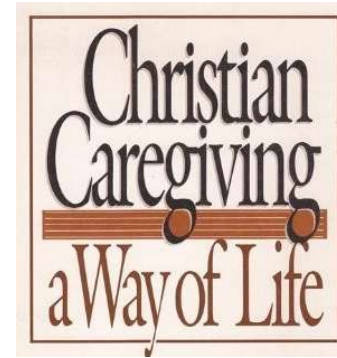


LIVING HOPE
DEMENTIA CAREGIVER
SUPPORT COMMUNITY

1



2

Communicate with the Heart

3

1 John 3 (ESV)

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

4

1 John 3 (ESV)

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God,[d] and God[e] in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

5

Main Theme

- Love transcends language in dementia care.
- In caregiving, actions often speak louder than words.
- Caring for a loved one with dementia often means entering a world where words become unreliable.
- Conversations may fade; sentences may break apart & familiar expressions may disappear.
- Yet Scripture reminds us that love is not limited to language.

6

Main Theme

- God equips caregivers to communicate with the heart - through presence, patience, touch & Christlike compassion.
- He sees every unseen act of love & He speaks through us even when words fail.

7



8

Love Speaks

- Even when verbal communication becomes difficult, love remains fully fluent.
- Genuine love shows through our presence, patience & sincerity, even when our loved one cannot respond or recognize us.
- Authentic love is felt, not forced

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (Romans 12:9 ESV)

9

Love Speaks

- Our tone, timing & tenderness matter as much as our words.
- Even simple truths - "You're safe," "I'm here" - become powerful when spoken gently.

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (Ephesians 4:15 ESV)

10

Love Speaks

- A calm, soothing voice can settle anxiety, reduce agitation & create emotional safety for someone living with dementia.

4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4 ESV)

11

Love Speaks

- Patience becomes a spiritual practice in caregiving.
- Kindness in small moments - helping our loved one dress, repeating answers, slowing our pace - communicates deep love.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant (1 Corinthians 13:4 ESV)

12

Love Speaks

- Sitting quietly beside our loved one can speak more comfort than explanations or corrections.
7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; (Ecclesiastes 3:7 ESV)
- Our loved ones may not understand our words, but they feel our tone, our patience & our calm presence.
- Love is often clearest when spoken through gentleness rather than words.

13

Nonverbal communication cues

14

Nonverbal Communication Cues

- Our loved ones often read the heart more clearly than our words.
- Our facial expressions - especially warmth & joy - can lift our loved one's spirit even when they cannot understand our words.
13 A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed. (Proverbs 15:13 ESV)

15

Nonverbal Communication Cues

- A peaceful presence, a steady smile, or a calm posture becomes a testimony of God's love in the room.
16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 ESV)

16

Nonverbal Communication Cues

- A gentle response, even when our loved one is confused or upset, can de-escalate tension & restore peace.
1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1 ESV)

17

Nonverbal Communication Cues

- Our compassion, patience & gentleness create an atmosphere of grace.
15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, (2 Corinthians 2:15 ESV)

18

Nonverbal Communication Cues

- Our actions - helping our loved one eat, guiding them safely, offering comfort - become the clearest expression of love when words no longer connect. (1 John 3:18)
- A smile, a gentle nod, a relaxed posture, or a warm expression can communicate safety & affection.
- Emotional memory often remains long after verbal memory fades.
- Our nonverbal love can anchor our loved one.

19



20

Silence & Touch

- God Himself communicates in ways deeper than words.
- Stillness creates space for God's peace to settle both our heart and our loved one's.

***10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
(Psalm 46:10 ESV)***

21

Silence & Touch

- A gentle hand, a warm hug, or holding our loved one's hand can reassure them of our presence & God's care

13 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. (Luke 5:13 ESV)

22

Silence & Touch

- When you don't know what to say or pray, the Holy Spirit speaks for you.
- God understands your heart even when your words fall short.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:26 ESV)

23

Silence & Touch

- As we physically uphold our loved one, God spiritually upholds us.

***10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
(Isaiah 41:10 ESV)***

24

Silence & Touch

- God's peace can calm our spirit even in chaotic or emotional caregiving moments.
- That peace often flows through us to our loved one.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7 ESV)

25

Silence & Touch

- A gentle touch or quiet presence can become a sacred ministry.
- God often uses our hands & our stillness to communicate His love.

26

Discussion Questions

- How do you communicate love when words fail?
- What nonverbal gestures bring comfort to your loved one?
- How does God speak to you in silence?
- What role does touch play in your caregiving ministry?
- How can you reflect Jesus' love through your actions?

27



Communicate with the Heart

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