

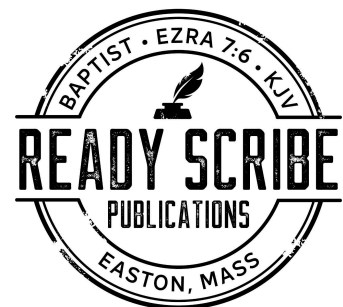
# FIT

Conference

Ephesians 2:21

**October 11, 2025**

*Hosted by:*



*Welcome!*

We're so glad you've chosen to be part of our third-ever FIT Conference here at Liberty Baptist Church. Since we're not aware of another like-minded ministry that has ever put together a conference like this, we've had to create the model for it entirely from scratch. Although we have a couple of years' worth of experience with the FIT Conference so far, there's still so much we feel we could improve on in the future. Would you be willing to help us by providing honest, constructive feedback at the end of the conference? We'd be blessed if you would.

Thank you again for attending, whether you're in person or following along online! We are blessed by your willingness to minister to both children and adults with special needs.

*Pastor Adam and Dianne Riveiro*

*Liberty Baptist Church*

# Conference Schedule

**9am-** Opening and Welcome

**9:15am-** Session: “What Does Inclusion REALLY Mean?”

**10:00am-** Split Sessions (“How to Have a Heart for Special Needs Ministry” and “Championing Special Needs Ministry”)

**11:00am-** Session: “What Does Inclusion Really Look Like?”

**11:45am-** Q&A Session

**Noon-** Break for lunch

**12:45pm-** Session: “How to Make Adaptive Visuals”

**1:30pm-** Q&A Session

**2:15pm-** Session: “Parents As Allies, Not Enemies”

**3:00pm-** End of Conference

# About the Riveiro's



*Pastor Adam Riveiro* was born and raised in the city of Tampa, Florida. He began attending West Gate Christian School during the sixth grade. As a direct result of the Bible teaching and preaching at West Gate, Adam received Christ as his Savior at the age of sixteen. Two years later, he visited the Boston area on his senior trip. It was on this trip that Adam fell in love with the area. He also saw a need for more Bible-preaching, Baptist churches in New England.

*Dianne Riveiro* was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. When she was six years old, her family immigrated to Australia in a last-ditch effort to save their struggling family. It was while they lived in Adelaide, South Australia that her whole family heard the Gospel and that Dianne, her parents, and her brother all accepted Christ. Years later, they moved back to Scotland to assist a church plant in their home town of Aberdeen.

In 2001, both Adam and Dianne followed God's leading to attend Heartland Baptist Bible College in Oklahoma City. They met while working in the school cafeteria and later fell in love. Two years after the couple met, they were married at Bible Baptist Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma. While studying at Heartland, both Adam and Dianne served in children's and teen ministries at Southwest Baptist Church. In 2005, Adam graduated with a bachelors in pastoral studies, while Dianne graduated with her associates in church education.

After graduation, the Riveiro family moved back to Tampa to serve at West Gate Baptist Church under the ministries of Pastor Bruce E. Turner and Pastor George Pirt. Adam served as the youth director and music director at West Gate, and was a part-time faculty member at Florida Baptist College. In addition, both Adam and Dianne taught at West Gate Christian School. In all, the Riveiro's served at West Gate for seven years. During that time, Dianne also graduated from Florida Baptist College with her bachelors degree in early childhood development.

In the fall of 2011, God laid it on the hearts of the Riveiro's to plant a church in the Boston area. After a time of planning and prayer, the town of Easton was chosen as the area to plant Liberty Baptist Church. LBC held its first service at Parkview School on June 9, 2013. Since that time, God has blessed the congregation with a home at 800 Washington Street in Easton.

The Riveiro's enjoy being active in the community with Adam appointed by Easton's Select Board in 2019 to the town's Commission on Disability, where he served as treasurer for six years. Adam has also served on the board of directors at Heartland Baptist Bible College from 2017-2025..

