithful in all that You have given me.
Teach me to serve You with all my heart, and may I one day hear You say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to you to be a faithful servant of God?

How can you be faithful in the responsibilities God has given you?

What are you most looking forward to in hearing God's "Well done"?

Activity

Reward Map – Create a treasure map where each landmark represents a "reward" or blessing of faithfulness you've experienced. Follow the map to reflect on these rewards.

WEEK 47

PERSEVERING IN PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1 (NIV)

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

DEVOTION

Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God, and Jesus encourages us to persevere in prayer. It's easy to get discouraged when we don't see immediate answers, but God calls us to keep praying and not give up. Persevering in prayer strengthens our faith and deepens our trust in God's timing.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to persevere in prayer, even when I don't see immediate answers. Teach me to trust in Your timing and to keep seeking You with all my heart. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you persevere in prayer, even when it's hard?

What prayers have you been waiting for God to answer?

How does persevering in prayer strengthen your faith?

Activity

Prayer Wall – Dedicate a wall or space in your home for prayer. Write down your prayers and pin them up, adding to them over time. Look back and see how God has answered your prayers.



WEEKS 48-52

EMBRACING GOD'S PROMISES

Goal:

Encouraging believers to fully embrace and live out the promises of God.

WEEK 48

EMBRACING GOD'S GRACE

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

DEVOTION

God's grace is a gift that we cannot earn or deserve. It is through His grace that we are saved and brought into a relationship with Him. Embracing God's grace means accepting His love and forgiveness, not based on what we do, but on what Jesus has done for us.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the gift of Your grace. Help me to embrace it fully, knowing that I am saved by Your love and not by my own efforts. Teach me to live in the freedom of Your grace every day. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does God's grace mean to you?

How can you embrace God's grace more fully in your life?

What changes when you live in the freedom of God's grace?

Activity

Grace Painting – Use watercolor or another art medium to create an abstract piece that represents God's grace flowing through your life.

WEEK 49

RESTING IN GOD'S PEACE

SCRIPTURE

John 14:27 (NIV)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

DEVOTION

The peace that Jesus gives is unlike any peace the world offers. It is a deep, abiding peace that calms our fears and quiets our hearts. Resting in God's peace means trusting Him with all our worries and allowing His peace to fill our lives, even in the midst of chaos.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for the peace You give. Help me to rest in that peace, trusting You with all my worries and fears, and living in the calm assurance of Your presence. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can you rest in God's peace in your daily life?

What worries do you need to surrender to God?

How does God's peace help you face difficult situations?

Activity

Peaceful Music – Create a playlist of peaceful music that helps you connect with God's presence. Spend time each day listening and resting in His peace.

WEEK 50

LIVING IN GOD'S STRENGTH

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)
“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

DEVOTION

God's strength is available to us in every situation. Whether we're facing challenges, pursuing our goals, or simply going through the daily grind, we can rely on God's strength to see us through. Living in God's strength means acknowledging our own limitations and trusting in His power to do what we cannot do on our own.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the strength You provide. Help me to live in that strength every day, relying on Your power rather than my own, and trusting You to carry me through whatever comes my way. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have you experienced God's strength in your life?

How can you rely on God's strength in your daily challenges?

What difference does it make when you live in God's strength instead of your own?

Activity

Strength Tree – Draw or craft a tree where each branch represents a different area of your life. On each branch, write how you can rely on God's strength in that area.

WEEK 51

HOLDING FAST TO GOD'S PROMISES

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

DEVOTION

God's promises are sure and unchanging. When we face uncertainties or difficulties, we can hold fast to the hope we have in Him, knowing that He is faithful to fulfill His promises. Holding fast means clinging to God's Word and trusting that He will do what He has said.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your faithful promises. Help me to hold fast to the hope I have in You, trusting that You will fulfill every promise You have made. Give me the strength to stand firm in my faith, no matter what. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What promises of God are you holding onto right now?

How can you strengthen your trust in God's promises?

What does it mean to you that God is faithful to fulfill His promises?

Activity

Promise Stars – Cut out stars and write a different promise of God on each one. Hang them up where you can see them every day as a reminder.

WEEK 52

REJOICING IN GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

DEVOTION

God's love for us is not just something we accept; it's something we rejoice in. He delights in us and rejoices over us with singing. As we conclude this devotional journey, we are reminded to live in the joy of God's love, knowing that He is with us, He saves us, and He delights in us.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your incredible love for me. Help me to live in the joy of that love every day, knowing that You delight in me and rejoice over me. Teach me to rejoice in You always. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How does it feel to know that God delights in you and rejoices over you?

What does rejoicing in God's love look like in your daily life?

How can you share the joy of God's love with others?

Activity

Joy Dance – Create a joyful dance or movement routine to your favorite worship song, celebrating God's love for you. Perform it whenever you need a reminder of His joy.

DEVOTIONAL CONCLUSION

As you conclude this 52-week journey with your small groups, take pride in the growth and connections that have been fostered within your church community. By embracing the diversity of learning styles and creating an inclusive environment, you've taken significant steps toward ensuring that every person, including those who are Neurodivergent, feels welcomed, valued, and able to fully participate in the life of the church.

This guide has been a tool to help your church not only understand but celebrate the unique contributions of all its members. As you move forward, continue to nurture these connections and remain committed to being a church where everyone can thrive in their faith. Thank you for your dedication to growing a community that truly reflects the inclusive love of Christ.

Again, if you need support in the area of Autism and Neurodivergence within your church, please do not hesitate to reach out. I'm happy to engage in discussion and brainstorming as much as I'm able.

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