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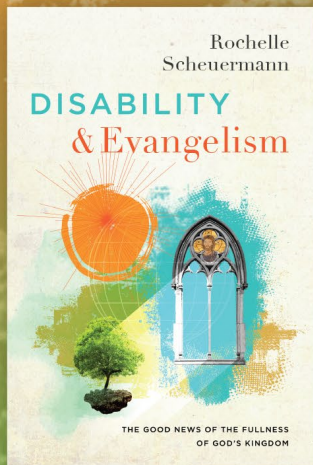
IVP RESOURCES ON DISABILITY AND THE CHURCH



As the church seeks to reflect the full body of Christ, a growing movement is calling attention to an often-overlooked reality: one in four adults lives with a disability.

In recognition of **Developmental Disabilities Month in March**, we are featuring the following titles to help individuals and congregations move beyond awareness to meaningful inclusion, reshaping how we serve, empower, and learn from people of all abilities.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of books about disability and special needs.



DISABILITY AND EVANGELISM

The Good News of the Fullness of God's Kingdom
by Rochelle Scheuermann

[VIEW BOOK](#)

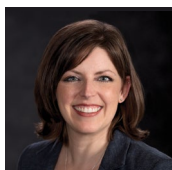
This groundbreaking book invites us to reshape our evangelism theology and practice so that people with disabilities are central in all we think, say, and do.

In *Disability and Evangelism*, you will

- gain a biblical understanding of both disability and evangelism;
- hear stories from people with a range of disabilities;
- study evangelism practices that go beyond traditional approaches that are key for doing evangelism with and among people with disabilities; and
- understand why many people with disabilities feel excluded from and do not attend church.

"This book names with honesty the ways evangelism has too often excluded or overlooked people with disabilities and then offers a compelling alternative rooted in Scripture and informed by lived experience. Rochelle Scheuermann casts a vision of communities where God's mission is carried forward by the full body of Christ, in all its richness and diversity. Disability and Evangelism is a gift to the church and an invitation to deeper faithfulness and mutual flourishing."

—**ERIK CARTER**, professor at the Baylor Center for Disability and Flourishing



ROCHELLE SCHEUERMANN (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is assistant dean of ministry and evangelism and associate professor of evangelism at Wheaton College, where she also directs the doctor of ministry program. She is coauthor of *Preaching in the Contemporary World* and coeditor of three other books. An ordained minister and past president of the Evangelical Missiological Society, Scheuermann currently serves as editor of the *Journal of the Evangelical Missiological Society*; in advisory board roles for *Koinonia Journal* and *Can Do Kids, Intl.*; and as a member of Lausanne's Disability and Mission Catalyst group, *Community of Practice*.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





REBECCA SUE

A Sister's Reflections on Disability, Faith, and Love

by Kathleen Norris

[VIEW BOOK](#)

**"YOU SHOULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT ME,
SO I CAN BE FAMOUS LIKE YOU."**

Five-time New York Times bestselling author Kathleen Norris fulfills this wish expressed by her sister Rebecca "Becky" Sue with this heartfelt and honest memoir of sisterhood, disability, and resilience.

In *Rebecca Sue*, you will discover:

- stories that resonate with those who have loved ones with disabilities, offering the comfort of shared experience.
- a candid and vulnerable portrayal as Norris balances the heaviness and hardships brought on by Becky's diagnosis of perinatal hypoxia with the joy and hope in her life.
- a testament to how unwavering love, perseverance, and commitment can guide a family through life's most arduous journeys.

"Kathleen Norris has always written with embodied, honest, human faith. In Rebecca Sue, Norris brings her insight into the human condition to her relationship with her disabled younger sister. The result is an invitation for all readers to discover their own humanity and to glimpse the hidden hand of God in all things."