Along with writing books for their family's publishing imprint, Ready Scribe Publications ([www.readyscribepublications.com](http://www.readyscribepublications.com)) Adam and Dianne are both columnists for *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine*, the trade magazine for homeschool families. Adam has also been a guest columnist for *Easton's Journal News Independent* newspaper, *Save New England* magazine, and the *Global Baptist Times*. To date, he's written over 100 published columns on various biblical subjects.

Adam and Dianne have four children: Bethany (married to Carter Folger), Kaylee (engaged to KC Gaudet), AJ, and Peyton. You can contact their family by emailing [info@readyscribepublications.com](mailto:info@readyscribepublications.com).

# Local Restaurants

## Coffee

*Dunkin Donuts*

Closest location is 606 Washington Street, Easton

*Aroma Joes*

507 Foundry Street, Easton

*Starbucks*

1313 Belmont Street, Brockton or 33 Robert Drive, Easton

## Lunch Stops:

*D' Angelo Sandwiches*

646 Washington Street, Easton (2 minute drive)

*Napoli Pizza*

(\$6 for two slices)

620 Washington Street, Easton (2 minute drive)

*Wendy's*

707 W Center Street, West Bridgewater (6 minute drive)

*Birdies Hot Chicken*

1285 Belmont Street, Brockton (6 minute drive)

*Panera Bread*

1301 Belmont Street, Brockton (6 minute drive)

*Take Outs Pizza and Grill*

670 Depot Street, Suite #4, Easton (7 minute drive- no seating inside)

*Subway*

519 Foundry Street, Easton (8 minute drive)

*Burger King*

479 Foundry Street, Easton (8 minute drive)

*Chick-fil-A*

542 Westgate Drive, Brockton (11 minute drive)

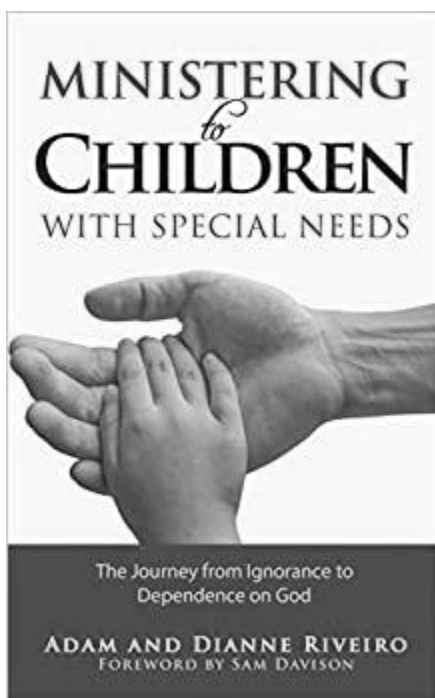
*McDonalds*

947 Broadway, Raynham (13 minute drive)

*Taco Bell*

883 Broadway, Raynham (13 minute drive)

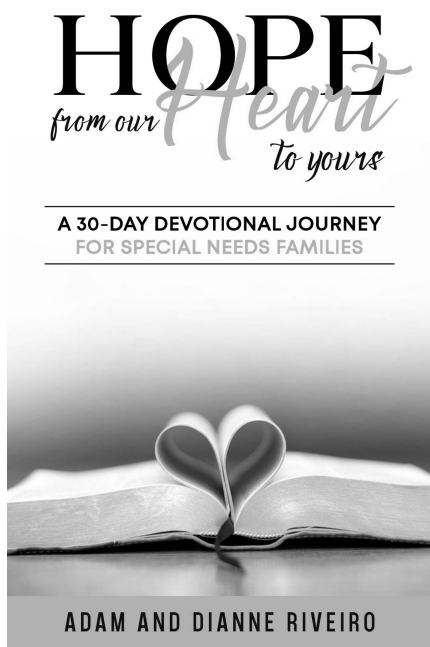
## Special Needs Resources Available from Ready Scribe Publications:



### ***Ministering to Children With Special Needs* by Adam and Dianne Riveiro. Foreword by Sam Davison.**

Churches across America have neglected a forgotten people group: children with special needs. Pastor Adam Riveiro and his wife Dianne lend their unique insight in this primer, teaching pastors and their congregations the basics of starting, maintaining, and growing a special needs ministry.

