

Brewer JF, Chapman EM, Lester GM, O'Beirne CE. GRIT, SPIRITUALITY, AND RESILIENCE IN PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. Hardin-Simmons Department of Physical Therapy, Abilene, TX.

**INTRODUCTION:** Research exploring the internal motivators of grit, spirituality, and resilience in parents of children with special needs is limited. **PURPOSE:** 1) Analyze how each construct presents in parents of children with disabilities; 2) Examine if a short-term Family Retreat impacts each construct; and 3) Discuss how the findings can be applied to these families. **SUBJECTS:** A sample of convenience was attained using parents of children with disability who attended a five-day Joni and Friends (Joni and Friends International Disability Ministries©) Family Retreat in Navasota, TX. **METHODS:** Subjects completed a SurveyMonkey™ link before the retreat, upon completion of the retreat, and 4 weeks after returning home from the retreat. The survey was comprised of questions from the 12-Item Grit Scale (5-point Likert scale), the (FamPRS). The research

University Doctor of Physical Therapy program and other volunteers during the retreat week. A Repeated Measures ANOVA was used to compare surveys over time for changes between relationships between demographic variables and scores. **RESULTS:** Demographic results: returned (x=45-55), relationship (87% mother, 13% father), children (x=2.67). Medical diagnoses of the special children (n=8), Cerebral Palsy (n=6), and other samples Friedman's Two-Way ANOVA on resilience (SD=0.49) pre and post scores yielded no statistical significance. Disappointment construct (p=0.009). Pearson correlation (x=3.86, SD=0.58) were significant (r=0.578, p=0.009). Scores were negatively correlated (r=-0.319, p=0.009). Post survey, the FamPRS received responses (x=0.36-.69). **CONCLUSION:** There were no internal motivator factors of grit and resilience with a significant decrease in the Disappointment component. "allows for shared experiences related to disability with God" may result. The significant negative correlation children may have less resilience which may be addressed. The FamPRS had positive responses commenting on being together and the acceptance they gained among themselves. **RELEVANCE:** The lack of statistically significant results affect the perceived benefits of the social and resilience resources should be developed to support not only those who have children with special needs, but the emotional