

GOOD NEWS FOR THE EVERYBODY

Luke 14:1–6 (ESV)

One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ² And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” ⁶ And they could not reply to these things.”

INTRODUCTION:

The passage in Luke 14:1–6 shows Jesus healing a man with dropsy (swelling from fluid retention, what we now call edema) on the Sabbath. In doing so, Jesus exposed the Pharisees’ hypocrisy, as they tried to trap Him for “working” on the Sabbath, while He revealed the true heart of God’s law. As Mark 2:27 reminds us, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath;” as God intended it as a gift of rest and renewal, not a burden of legalism.

This raises the searching question: “Are we a burden or a blessing?” As a church, our witness is tested by how we treat those often excluded, especially persons with disabilities. Globally, 1 out of 6 people live with significant disabilities, and in Singapore, approximately 3% of the population has some form of disabilities. A disability-inclusive church is one where accessibility, belonging, and contribution are lived out, reflecting Paul’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 12 that we are one body, and each member - including those with disabilities - has a unique part to play.

DISCUSS:

1. Accessibility - Actively seek to improve accessibility

Inclusion begins with removing barriers. Accessibility means ensuring that physical spaces, worship practices, and communication are open to all. It is not only about ramps or hearing aids, but also about attitudes that welcome and make room for everyone.

How can we as a church actively improve accessibility so that those with disabilities can fully participate in worship, community life, and even within our cell groups?

2. Belonging - Nurture a sense of belonging for one another in new ways

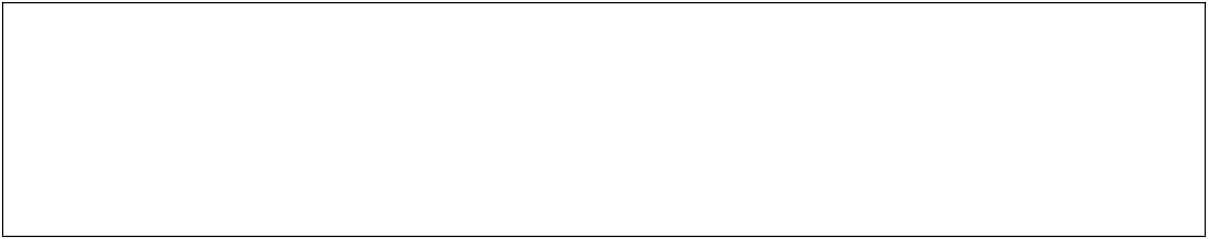
Belonging means more than being present; it means being embraced as family. In Christ, no one is left out or treated as an outsider. We are also called to nurture relationships where those with special needs feel valued, loved, and truly part of the body.

What new ways can we nurture “belonging” so that those with disabilities feel not just included, but deeply connected in our fellowship?

3. Contribute - Nurture the gifts of every individual and create space for them to contribute

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that each member of the body has a unique role. Those with disabilities are not passive recipients of care, but also gifted individuals whom God has equipped for service. A disability-inclusive church celebrates and makes room for their contributions - not only in Sunday worship or ministry teams, but also within our cell groups, where fellowship and discipleship are lived out.

How can we intentionally create opportunities for those with disabilities to use their gifts and contribute to the church, including in our cell groups?



Pray:

1. Accessibility

Lord, open our eyes to barriers we may not notice. Help us to create spaces - physical, spiritual, and relational - where persons with special needs and disabilities can come freely, feel welcomed, and encounter You. May our church be a place where no one is excluded from Your love and presence.

2. Belonging

Father, teach us to love others as You have loved us. May our church be a place where every person, including those with special needs and disabilities, knows they are wanted, valued, and embraced as part of Your family. Help us to build friendships and fellowship that go beyond inclusion, so that belonging is experienced in worship, ministry, and cell groups alike.

3. Contribute

Spirit of God, help us to recognize and affirm the gifts You have placed in each member of Your body, including those with disabilities. May we joyfully receive and encourage their contributions, so that together - in worship, ministry, and small groups - we reflect Christ's fullness.