Don't know where to start? That's perfect! The Riveiro's teach that although your ministry journey may begin with ignorance, you can reach the goal of total dependence upon God. Through their research, personal testimonies, and experiences, it's their prayer that your burden and zeal for reaching these precious young people will blossom.



### ***Hope from Our Heart to Yours* by Adam and Dianne Riveiro.**

In 2014, the Riveiro family started a journey they never anticipated as their son AJ was diagnosed with autism, as well as a host of other neurological issues. The weeks and months that followed AJ's diagnosis brought a whirlwind of emotions and confusion as they each grappled with their new reality. Over time, however, God brought spiritual healing to their family through their study of the Word of God.

*Hope From Our Heart to Yours* is a thirty day devotional journey that shares many of the lessons the Riveiro's learned during those early years after their son's special needs diagnosis. They want families to know, no matter what diagnosis your family may be dealing with, that the Bible offers hope for your times of heartache and calm for your seasons of confusion.

# *Special Needs Resources Available from Ready Scribe Publications:*

## **MINISTERING TO YOUR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

The Journey to a Biblical Philosophy of Parenting



**ADAM AND DIANNE RIVEIRO**  
Foreword by Julie Bruton

***Ministering to YOUR Children with Special Needs* by Adam and Dianne Riveiro.**  
**Foreword by Julie Bruton.**

Following AJ Riveiro's autism diagnosis in 2013, Pastor Adam Riveiro and his wife Dianne immediately began to grapple with what it meant to be a "special needs family." However, the more they searched for resources to show them how to minister to their son from a biblical worldview, the more they came up empty. With patience, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the encouragement of others, they have, over time, been able to find the peace of God in the midst of all the uncertainty.

*Ministering to YOUR Children with Special Needs* serves as a sequel to the Riveiro's first book, *Ministering to Children with Special Needs*. In this practical guidebook, Adam and Dianne turn their attention directly to the mothers and fathers of special needs children. By intersecting Bible truth with the real-life experiences of special needs families, anyone can learn the principles and philosophies of navigating their child's diagnosis.

## *Also from Ready Scribe Publications:*

*The Anatomy of an Effective Prayer Letter* by Adam Riveiro  
*The Anatomy of an Effective Deputation Calendar* by Adam Riveiro  
*Thoughts From the Thirteenth Floor* by Adam Riveiro

**All resources are available at [readyscribepublications.com](http://readyscribepublications.com) or on Amazon**

## Group Session: “What Does Inclusion Really Mean?”

There’s been a great deal of discussion about “\_\_\_\_\_” over the past several years due to DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion).

“DEI includes three terms that get at the heart of the conditions research shows are essential for better performance, problem-solving, and helping people thrive in their schools, workplaces, and communities, encompassing diversity in various identities, equity in ensuring opportunities despite inequalities, and inclusion in creating welcoming environments.” -*DEI Defined: What Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Really Means*,” authored by Tabbye Chavous, Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Michigan

DEI as it is taught in academia and liberal think tanks are opposite to \_\_\_\_\_:

- The Bible condemns being a “respector of persons” (showing \_\_\_\_\_ or partiality)
  - **Deu 1:17** Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.
  - **Pro 28:21** To have respect of persons is not good...
- The Bible also teaches promotion by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.
  - **Jas 2:1** My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.
  - **Jas 2:9** But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.



With this in mind, we likely have a very dim view of the word *inclusion*. Yet, may I remind you that Satan is the master \_\_\_\_\_, taking things that are good and right and perverting them..

- **Gen 3:4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- **Gal 1:6-7** I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: [7] Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

So, let's look at the very basic \_\_\_\_\_ of inclusion that was universally accepted until the recent political changes: "the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure." (*Oxford Dictionary*)

- What inclusion is NOT:
  - It's not simply making sure every child can physically \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_.
  - It's not \_\_\_\_\_ differences don't exist and forcing everyone into identical activities.
  - It's not allowing a child to \_\_\_\_\_ or act however they want.
  - It's not permitting a child (or their \_\_\_\_\_) to be in charge of your classroom.