—AMY JULIE BECKER, author of *To Be Made Well* and *A Good and Perfect Gift*

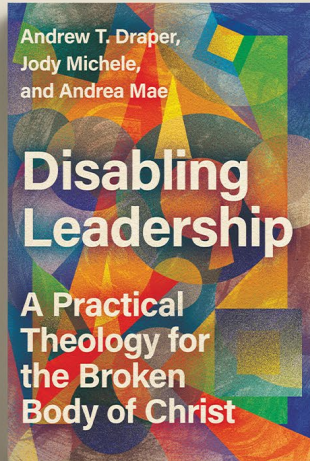


KATHLEEN NORRIS is the award-winning poet, writer, and author of the New York Times bestselling books *The Cloister Walk*, *Acedia & Me: A Marriage, Monks, and a Writer's Life*, *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, *The Virgin of Bennington*, and several volumes of poetry.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





DISABLING LEADERSHIP

A Practical Theology for the Broken Body of Christ

by Andrew T. Draper, Jody Michele, and Andrea Mae

[VIEW BOOK](#)

People with disabilities are often excluded from full participation in church communities. Accessibility is a key component of the biblical ministry of reconciliation—but it's not enough. When we foster genuinely inclusive leadership teams, the authors contend, our churches will be less likely to treat anyone as a "project" and will better reflect God's love as the body of Christ.

Written by [Andrew T. Draper](#), [Jody Michele](#), and [Andrea Mae](#), a scholar-pastor and practitioners who are engaged in ministry, this book encompasses cutting-edge theological ethics as well as stories of how such commitments are embodied in a real church community. The authors equip readers to explore key themes such as what it means to be human, how to understand suffering and healing, how churches can be welcoming and accessible communities, and how to face common challenges and issues in resisting ableism.

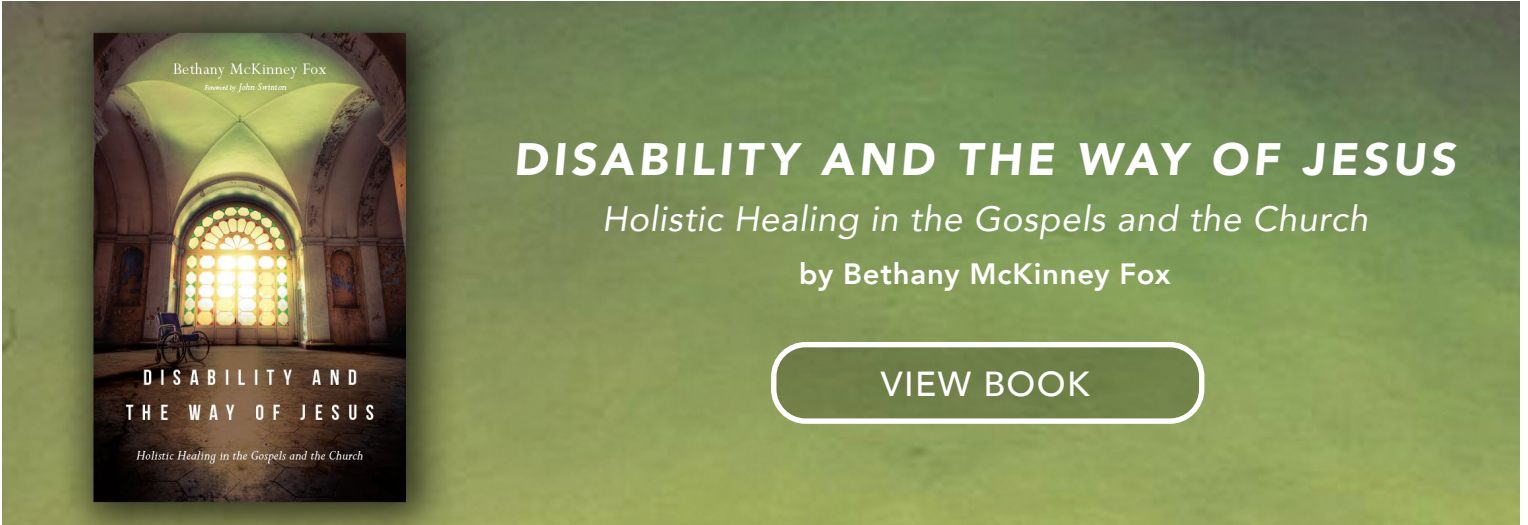
"To what degree has the church in North America been disabling leadership due to its presumptions that people with disabilities are more followers rather than given gifts of leading? Draper, Michele, and Mae here pull back the curtain on their own experiences navigating these questions as such persons called to ministry with other temporarily enabled individuals, and they invite the rest of us into a more welcoming community that envisions and embodies more inclusive ways of following in the footsteps of Jesus the Messiah in the present time."

