Study Guide 1

I Am Called Blessed: Disability Justice in The United Church of Canada (www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-yG2kTmEOU)

"[H]e has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed...." Luke 1:48, The Magnificat

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Who pronounced Mary blessed?
 - a. Lynda calls herself blessed. She also refers to herself as created in the image of God. Why is it significant that Lynda makes this pronouncement about herself instead of others pronouncing her blessed?
 - b. Consider how Lynda feels when people go out of their way to help her without her consent. Except in emergency situations, why is it important that we wait for people with disabilities, whom we perceive to need assistance, to invite us?

(For additional resources, please read www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/being-together.)

2.	A simple definition of <i>ableism</i> is unfair or discriminatory treatment of people because they have a disability. Expressions of unfair treatment of people with disabilities are both visible and invisible. These can show up in attitudes, practices, behaviours, and creation of physical space that discriminate and become barriers.
	Lynda identifies some of these barriers. Brainstorm and list some examples of ableism.

¹ https://study.com/academy/lesson/ableism-definition-examples.html

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3.	<i>Inclusion</i> is a universal human right. The aim of inclusion is to embrace all people regardless of race, gender, disability, or medical or other need. It is about giving equal access and opportunities and getting rid of discrimination and intolerance—in other words, removing barriers. Inclusion affects all aspects of public life. ²
	In what ways can we dismantle ableism as we affirm the right of inclusion in our communities of faith?

² http://www.gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/DisabilityInclusion.pdf

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