Inclusion in the classroom asks this question, "Do I have \_\_\_\_\_ to the room AND am I \_\_\_\_\_ in what is going on in the room?" This may require...

- Adapting the \_\_\_\_\_
- Adapting the method of \_\_\_\_\_
- Adapting the \_\_\_\_\_
- We'll look at all of this in a later session and make practical applications.

What is the biblical foundation for this type of inclusion? We can find it in two different passages.

- **1 Corinthians 12:12-25**
  - Each member of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the local church) has unique gifts
  - Those who "\_\_\_\_\_ " to be more feeble are necessary
  - The body is \_\_\_\_\_, which means "co-mingle"

- To the end that there be no schism and that the members have the “same care for each other.”
- **Ephesians 2:21-22** In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: [22] In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
  - While the body is the temple of the Spirit (1 Cor. 6), the \_\_\_\_\_ is also recognized this way as well (1 Cor. 3)
  - The church is \_\_\_\_\_ together, meaning every piece is exactly who and where it needs to be. This is biblical inclusion!
  - The world’s inclusion typically brings together pieces that don’t belong for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_. Biblical inclusion understands that those God has entrusted us with must be included into the whole.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the church extends to every part of the church, including those with special needs.

## ***Split Session: “Championing the Cause Without Compromise”***

**“Keep the main thing the main thing”** is an old phrase that often comes to mind when dealing with the local church. There’s a real temptation to compromise when trying to reach your community for Christ. Of course, the end never justifies the means, so we must make sure

This is especially true with special needs ministry. Why? Because it’s easy to allow a \_\_\_\_\_ worldview seep into your mind because almost all materials dealing with special needs and disabilities come from a secular point of view. So, how do you develop a flourishing special needs ministry without compromise?

- \_\_\_\_\_ *the cause*
  - 1 Cor. 9:19-23 gives us the Scriptural \_\_\_\_\_ to use different means to reach people with the Gospel.
  - As a pastor/youth director, you will set the tone for the church on this issue (like all other issues).
  - Bring special needs ministry to the forefront of minds...
    - ...of the \_\_\_\_\_
    - ...of the children’s workers
    - ...of your church’s \_\_\_\_\_
    - ...of potential \_\_\_\_\_
  - Be aware that not everyone in your congregation will understand this change in emphasis.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *the cause*
  - Be aware of \_\_\_\_\_ cues that compliment the cause...or that draw away from it.
    - Take time to talk to the children of the church.
    - Be cautious of outdated or unscientific language (I understand the irony of this statement in the day and age we live in.), i.e.
      - “Retarded”
      - Statements about \_\_\_\_\_

- Be aware of \_\_\_\_\_ cues that compliment the cause...or that draw away from it.
  - Get down on eye-level with young people when talking to them.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ children who are exhibiting behaviors that shouldn't be taking place in church without looking cold or uncaring.
  - Visit junior churches or Sunday Schools on occasion and take time to talk to the children in class. They love it when the pastor visits!
  - Avoid looking \_\_\_\_\_ at children...even if they \_\_\_\_\_ you!
- *Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ the cause*
  - Don't compromise the mission of the church
    - Remember that the mission is the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - There's a \_\_\_\_\_ that a special needs ministry can swallow up other ministries.
    - Remember, other entities can help medically, academically, and socially. However, the local church has been uniquely tasked to reach people \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Don't *ever* compromise \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of reaching people. This is a slippery slope that has no off-ramps until it's too late.

*[Digital Delegates: Please note that this session will not be available via livestream]*

