

# Disability Awareness



1. Become familiar with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - a. Know the date it was signed into law.
  - b. Know the name of the United States President who signed it.
2. Know the main points of the Americans with Disabilities Act and explain how this legislation affects the lives of the people with disabilities in a positive way.
3. Define the “legal” definition of a disability.
4. Create positive sounding words and phrases by rewriting 10 commonly used terms.
5. Choose one specific physical disability and give an oral report on how a person with that disability could successfully function in the following areas:
  - a. School
  - b. Camping
  - c. Transportation
  - d. Witnessing
6. Conduct an accessibility survey of your church and make a list of things that need to be changed in order to better accommodate people with disabilities.

## References:

That All May Worship, And Interfaith Welcome to People With Disabilities, National Organization On Disability, 910 16th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006.

Disability Awareness Handout, Joan Bova, 1901 McCormick Road, Apopka, Florida 32703.

The Americans With Disabilities Act Handbook, JIST Works, Inc., 720 North Park Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-3431.

FDR's Splendid Deception, Hugh Gregory Gallagher, Vandamere Press, P O Box 5243, Arlington, Virginia 22205.

Joni, Joni Eareckson, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.

The Story of My Life, Hellen Keller, Buccaneer Books, Inc., P O Box 168, Cutchogue, NY, NY 10016.

## **Disability Awareness Answers**

1. a. July 26, 1990  
b. George Bush, Senior

2.

### THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

TITLE I makes sure that any qualified person with any disability is treated the same as any non-disabled person in the workplace.

TITLE I helps people with disabilities make sure that they have an equal chance to get a job. It helps them to be able to use their talents and abilities without being afraid of being discriminated against.

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TITLE II (Part A) guarantees that any person with a disability can use any service, program, or activity offered by a state and local government. Example: City Hall, Police Department, Parks, etc.

TITLE II (Part A) helps people with disabilities by making sure that they are included in all of the things that our state and local government offers to all citizens. This way they can be involved in all of the regular things that other people do.

TITLE II (Part B) requires that all transportation which is available to the general public must be accessible to people with disabilities. Example: Amtrak, city buses, etc.

TITLE II (Part B) helps people with disabilities by making sure that they have a way of getting around if they don't drive or have an automobile. This helps people be more independent, rather than having to ask others for rides.

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TITLE III requires that businesses and organizations, such as stores, restaurants, hotels, doctor's offices, theme parks, museums, etc., must be accessible to people with disabilities unless it is financially impossible.

TITLE III helps people with disabilities by making sure that they can get into buildings and places of recreation without having barriers such as steps, narrow doors, no signs, stairs, and lack of large print or Braille. If people with disabilities can freely get around they can go to all of the public places everyone else does.

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TITLE IV ensures that a person who is deaf or cannot speak can use special telephone service (Relay Service) to reach anyone in the United States.

TITLE IV helps people with disabilities by making sure that people who cannot hear or talk have a way to make local and long distance telephone calls. This way they can Communicate just like anyone else.

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## **DISABILITY AWARENESS ANSWERS** continued

TITLE V names the department in the government that is responsible for making sure that this law is followed. It also sets up Resource Centers where people can go for more technical information.

TITLE V helps people with disabilities by informing them of which part of the government will help them in case the law is broken and it instructs them on what to do about it.

3. Define the “legal” definition of a disability.

### WHO IS DISABLED?

As defined in the federal regulations, a disabled person is any person who:

- a. Had a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities; \*
- b. Had a record of such an impairment; \*\* or
- c. Is regarded as having such an impairment. \*\*\*

\* In order to qualify as disabled, any physical or mental impairment must substantially limit one of more of an individual’s major life activities. Major life activities include such things as:

- Taking care of one self’s needs
- Seeing
- Manual tasks
- Breathing
- Walking
- Talking
- Hearing
- Learning
- Working

\*\*\*Having a record of impairment usually means that a person had a physical or mental disability at some time in their life, but they no longer have it.

\*\*\* Being regarded as having an impairment means that the person doesn’t really have a disability, but other people are making the judgment that he/she does. For a example: a person who had burns on his/her face or someone who has a “lazy eye”.

4. Create positive sounding words and phrases by rewriting 10 commonly used terms.

### NEGATIVE POSITIVE

- |                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. Cripple          | A mobility disability             |
| b. Wheelchair Bound | Uses a wheelchair                 |
| c. Deaf and Dumb    | He/she is deaf and does not speak |
| d. An epileptic     | A person who has epilepsy         |
| e. Retarded         | A development disability          |
| f. Crazy            | A psychiatric disability          |
| g. Shut-in          | A person unable to attend         |

## **DISABILITY AWARENESS ANSWERS** continued

h. Sightless	Blind
i. A stroke victim	A person who had a stroke
j. Invalid	A person with a disability
k. Handicapped	A person with a disability
l. Afflicted with... / suffering from...	Has...
m. Mute	A person without speech
n. Birth Defect	A person with a congenital disability

5. Choose one specific physical disability and give an oral report on how a person with that disability could successfully function in the following areas:

- |            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| a. School  | c. Transportation |
| b. Camping | d. Witnessing     |

6. Conduct an accessibility survey of your church and make a list of things that need to be changed in order to better accommodate people with disabilities.

The following is a guide to be used when conducting an accessibility survey of your church.

### PARKING

- Do you have designated wheelchair accessible parking? Is it on a flat, paved surface?
- Is the parking space wide enough in case you have a van with a lift that comes out to the side?

### ENTRANCES

- Can a person using a wheelchair get into your church through the front entrance as well as all the other entrances?
- If you have a ramp, is it steep? Does it have a handrail or enclosure to keep someone from falling off?
- Can you easily roll a wheelchair over the threshold of the door? Are all the doors wide enough to get through?

### RESTROOMS

- Can a person who is blind tell which restroom is for men and which one is for women?
- Is one of the restroom stalls large enough to take a wheelchair in, turn around, and also close the stall door?
- If you don't have much strength in your fingers, can you turn on the faucet and wash your hands?
- If you were deaf and alone in the restroom, how could you know if there was a fire? What type of alarm do you need?

## **DISABILITY AWARENESS ANSWERS** continued

### OTHER AREAS

- If you are blind, can you read the church bulletin? What do you need?
- If you use a wheelchair, can you get a drink of water from the water fountain? What do you need?
- If you used a wheelchair, where are you going to sit during the worship service? Would there be a better place?
- If you are deaf or hard of hearing, can you understand the sermon? What do you need?
- If you use a wheelchair and have been asked to be in the Adult Sabbath School program next Sabbath, can you get up on the platform without being carried? What do you need?
- If you are blind, how do you know when it's time to kneel, stand up for the opening hymn, sit down, or put money in the offering plate? What do you need?
- If you use a wheelchair and you want to be baptized, how are you going to do it? What do you need?
- If you have a friend who has a developmental disability, which makes it hard for him/her to learn, which Sabbath School class would you take him/her too? What does he need?