

Most people, including kids, have challenges. About 13 percent of all students in public schools get special services to help them succeed, despite challenges they face. Some students have physical disabilities; others have a hard time with behavior; and about a third have learning problems that make reading, writing, or other subjects difficult. Specially trained teachers design individual plans to help students work around their weaknesses and succeed. Sometimes teachers use specially designed furniture, books, or other tools to assist students. To help some kids, assignments are shown on video and tests are given out loud. Many classrooms have a quiet corner where kids who need to time to calm down and regroup can take a break.

## Think About It . . .

- What difficulties might people face if they have a learning, physical, or emotional weakness or challenge?
- What abilities do people with disabilities have?

# THE BEAT

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Lesson 10



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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## Weaknesses and Abilities

Draw three medium-size circles on the board. Draw a large box right beside each of the small circles. In one circle write “Learning Weaknesses.” In another circle write “Behavior Challenges.” In the last circle write “Physical Disabilities.” Ask students to give examples (without naming anyone) of things they might see in a person with each weakness or challenge. Write their ideas inside the circles. Then have students brainstorm the *abilities* that people with these weaknesses and challenges have and write those ideas in the boxes. Talk about how having a weakness or challenge doesn’t mean a person can’t do amazing things. **SAY: Let’s dig into God’s Word to learn about a weakness the apostle Paul had and discover that God can use people with weaknesses.**

**Will you commit to letting God use you in spite of your weaknesses?**