



CHURCH TOOLKIT • START HERE

Church Toolkit: Start Here

Sunday, March 21, 2027



Everything your church needs to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and to become a place where everyone belongs, all year long. This roadmap shows what's in the toolkit, who each resource is for, and an 8-week plan to Rock Your Socks Sunday on March 21, 2027.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 What's in the toolkit
- 2 Who uses what
- 3 8-week plan to 3.21
- 4 Beyond 3.21: the whole year

THE TOOLKIT

What's in the toolkit

You don't need all of it. Start with the Welcome Audit and Rock Your Socks Sunday, then pick one or two next steps.

	RESOURCE	FOR	WHAT IT INCLUDES
1	Kids Ministry Guides (5 age groups)	Kids' & youth leaders	Mini lesson, memory verse take-home, craft or activity, game, and family note for ages 3-5, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12, and 13+.
2	Adapted Kids Ministry Guides	Kids' & youth leaders, buddies	The same lessons adapted for Down syndrome, autism, and other disabilities, with picture cards, visual schedules, and About Me pages.
3	Church Welcome Audit	Pastor, leaders, a family	45 questions in 9 areas, a scorecard, 21 quick wins, and an action plan.
4	Rock Your Socks Sunday Kit + Slides	Pastor, worship & comms	Announcements, pastor's moment, sermon starters, kids' moment, prayers, bulletin insert, social posts, and a 7-slide deck.
5	Volunteer Inclusion Training	All volunteers	A ready-to-lead 30-minute training with script, scenarios, handout, quiz, and certificate.
6	Buddy Program Starter Guide	Buddy coordinator	Roles, an 8-week launch plan, screening, and every form you need.
7	Sensory Room & Sensory-Friendly Service Guide	Facilities, worship, kids	Room zones, supply lists at 3 budgets, posters, a visual schedule, and sensory bags.
8	Greeter & Family Welcome Pack	Greeters, hosts, welcome team	Greeter guide, saved-seat cards, social story, supports page, map, and follow-up.
9	Walking Alongside Families	Pastors, care teams	New baby and diagnosis care, practical help, respite nights, prayer cards, and resources.
10	Adult Belonging Guide	Adult ministry, small groups	Principles, serving roles, task-step cards, Bible study, and the youth-to-adult move.
11	Proud Celebrate 3.21 Church	Pastor & leadership	The pledge, window sign, certificate, and a social media badge.
12	How Your Whole Church Can Celebrate 3.21	Everyone	21 ideas, socks & socials, caption bank, special offering, fellowship, outreach, planning worksheet, and posters.

ALSO IN THE CELEBRATE 3.21 FAMILY

Family Toolkit printables (sock matching game, design-a-sock, 21 Ways to Celebrate, activity pack, fact sheet) and **School Toolkit** teacher guides. Share them with families and the schools in your community.

OUR GUIDING PROMISES

- Plan *with* people with disabilities
- Celebrate, never pity
- Never single anyone out
- Everyone belongs, all year long

SHARE THE LOAD

Who uses what

Give each team its piece. A small inclusion team (3-6 people, including a person with a disability or a family member) can keep it all moving.

Pastor / lead team

- Welcome Audit (lead it)
- RYS Kit: pastor's moment & sermon starters
- Proud Church pledge
- Walking Alongside Families

Kids' & youth ministry

- Kids Ministry Guides
- Adapted Guides
- Volunteer Inclusion Training
- Buddy Program Starter Guide

Worship & communications

- RYS Kit: announcements, prayers, insert, socials
- RYS Slides
- Sensory-friendly service checklist
- Proud Church badge

Welcome & hospitality

- Greeter & Family Welcome Pack
- Usher sensory bags
- Supports we offer page
- Volunteer Inclusion Training

Care & adult ministry

- Walking Alongside Families
- Parents' Night Out plan
- Adult Belonging Guide
- Buddy program (peer buddies)

Facilities & admin

- Welcome Audit: building sections
- Sensory room guide & supply lists
- Map template
- Accessible parking & signage

OUR INCLUSION TEAM

Team leader _____

Pastor / staff _____

Kids & youth _____

Welcome team _____

Family member _____

Person with a disability _____

COUNTDOWN

8 weeks to Rock Your Socks Sunday

March 21, 2027 falls on a Sunday. Dates below count back from it. Starting later? Squeeze the first four weeks into two, and keep going.

8 weeks out
SUN, JAN 24

Form your inclusion team. Read this roadmap. Put Rock Your Socks Sunday on the calendar.

7 weeks out
SUN, JAN 31

Run the Welcome Audit with your team and at least one family. Pick 3 quick wins.

6 weeks out
SUN, FEB 7

Sign the Proud Church pledge. Choose your size for 3.21 (Light, Medium, or Full).

5 weeks out
SUN, FEB 14

Lead the Volunteer Inclusion Training. Invite people with Down syndrome to serve on 3.21.

4 weeks out
SUN, FEB 21

Kids' leaders pick their guides and gather craft supplies. Order or print signs.

3 weeks out
SUN, FEB 28

Finish quick wins: calm corner, sensory bags, saved seats, Supports page on your website.

2 weeks out
SUN, MAR 7

First announcement, email, and social posts. Print bulletin inserts. Share family printables.

1 week out
SUN, MAR 14

Second announcement. Collect spare socks for the sock basket. Set up the photo spot.

3.21!
SUN, MAR 21

Rock Your Socks Sunday! Sock basket, slides, pastor's moment, kids' lessons, feet photo, and window sign up.

The week after
MAR 22-28

Thank-you email with photos. Announce your next step. Debrief with the team.

Pro tip: Tell schools and families that the school celebration is usually on **Friday, March 19**, since 3/21 is a weekend. Kids can rock their socks at school Friday and at church Sunday.

ALL YEAR LONG

Beyond 3.21

March 21 is a great place to start, but belonging happens every week. Here's a simple rhythm to keep going.

Spring (Mar–May)

- ☐ Rock Your Socks Sunday
- ☐ Launch one next step: buddies or a calm room
- ☐ Thank-you and follow-up with new families
- ☐ Celebrate graduates with disabilities

Summer (Jun–Aug)

- ☐ Include buddies at VBS and camps
- ☐ Try a sensory-friendly service
- ☐ A Parents' Night Out
- ☐ Invite adults to serve at summer events

Fall (Sep–Nov)

- ☐ Retrain volunteers for the new ministry year
- ☐ Update the Supports We Offer page
- ☐ Plan youth-to-adult transitions
- ☐ October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Winter (Dec–Feb)

- ☐ Sensory-friendly Christmas service or program
- ☐ Re-run the Welcome Audit
- ☐ Include everyone in the Christmas program
- ☐ Start planning next 3.21

OUR NEXT THREE STEPS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring glory to God.”

Romans 15:7 (BSB)

SIGNS IT'S WORKING

- Families of people with disabilities come back, and bring friends
- People with disabilities serve, lead, and are known by name
- Volunteers feel confident, not nervous
- No one has to ask twice for a support

SHARE YOUR STORY

Post your feet photos and what your church is doing with [#Celebrate321](#), and visit [Celebrate321.org](#) for more resources. Please share photos of others only with their permission.

