

#### Sunday Mornings

Help us share God's love and truths in the Special Needs Suite (young children), Tweeners class (teenagers), or John 9:3 class (adults).

### Buddy-Up

Help a special needs child participate in Sunday classes and yearly events such as Vacation Bible School and Joni and Friends camp.

### Weekday Opportunities

Volunteer at our weekly painting class or the monthly ladies' life skills class.

### Family Partner

Become a family partner to offer prayer support, encouragement, and helpful services such as shopping, transportation, babysitting, help around the house, and cooking.

### Prayer Support

Download our daily prayer calendar from our website. Pray for common needs including housing and employment opportunities for adults with special needs and support for couples with special needs children.



The GIFT Ministry program serves more than 100 families. We believe everyone deserves an equal opportunity to worship, learn, and serve in our church, regardless of abilities.

469.252.5358 darlah@stonebriar.org www.stonebriar.org [keyword: special needs]



## Let them know you are ready to walk beside them.

Consider communicating by text or e-mail during hectic times

## Be specific with your intentions and initiate the act of service.

 Ask "When may I bring you dinner?" or "When may I babysit the kids for you?" rather than saying, "Let me know if you need anything."

## Be ready to meet them where they are emotionally.

- Cry with them if they are ready to cry.
- Laugh with them if they are ready to laugh.
- Understand their frustration if they are angry.

## Encourage them, even though you might not hear anything in response.

- Keep sending e-mails, texts, cards, or gifts.
- Keep offering your services and support.
- Keep praying.

# Be cautious of using clichés or overly spiritual language when offering comfort.

- Avoid phrases like, "God will only give you what you can handle" or "Everything happens for a reason."
- Use scripture when the time is right. During the initial pain and disappointment, some Bible verses may be too hard to comprehend.

