

Evaluation Copy  
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[www.dadsofdisability.com](http://www.dadsofdisability.com)

# Introduction

**DRAFT**

## Workbook: Sample Edition

This sample edition of the discussion and writing prompt workbook contains prompts for two chapters of the book, *Dads of Disability: Stories for, by, and about fathers of children who experience disability (and the women who love them)*

**Learn more at [www.dadsofdisability.com](http://www.dadsofdisability.com)**

The book has been useful for genetic counselors, social workers, special education teachers, physicians, psychologists, and parents and caregivers. It's about empathy. The book has even saved a life (I am not ready to tell that story yet, but it's true!).

Now, I am offering a set of conversation prompts and writing prompts workbook for the book. I have packaged it with a PDF digital copy of the book in a site license for college and university programs. The site license allows you to distribute your specific digital version of the book and the workbook to any registered students and teaching faculty in any number for two years.

## Prompts for Introduction:

# Introduction

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1. Is this book and the themes in it really needed?
2. Have an honest group discussion about what your pre-conceived notions are about fathers who have children who experience a disability.
3. Do some research and report on how many fathers “leave?” On how many mothers “leave?”
4. What is your opinion on “people first” language?
5. Role play as the author having a discussion with a counselor about the fears he mentions about writing this book.
6. Although not mentioned explicitly in the Introduction, the author had some fathers who were people of color and Asian Americans who declined to participate in this edition. Why do you think this could be the case?
7. Could the existence of this book diminish the role of woman in any way, despite the author’s denial of that?

## Prompts for Chapter 6:

# Coffee, Tea, or God?

Note: You can listen a free recording of this story [here](#).

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# DRAFT

1. Should the flight attendant have brought up a religious topic to a passenger? Could she have made her point in a different way? If the father didn't engage at all with the flight attendant, what could have been her reaction and thoughts?
2. In your class, roleplay as one who has various relationships with a client. Public service: perhaps flight attendant, coffee barista, a waiter? A more regular relationship: perhaps a coworker, neighbor, or teacher? How could the conversation go between the client and the person is one is religious and the other is not? What if both are religious, but of different belief systems?
3. Why might people use humor? When is it OK to use humor when discussing disabilities? When is it not OK?
4. Did the father in this story make a mistake by leaving the young son in the seat by himself? What could the father have done instead?
5. Discuss the idea of predestiny in how you will handle discussions with clients who believe having a child with a disability was "meant to be" but now have tremendous guilt. Will this approach differ if the clients don't believe "this was destined to happen" but is equally guilty?
6. How would you recommend a young father prepare himself for positive comments from strangers that don't align with his beliefs? Not just how to politely respond but coaching him on processing those comments after the fact when he has time to think about them. Could a father feel upset in some way about comments even if they were made with good intentions.
7. Roleplay a young father interacting with a woman of a certain generation who believes fathers shouldn't be the sole public caregiver of a young child and asks overly personal questions like "what is wrong with him?" and "where is his mother?"

## Prompts for Chapter 17:

# The iPod

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**DRAFT**

1. This story is likely fictional (or is it?) What lessons can you draw from it to help a client?
2. How can you counsel a client if, when, and how to react to a person using the word “retard” aimed at a stranger? What if it is aimed at their loved one – in front of or away from him or her? What if the person using the word were a friend or co-worker? What if they were saying it “offhand” and not about their loved one? When “must” a response happen – and when must it not? How can you respond when a person doesn't mean it in a derogatory way and are just uninformed.
3. What other “superhero” fantasies clients may have about “saving” their loved ones from a dangerous situation? Are these fantasies healthy or unhealthy and why?
4. Role play a counseling situation in which a father is feeling like he can no longer “protect” his adult child with a disability while that adult child is out and about in the community.
5. What further challenges could be present in Herman's situation if Herman is a person of color?
6. Did the older guy in shirt and tie react appropriately? If so why? If not, what else could he have done? How do people typically respond in situations like this? What is the likelihood that someone would intervene in this way?
7. Overall do you find the story in this poem realistic? Inspirational? Frightening? Unrealistic? Why? How would a situation like this unfold in your opinion in an area you live in?