

## Parenting Kids with Additional Needs

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### Introduction and Welcome

- Not a how-to manual
- A reset button
- My story

*In your family where do you think the greatest heat/pressures come from?*

### The gift of infinite value

- Our children may be different, but they are not less than
- God cares about our bodies and minds
- Difference and diversity are essential to the body of Christ

- Barriers to belonging and how do we respond?
  - Judgement
  - Being misunderstood
  - When our own needs as parents go unmet

*In what ways do you see your child with additional needs as a person with significant value and agency? In what ways do secular views of autonomy influence our thinking about our children's role as image bearers?*

#### A place where God is at work

- A place for God's glory to be displayed, John 9:1-3.
  
- A response to the 'if only's'.
  
- God goes ahead of us.

*As you look back on your child's life. In what ways can you see that God was present, perhaps even before you knew the challenges you would face?*  
Space to find hope in our failures and freedom to grieve.

- The blessing of imperfect parenting
  - When we fail relationally
  - When we fail as advocates
  
- A space to grieve.
  - God is making ALL things new

*How can helpful grief allow you to embrace the difficulties that come with exceptional parenting while simultaneously celebrating the joys?*

*Let yourself imagine for a little bit. What do you think will be the most beautiful thing about the new heavens and earth and our experience of having God dwell with us?*