# ***Split Session: “How to Have a Heart for Special Needs People”***

- I. Are \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned in the Bible?
  - A. Exodus 4:11
    - 1. God \_\_\_\_\_ people with special needs
    - 2. God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for those with special needs
  - B. Deuteronomy 27:18
    - 1. God \_\_\_\_\_ us to care for those with special needs
    - 2. The Israelites would be \_\_\_\_\_ if they treated a special needs person with meanness.
  - C. Jeremiah 31:7-9
    - 1. God expected those with special needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ with those who returned to the Promised Land.
    - 2. God has always \_\_\_\_\_ the life of those with disabilities.
- II. Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Jesus’ main \_\_\_\_\_ was to bring all men to repentance.
    - 1. His earthly ministry was to preach salvation (Luke 5:32)
    - 2. The end of His earthly ministry was His death and resurrection.
  - B. Jesus was never too \_\_\_\_\_ for those with needs.
    - 1. He \_\_\_\_\_ the need
      - a) Crippled woman - Luke 13:10-13
      - b) The woman whose son died - Luke 7:11-15
      - c) The lame man at Bethesda - John 5:1-9
      - d) Ten lepers - Luke 17:11-19
    - 2. He was \_\_\_\_\_
      - a) A leprous man - Mark 1:41
      - b) Two blind men - Matthew 20:34
      - c) Man with a withered hand - Matthew 12:11-13
      - d) Feeding the multitude - Matthew 15:32-39

3. Not everyone Jesus helped \_\_\_\_\_
- C. The Gospel is our \_\_\_\_\_ also
1. Matthew 28:18-20
  2. Matthew 5:16
  3. Mark 16:15
- D. May we never be \_\_\_\_\_ for those with needs.
1. Do we see the need in our own \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_?
  2. Do we have \_\_\_\_\_ for those who need our  
help?

## ***Group Session: “What Does Inclusion Really Look Like?”***

“Inclusion is finding student’s strengths and intentionally planning for their success.”

- I. Adapting the \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Visual \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Visual \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ to a minimum
  - D. Have \_\_\_\_\_ available
  - E. Visual \_\_\_\_\_
  - F. Visual \_\_\_\_\_
  - G. Be aware of \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Adapting the \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Keep verbal teaching time \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1. Your actual teaching time shouldn’t be more than \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ the lesson by doing multiple different activities
  - B. Teach from the \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1. How can I incorporate sound?
    - 2. How can I incorporate touch?
    - 3. How can I incorporate smell?
  - C. Teach with \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1. Stick puppets
    - 2. Find an activity where they can reenact a portion of the story.
    - 3. Act out the story
  - D. Teach using lots of different \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1. Felt board
    - 2. Flash cards
    - 3. Visual story boards
    - 4. Visual story wheels
    - 5. Clip art puppets
- III. Adapting the \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Rules

- B. Memory verse
- C. Prayer time
- D. Activity time
- E. Alternatives to the 'craft time'
  - 1. Word searches
  - 2. Lesson Bingo
  - 3. Visual storyboards
  - 4. Visual scavenger hunt
- F. Provide a break space if possible.



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## ***Group Session: “Parents As Allies, Not Enemies”***

There’s a standoff that can often take place in children’s ministries, whether dealing with special needs children or not.

- Nobody knows the classroom as well as the \_\_\_\_\_
  - The classroom \_\_\_\_\_
  - The subject matter being taught
  - The classroom as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - The experience the teacher brings to the table
- Yet, nobody knows the child as well as the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Their child’s \_\_\_\_\_
  - Their child’s \_\_\_\_\_
  - Their child’s past issues at church or in a classroom
  - Their \_\_\_\_\_

This requires a delicate \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with special needs parents. **Matthew 10:16** comes to mind: “...be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

- A special needs parent can be your \_\_\_\_\_, but they also can be difficult to work with, especially when they are being unreasonable.
  - Perhaps unreasonable in their requests for a \_\_\_\_\_?
  - Perhaps unreasonable in their requests to look the other way with bad \_\_\_\_\_?
  - Perhaps unreasonable in their \_\_\_\_\_ of you in the classroom?

To be clear: special needs parents do not have the right to be unreasonable! Special needs parents must also be \_\_\_\_\_ and remember that the teacher has a great many students they must give an account to the Lord for.

- Special needs parents are so used to fighting with \_\_\_\_\_ professionals, educators, and therapists that they may fight you too just as a reflex.
- This isn’t right! But understand where they may be coming from.

- **Romans 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

What are some ways you can make an \_\_\_\_\_ of a special needs parent?

