



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	How Should We Worship?	SPEAKER	Rev Dr Leow Wen Pin
THEME	A Disciple-Making Church	DATE	1 & 2 August 2026

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Rev Dr Leow highlighted the growing number of people living with disabilities in Singapore and around the world. With rising rates of autism, ADHD, dementia and other disabilities, he emphasised that the church must not overlook people with special needs. As a disciple-making community, the church is called to welcome and love people with special needs as valued members of God's family. The sermon examined Luke 13:10-17, where Jesus healed a woman with a disability on the Sabbath, revealing God's heart for inclusion and the true meaning of worship.

HOW SHOULD WE WORSHIP?

In Luke 13:10-17, Jesus healed a woman who had a bent back for 18 years while teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. While the woman and the crowd responded by praising God, the synagogue leader became angry as he regarded healing as "work" and therefore inappropriate on the Sabbath. To the religious leader, caring for someone with a disability interrupted worship.

Jesus corrected this misunderstanding of the purpose of the Sabbath and the heart of worship. He pointed out that if people were willing to untie their ox or donkey to care for them on the Sabbath, all the more someone from the family of Abraham should be set free from her suffering! The Sabbath was established to remind Israel that God has rescued them from slavery (Deut 5:12-15). It was not simply a day of rest, but a day to remember God's salvation, mercy and grace. By healing the woman on the Sabbath, Jesus demonstrated its true purpose to bring freedom, restoration and life.

While worship is often associated with singing, giving, serving or studying God's Word, this passage reveals that worship is much deeper. Including people with special needs is not a disturbance to worship; it is worship. Rev Dr Leow suggested three ways to live this out:

- a) **Be a friend:** Love people with special needs by spending time with them, listening to them, understanding their interests, encouraging them and helping them know that they are seen, valued and loved.

- b) **Welcome them into the church family:** Rather than separating them into specialised ministries, intentionally include them in worship services and church life. They are members of God's family, and no one should be left behind.
- c) **Allow them to serve:** Every believer has been given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit. People with special needs can be contributors who can bless, encourage and build up the church through the gifts God has given them.

CONCLUSION

The true heart of worship is expressed through love. When believers welcome, disciple and serve alongside people with special needs, they reflect the heart of Christ and offer worship that is pleasing to God. Inclusion of people with special needs is not a disruption to worship; it is worship. Can the church become a family where people of all abilities are welcomed, valued and empowered to follow Christ together?

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 13:10-17. Compare the responses of the woman with the bent back, the crowd and the synagogue leader after Jesus healed the woman. What do their responses reveal about their understanding of worship? How does Jesus redefine worship in this passage, and in what ways does it challenge your idea of worship?

2. Have you ever felt uncertain or uncomfortable interacting with someone with special needs? What are some barriers that might prevent us from reaching out?

3. The sermon suggested practical ways to include people with special needs. What can your cell group do to befriend and include people of all abilities in our community?