

Dementia



Common areas of gifting or strength

- The areas of gifting or strength that were present prior to diagnosis may still be present
- Feeling pleasure, noticing danger
- Music, worship, prayer

Common areas of challenge

- Processing, organizing, and communicating information accurately
- Controlling impulses, behaviors and words

Quick facts

- Dementia is an umbrella term for various causes of memory, thinking and language loss, such as Alzheimer's.
- Though symptoms may seem random, dementia has a progression that is predictable over the course of about 10 years.
- Acuity and sensitivities in the senses may change, because the way the brain is processing the information has changed.
- Dementia affects both the chemical balance within, and the muscle or physical structure of the brain.

Resources

Further Learning

- <https://allbelong.org/dementia/>
- worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/christian-worship-experiences-for-persons-with-dementia (article)
- worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/from-longing-to-belonging-connecting-through-the-language-of-worship-with-persons-experiencing-dementia (audio recording, with handout)
- teepasnow.com/

Books for Adults

- *Accessible Gospel, Inclusive Worship*, by Barbara J. Newman
- *Dementia: Living in Memories of God*, by John Swinton
- [*Dementia Care Handbook*](#), by Holland Home

Books for Kids

- *A Heart Full of Gems*, by Linn Possell and Teepa Snow (portion read aloud here at youtube.com/watch?v=nvZ6hx9xsTk)

Videos

- “How Does A Person with Dementia See The World?” (3:35)
youtu.be/q_sWiwI3yPo
- teepasnow.com/resources/for-families-and-friends/