



Understand Challenges

Special Needs Ministries serve individuals with a variety of intellectual, developmental, neurodivergent, and physical differences. We don't need to understand a diagnosis to provide care and teach about God's love to someone different than us. Instead, we strive to learn, adapt, empathize, and see the child of God in each person.

Ideas

- Review the types of intellectual, developmental, neurodivergent, and physical differences you see in your ministry. Ask your guests about their students.
- Break into smaller groups and have them discuss the Understanding Challenges worksheet
- Set up stations that allow volunteers to experience the challenges students face.

Questions

- What challenges do you see in your ministry?
- How does a challenge present differently in different individuals?
- How can understanding differences change the way we react to situations?
- How can we adapt the surroundings to reduce challenges that ignite frustration?
- Do we need to understand a diagnosis to provide care and teach about God's love to someone different?
- What students do you have with similar diagnoses but different behaviors and challenges?