



International Day of
People with Disability



Team Meeting Segment

International Day of People with Disability - 2024

Note to leader: This segment has been designed for use within a team meeting or small group.

Introduction

International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) is held on 3 December each year. It is a day to celebrate the contributions and achievements of people with disabilities and promote awareness, understanding and acceptance in our community. It serves as a reminder of the steps we should be taking each day to remove barriers to inclusion and create diverse and accepting communities.

Video

Share [Owen's Story](#)

Devotion (by Joseph Pinkard)

The banquet — Luke 14:15-24.

“Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame” (Luke 14:21b, NIV).

If you could eat a meal anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Who would you take?

In 1975, an American man had this choice after he won a competition. He chose to fly to France to dine with a friend at a restaurant in Paris. For five hours, they ate their way through a 31-course dinner valued at \$4000.

When news of this extravagant meal was reported in the newspapers, many people were upset that this could occur in a world where there was such poverty and famine. The Pope condemned the meal as 'scandalous'. While this was controversial at the time, one wonders if lavish meals such as this might be considered more acceptable today.

Luke 14 tells the story of another Great Banquet. Through this parable, Jesus encourages us to invite people from the margins of society, including people with disabilities, to share in our lives and at our table. This is not just about meeting a person's need for food and relationship, it is about sharing the Kingdom of God with all people — and it has eternal significance. It is in these moments that we see Heaven meet Earth.

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Jesus, observing the self-important behaviour of the religious leaders, shared a story. Jesus explained that the host of a great banquet was having trouble finding guests. Each one made up an excuse to stay away. One person had just bought a field, while another some livestock, and another was newly married. In a moment of desperation, as his plans for the banquet were faltering, the host ordered his servant to go out into the streets and alleys of the town and invite “the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame”.

The language of verse 21 is jarring by today’s understanding and standards for describing disabilities, but the directive is clear as the phrase is repeated earlier in Luke 14:13. There is room for people with disabilities at God’s table and we are called to go out and invite them in to share in the banquet together.

Discussion questions

- Who have you made room for at your table? What were the challenges and blessings of doing this?
- When have you seen Heaven meet Earth in a moment of hospitality, inclusion or generosity?
- In what ways can providing hospitality lead to a meaningful encounter with God?

Prayer

Creator God, give us the courage to go out and invite people with disabilities in to share in your banquet. May this invitation provide an opportunity for us together to experience your Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

Owen’s Prayer

Owen is a soldier at The Salvation Army. Owen developed a vision impairment and hearing loss during his childhood. He strongly values his faith and has hope that his story will help more people come to Christ.

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we come before you, we remember that all are made in your image. Today, we especially remember those with a disability — your children, no more and no less than anyone else. We acknowledge that each one has their own story to tell and many gifts to contribute to the world around them. We bring them before you now. May they be better integrated and given a greater voice, not just within The Salvation Army, but within the wider community. In your name, the name of your Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray these things.

Amen.