—**AMOS YOUNG**, professor of theology and mission at Fuller Seminary



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DISABILITY AND THE WAY OF JESUS

Holistic Healing in the Gospels and the Church

by Bethany McKinney Fox

VIEW BOOK

WHAT DOES HEALING MEAN FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

Bethany McKinney Fox believes that Christian communities are better off when people with disabilities are an integral part of our common life. In *Disability and the Way of Jesus*, she considers how the stories of Jesus' healings can guide us toward mutual thriving.

How did Jesus' original audience understand his works of healing, and how should we relate to these texts today? After examining the healing narratives in their biblical and cultural contexts, Fox considers perspectives from medical doctors, disability scholars, and pastors to more fully understand what Jesus does as he heals and how he points the way for relationships with people with disabilities. Personal reflections from Christians with disabilities are featured throughout the book, which concludes with suggestions for concrete practices adaptable to a variety of church settings.

"Bethany McKinney Fox's book is a joy to read. She uses research, exegesis, multidisciplinary perspectives, and her own experience of living with and listening to people with disabilities to produce a book that honestly and boldly looks straight at the healing stories of Jesus in the Gospels. This is a book for any pastor or lay group, not just those committed to inclusive ministries."

—**BILL GAVENTA**, director, Summer Institute on Theology and Disability



BETHANY MCKINNEY FOX (PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary) is the director of student success and adjunct professor of Christian ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary. She has worked previously at San Francisco Theological Seminary, First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, and L'Arche Wavecrest. Fox lives in Los Angeles, where she is a founding pastor at Beloved Everybody Church.



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WHEN I GO TO CHURCH, I BELONG

Finding My Place in God's Family as a Child with Special Needs

by Elrena Evans

VIEW BOOK

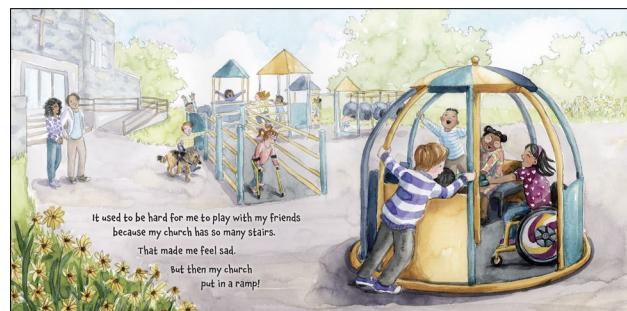
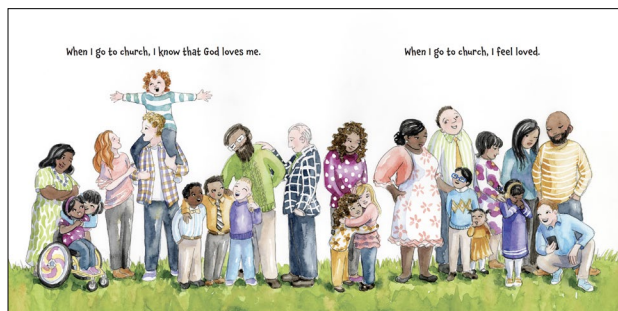
Church is a place where everyone should feel welcome—but not every child experiences it the same way. *When I Go to Church, I Belong* is a beautifully illustrated story crafted for children with disabilities and for everyone who desires their churches to be places of welcome and belonging. This book inspires both children and adults to create a welcoming church environment where everyone feels they are an essential part of God's family.

"Belonging is a critical element of faith, hope, and community, and this book provides a wonderful opportunity for young children and their families to learn that the church is a place for all people to belong regardless of abilities. This book is a much-needed resource for advancing the cause of disability inclusion in faith communities."

—**LAMAR HARDWICK**, lead pastor at Tri-Cities Church and author of [Disability and the Church](#)



ELRENA EVANS (MFA, Penn State) is an author, editor, mother, wife, dancer, and stand-up comedian. Her books *When I Go to Church, I Belong* and [Special Grace: Prayers and Reflections for Families with Special Needs](#) are both inspired by her experience as a mom of children with special needs.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

