



CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

2017 Christian Record Annual Day of Giving Tips and Discussion Starters

Practical Tips for Befriending a Person Who is Blind

- Strike up a conversation. A simple "Hi" often works best.
- If the blind person offers their hand for a handshake, take it.
- Ask about them, their cane, their guide dog. Ask about their visual impairment. If the person doesn't want to share, he or she will say so.
- Offer to pay for a blind person's lunch.
- Always ask before offering help of any kind.
- It's nice to compliment a blind person's service animal; however, do not approach, kneel, or try to entice the animal to stop working if it's wearing a service harness and vest. Though your interaction is innocent, you could put the owner's life in danger.
- Maintain eye contact during a conversation. Though the person may not see you clearly, he can tell when you turn your head and voice away.
- If you have to leave the conversation, say so. It's embarrassing for a blind person to continue a conversation with no one there.
- Want to continue the conversation later? Offer your contact information first.
- Above all else, remember a person who is legally blind is a person first.

Group Discussion Questions/ Icebreakers

- In *Each One Can Reach One*, Leanora talks about the impact that reaching out has on others. On a poster or dry erase board, draw a circle with your church in the center. Draw a larger circle around the church. What group would represent this next circle or ripple? (Repeat 3-4 times.) How does/can your church engage and equip each group for ministry? Where do people who are blind fit in these groups? (Hint: They can fit into any group or category and can serve in ministry to other groups.)
- As a follow-up to the children's story, what would you do to support Katy after learning she was being bullied?
- Suppose a person who is blind visits your church. What can you do to help this person feel welcome? Consider the layout of the building, the bulletins, your church's style of worship, and other factors when answering this question.
- Brainstorm with other churches ideas to make your church welcoming to people who are blind.
- How can a person who is blind help with the church service? (Hint: They can help as a sighted person does, just in a different way. Consider ways to include these people in your weekly services.)
- If your church planned a special day for disability awareness, what would that look like? Who would you invite? How would you promote this special day? What activities would you plan?

Do you have more tips to offer? Post them on our Twitter feed: @CRSBfriends.