Intro

- As a worship pastor, my job is to foster an environment and an experience for everyone to be able to participate, know God’s presence, and be fed from God’s Word.
- The corporate gathering of believers each week is the most varied and diverse group with which to attempt this feat of unity and cooperation.
  - Nowhere else would we attempt to have such a group do all the same things at once and share common beliefs with all their different ages, backgrounds, preferences, emotional states, physical conditions, and cognitive capabilities.
  - Generational diversity may be the greatest challenge; the native communication/information language of each age group profoundly impacts how they intake a worship service.
    - Greatest generation – Radio/newspapers
    - Baby boomers – Newspapers/Network TV
    - Generation X – Network TV
    - Millennials – Internet
    - Generation Z – Smartphones/social media
- As challenging as it is, I must strive to meet the needs of as many people as possible in the corporate gathering and be a part of efforts churchwide to welcome those with disabilities.

The common solutions

- Sensory room
- Buddy program
- Accessibility
- Inclusion
- Accommodations
- Acceptance/non-judgment

The deeper solutions

- Manageable dB levels
- Calming lighting
- Resources and equipment
• Deaf interpretation
• Transmitters for hard of hearing
• Braille signage
• Subpac
• Fidgets
• Volunteer training
• Visual schedules/children’s notes (specific to lesson/sermon)

The Challenging Solutions
• Whole church training/teaching
• Integrating movement into worship
• Seeking out worship musicians with special needs
• Tactile/kinesthetic/visual reinforcements for preaching/teaching
• Specific things addressed to those with disabilities in the service
• Active participation (talking back, hand signals, etc.)
• Ear protection

For the Home
• PATIENCE!
• FLEXIBILITY!
• Be prepared to explain everything
• Learn to use the plainest, simplest terms possible
• Incorporate movement, repetition, and visuals as much as you can
• Use music (yes, you)
• Have them be a part of it
• Acting
• Drawing
• Reading
• Writing
• Creating
• Repentance