

Lent 1: Looking at things differently.

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.

—Mark 1:15

The Social Model of Disability

People have impairments or differences which makes it hard to fully participate in communities that are designed for most people.

Disability comes from the barriers in community encountered by people with impairments that prevent full participation.

Examples are:

- stairs are a barrier for people in wheelchairs.
- Print is a barrier for people who have low vision or a learning impairment or are blind.
- Not using a microphone presents a barrier for people who are hearing impaired.

Identify barriers and think how these can be addressed to enable more people to receive and share the Good News.



**Disability
Ministry**

Lent: How to live more fully

Looking at disability differently

Explaining the Social Model of Disability

“Disability is something that happens when people with impairments face barriers in society; it is society that disables us, not our impairments, this is the thing all disabled people have in common. It is something that happens when the world we live in has been designed by people who assume that everyone is the same.”

[—Disability in New Zealand today - Office for Disability Issues \(odi.govt.nz\)](https://odi.govt.nz)

“Usually when people talk about disability, they are referring to someone as having a disability. What we actually have are impairments – the term ‘disability’ refers to the interaction between the person with the impairment and the environment. So, we have impairments and we are ‘disabled’ by society.”

[—A beginner’s guide to the Social Model of Disability](#)
[— CCS Disability Action](#)



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