

Jesus wasn't just a man for the people, but He was a man with the people

- It was always about more than service with Jesus, it was authentic relationship.

How to build authentic relationships with individuals with disabilities:

1. See the whole person.
2. Welcome them with open arms.
3. Find out what their likes and interests are.
4. Find ways to personally connect.

Relationship building happens when we erase the idea in our heads about service provider and service recipient and see ourselves as two people who both...

- equally reflect the image of God.
- belong to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- were made for relationship.

Keep your eyes on the one you are building a relationship with, rather than looking at the provider or caregiver

- Some friends with special needs may occasionally need more time to think about your question to verbalize their answer. Give them all the time they need and don't try to answer for them. Be patient and not in a hurry.
- It's okay to ask someone with a disability to repeat themselves. It shows that you are truly interested in what they have to say and you're ready to work together to figure it out.

Wheelchair Etiquette:

1. Do not lean on or touch an Honored Guest's wheelchair. Always ask first.
2. Get on their level to look them in the eye.
3. Do not assume they authorize you to push them. Always ask first.

Recognize the person you are serving as someone fearfully and wonderfully made by God, just like you, and take the time to form a relationship with them.

- Recognize the mutuality of the relationship and take steps to make a personal connection.
- This is how we love and serve like Jesus and grow into relationship with others.