



# ADVENTIST<sup>®</sup> SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES

ALL ARE GIFTED, NEEDED & TREASURED

## 2. Useful Biblical references

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*While disability places limits on people, we are to provide for their needs as does God.*

### **Leviticus 21:17–23**

*God to Aaron (via Moses): “For the generations to come none of your descendants who has a defect may come near to offer the food of his God. No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed; no man with a crippled foot or hand, or who is a hunchback or a dwarf, or who has any eye defect, or who has festering or running sores or damaged testicles.”*

*The high priest was a representative of Jesus—the sinless and perfect High Priest (Hebrews 7:24-27)—however. In spite of the restriction, God’s instructions still made provision for those with disabilities: “He may eat the most holy food of His God ... I am the Lord, who makes them holy” (verse 22).*

*Disability is no respecter of persons.*

### **Text**

Moses: “Slow of speech and tongue,” but his disability was not a problem for either general inclusion or for participation.

***We are to be inclusive.***

**Luke 14:12–14**

*Jesus:* “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. However, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

***We are to do what we can to alleviate the needs of those with disability.***

*With 27 of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus relating to healing someone with a special need, the focus of ministry and witness is evident.*

**2 Samuel 9:1**

“David asked, ‘Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?’ ”

*Mephibosheth was a descendent of David’s enemy King Saul. He was an orphan and a cripple. Once in a position to do something to help him, King David did so, providing him with a home and food for life—an example of how we should relate.*

***We are to minister to those with special needs as God ministers to the metaphorically crippled and sin-affected human race.***

**2 Corinthians 12:7–10**

*Apostle Paul:* “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

*Paul had an impediment of some sort, perhaps physical, but given that God never took it from him despite his prayers, he figured it was for a reason and so accepted it.*

*God made us in His image so that we may be the recipients of His compassion and grace. He invites us to partner with Him to restore His image in fallen humanity and to give assurance to people with disabilities.*

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