- \_\_\_\_\_ to them.
  - They're used to being \_\_\_\_\_.
  - They're used to being given \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Talk to them and listen to their heart, their stresses, their fears, and their insights.
  - This is (one of many reasons) why you should be \_\_\_\_\_ the homes of your students.
- Ask them the best ways to \_\_\_\_\_ with their child.
  - Again, who knows their child better than the parent?
  - Allow them to share the ways that their child will learn best and \_\_\_\_\_ those items into your classroom.
  - Learn what \_\_\_\_\_ you can incorporate...and which ones should be avoided.
  - Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the wheel! Utilize any resources the parents may have.
  - Be \_\_\_\_\_ the parents may not have all the answers, especially if the diagnosis is new. In that case, be ready with some suggestions to try.
- Allow them to see your church or classroom on an "\_\_\_\_\_."
- Create an "\_\_\_\_\_" for their child.
  - The IEP is an Individualized Education \_\_\_\_\_ used by school systems for special needs children.
  - This does NOT have to be \_\_\_\_\_!
  - It can include items like use of visual schedule, the use of story \_\_\_\_\_, or breaks outside of the typical classroom routine.
  - Make it a collaborative effort as best as you can.

- \_\_\_\_\_ talk to them about what you're doing in the classroom.
  - Their \_\_\_\_\_ may not be able to talk about what's going on in the classroom, so make regular reports to mom and dad.
  - When able, send \_\_\_\_\_ home so the parents can reinforce what you've been teaching in the classroom.
  - Don't just talk about problems, talk about \_\_\_\_\_!
- Make a point to focus on their other children.
  - Many special needs families have \_\_\_\_\_ that often get lost in the shuffle.
  - Be sure to love on all of the siblings, and not just to lavish attention on the special needs child.
- Find ways that their child can shine when the children have \_\_\_\_\_ or perform in front of the church.
  - Think about \_\_\_\_\_ when you have a class outing or activity.
  - Think about inclusion when your class will be doing something in a church service (\_\_\_\_\_, reciting verses, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ at the victories, no matter how small.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ want to know you're invested in helping teach their child.
  - Remind them about the progress that has been made over a longer period of time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ for them regularly.
  - **Gal 6:2** Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
  - Don't get so caught up in all the things that you learned today that you miss the most basic and universal of all our resources: prayer!

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## ***Resources***

- The children's ministry visual schedule is from *Awe and Wonder* ([www.specialneedsministryresources.com](http://www.specialneedsministryresources.com)). Awe and Wonder also has some fantastic training videos on Youtube. (@awe\_and\_wonder) They also have a monthly subscription for families or churches to help make adaptive Bible story books for children. ([www.specialneedsministryresources.com](http://www.specialneedsministryresources.com))
- *Canva* is a free graphics program with thousands of templates. Nonprofits can sign up for its premium version for free
- *Bogard Press* has excellent children's materials with manipulatives naturally built in ([www.bogardpress.org](http://www.bogardpress.org)).
- *Royal Kidz* has some great adaptive resources for Sunday School and junior church. This is where you can purchase boom learning cards that Dianne has demonstrated in the past. ([royalkidz.com](http://royalkidz.com))
- *Teachers Pay Teachers* is an excellent resource for visuals. Some are free and the others are usually a nominal fee ([www.teacherspayteachers.com](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com)).
- *Curriculum for Autism* has amazing interactive Bible story books ([www.curriculumforautism.com](http://www.curriculumforautism.com)). She will even custom design one for you. Her email is on her website. She also made the questionnaire to hand out to special needs families.
- *Wonderful Works Ministry* has some wonderful resources. Lots of ideas for policies and procedures. Also lots of training on how to help families, and also how to help you as a worker. Most of their information is on their facebook group. ([www.wonderfulworks.net](http://www.wonderfulworks.net))
- *Key Ministry* is a blog that has lots of information and training videos free of charge. ([www.keyministry.org](http://www.keyministry.org))
- Special needs Instagram accounts Dianne follows are: *awe\_and\_wonder*, *my.accessible.church*, and *royalkidzco*.

*Please use these resources with discernment. While we've found each to be helpful, we can neither completely vet nor totally endorse every one of their doctrinal statements.*

*We ask that you research each source carefully and use them prayerfully.*

***Question Slip:***

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***Question Slip:***

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