

ACCESSIBILITY HACKS

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for people with disability barriers, here's what to adjust ...

In Week 2's "Dialog With The Director" prayer module, keep in mind that listening looks different for kids with disabilities or certain conditions. You can talk about how there are many ways to listen to God, including for visual, audio, and movement learners. Also, be cautious of the language you use. Let kids know that detecting sound is not the only way of listening to God. Try also not to use God "knows" and God "hears" synonymously as it may cause a disconnect for kids who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In Week 3, create a space for teenagers to talk about their feelings and experiences. Remind them they don't need to hide the emotions they're experiencing. Set up your volunteers to be available because it may take some kids with social and emotional disabilities more time to name and talk about what difficulties they are facing in their lives.

Before Week 4's "Repair" response stations, consider obstacles. Look for uneven floors or obstacles that may hinder people from using mobility aids, such as stairs, doorways, uneven floors, and so on.

During the Week 4 response stations, have adults or buddies available to help teenagers with disabilities respond if they ask. Be sure that the volunteers have the chance to make their own choices. Letting them choose from a list of options can empower kids to take control and help them feel safe.

Every week, the reflection activities help teenagers with disabilities succeed by giving clear, explicit directions. Let them know what they're expected to do, model how to do it, and guide them at each step of the activity.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else ...

Consider replacing the weekly improv acting activities with a more accessible game. If you have teenagers with mobility limitations and feel these games won't be engaging for your group, consider swapping them out for something like [Reverse Charades: Movie Edition](#), [Wise Words](#), or [Plot Twist](#).

REMEMBER

Remember that teenagers with disabilities have had disproportionate experiences with difficult moments and opportunities to shift and change. Be aware that conversations about changing or transformation could be trigger points for them. Head this off by inviting them to share their stories or asking them for insight as you prepare every week. Consider also talking with the parents of teenagers with disabilities about what they do to support their kids' spiritual growth at home and incorporate some of their wisdom into your preparation for this series.