

GET EDUCATED

Kindred Community Church strives to provide educational resources to our members for the purpose of equipping our church on proper communication with all our Deaf Friends. To help with understanding Deaf Culture and Language, Kindred's Deaf Ministry has put together a few educational resources.



Q: What are some practical steps I can take to best educate myself?

A: There are many different steps you can take which include:

- Researching Deaf Culture via online resources, attending Deaf events and learning ASL (American Sign language) would be essential.
- Taking a course in ASL is greatly encouraged and appreciated.
- Watching YouTube videos to learn basic phrases would benefit you.
- Simply searching American Deaf Culture in your browser can generate an extensive list of informative articles.

Q: If I am not sure who is hearing or deaf – is it okay to ask someone if they are hearing or deaf?

A: Yes, it is acceptable to ask if a person is hearing or deaf in order to establish proper communication.

Q: How should I approach someone who is Deaf?

A: Here are some basic things to remember when approaching someone who is Deaf:

- Make sure you are in their line of vision.
- If you know sign language, begin with a greeting, "Hi. My name is..." Continue with, "What is your name? It is good to see you."
- If you do not know ASL, writing with a paper and pen may work as well.
- It's important not to shout or over announce with your mouth. Using your voice in normal tone is fine.

Q: Is sign language universal?

A: No, sign language is not universal. Each country and various regions have their own form of sign language. There are many different signing systems. ASL can have minor variations depending on the region. For example, California ASL can be different than ASL used in New York.

Q: I have heard people refer to ASL and ESL. What is the difference between ASL and ESL?

A: The difference between ASL and ESL is:

- ASL is American Sign Language, a visual and manual system of communication typically utilized by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- “ASL is not English! Even though English speakers and users of ASL utilize the same language, spoken English and ALS are quite different from each other...ASL has its own grammar and structure rules and the Deaf have unique and different ways of expressing themselves.” (Learn American Sign Language, by James W. Guido, p. 4.)
- ESL is English as a Second Language. This tends to relate to programs or classes individuals new to the English language take to better their reading, writing, speech and language skills in English.

Q: I would like to learn more about the Deaf culture. What are some resources to get me started?

A: Great Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD) is a website established to provide information on American Deaf Culture and Language. www.gladinc.org

Q: Are there any online resources that would be beneficial to me?

A: Some online sources that could be beneficial to you are:

- Gallaudet University www.gallaudet.edu
- CSUN National Center on Deafness (NCOD) www.csun.edu/ncod
- For Christian centered ASL, the Deaf Bible Society website is helpful www.deafbiblesociety.com
- For basic signs, www.signingsavvy.com
- There are Facebook pages dedicated to these topics as well:
 - Christian American Sign Language
 - SFH Sign Squad
 - SoCal Deaf Events

Q: Who should I contact if I have more questions?

A: If you would like to learn more, please contact Michelle Jones, our Deaf Ministry Coordinator, for further information. Please email deafministry@kindredchurch.org if you have any questions or interest. Thank you!