



From Genesis to Revelation: Disability and His Sure Promises of Help

by John Knight

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

When a child or adult with disabilities comes to your church, are you filled with excited anticipation or dread? Are you glad they have come, but afraid of doing or saying something wrong - which prevents you from doing anything at all? Participants in this seminar will receive an overview of what God says about disability in His Word and gain some practical suggestions for how churches can engage families experiencing disability. We'll conclude with how your church can teach the next generation (and maybe the current one as well) more accurately about God's Word and His purposes in disability.

SEMINAR OUTLINE:

I. God's Glory Displayed in Disability: Welcome and Overview

- a. God's Word unashamedly addresses God's sovereignty over disability and disease
- b. God equips his people to serve and be served by those who live atypical lives because of disability
- c. Accurately presenting disability in God's Word is necessary, loving, and wise for preparing children to persevere in the whole counsel of God

II. God's Word Known

- a. His intentional design: Exodus 4:11; John 9:1-3
- b. A natural consequence of aging:
 - i. Eli's blindness – 1 Samuel 4:15
 - ii. Jacob's blindness – Genesis 27:1
- c. Injury: Mephibosheth's feet – 2 Samuel 4:4
- d. Acts of Terror:
 - i. Sampson eyes – Judges 16:21
 - ii. Zedekiah's eyes – Jeremiah 52:11



- e. Ongoing medical conditions
 - i. Woman with discharge of blood – Matthew 9:20
 - ii. Boy with epilepsy – Matthew 17:15
- f. Display of His power:
 - i. Blindness
 - 1. Men of Sodom – Genesis 19:11
 - 2. Syrian army – 2 Kings 6:18
 - 3. Bar-Jesus – Acts 13:11
 - ii. Leprosy:
 - 1. Miriam – Numbers 12:10
 - 2. Leper – Luke 5:13
 - iii. Paralysis: Mark 2:10
- g. His intimate, specific regard
 - i. “You shall fear your God” – Leviticus 19:14
 - ii. “On the contrary” – 1 Corinthians 12:22

III. God’s Church Equipped

- a. Pray!
 - i. The Lord will supply: Philippians 4:19
 - ii. The Lord will provide wisdom: James 1:5
 - iii. Don’t be anxious; the Lord is at hand; ask: Philippians 4:5-6
- b. Prepare
 - i. Be counter cultural Christians
 - ii. Know God’s word
 - iii. Know your people
- c. Train
- d. Act
- e. Persevere

IV. God's Generations Prepared

- a. Example: 2 Kings 6:8-23
- b. Example: Judges 16:23-31
- c. Examples from Children Desiring God Curriculum
 - i. He Has Spoken By His Son for Preschool
 1. Lesson 76 on Mark 2:1-12
 2. Lesson 83 on John 9
 - ii. Teach Me Your Way for 7th Grade
 1. Lesson 16 including Matthew 5:8
 2. Lesson 7 including Isaiah 40

Resources for further study and encouragement:

- Wrestling with an Angel by Greg Lucas
- Holding on to Hope by Nancy Guthrie
- Just the Way I Am: God's Good Design in Disability by Krista Horning
- A Place of Healing by Joni Eareckson Tada
- Disability and the Sovereign Goodness of God - sermons from John 9 and John 5 on how Jesus dealt with disability available for free at desiringGod.org
- Conference messages from The Works of God: God's Good Design in Disability available for free at desiringGod.org
- Prior Children Desiring God seminars on disability available at childrendesiringGod.org