

Things People Say That Reflect Attitudinal Barriers

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"From Barriers to Belonging: The Church and People with Disabilities"

- "It seems like a lot of energy and effort when we can't really be sure that Louise will actually get anything out of being in Sunday school with the other children."
- "We have a special class for children just like your son."
- "These renovations seem a bit much. After all, we don't have any people with disabilities in our congregation."
- "I'd love to invite my neighbor to attend our church, but we just don't have a program for people with disabilities."
- "Maybe your family would feel more comfortable at Temple Beth-El—I believe they do disability ministry."
- "If Abel can't read, how will he get anything out of the class?"
- "She has autism? None of us are trained to work with those children."
- "Some members of the congregation are finding your group to be distracting. Perhaps you and your clients would be more comfortable sitting in the balcony."
- "Our church just isn't big enough to have a disability ministry."
- "Sandy really doesn't understand the meaning of communion. I'm not sure we can really allow her to participate."
- "I'm so sorry to hear about your child. You must be devastated."
- "I know he is a little old, but he would probably still best be cared for in the nursery."