

Faith and Dementia

A dementia diagnosis like Alzheimer's disease is often upsetting, disorienting, and overwhelming for individuals, and for their caregivers and loved ones. It often raises questions about the implications for all aspects of a person's life: physical, spiritual, and emotional. The good news is that in God's Word, we find promises that strengthen and support our faith as individuals, caregivers, and faith communities as we face the realities of dementia.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Has something ever happened to you physically, emotionally, or mentally that made you question God's faithfulness? What was the short-term or long-term impact on your faith?
- What does it mean to you that we are made in God's image?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Faith and Dementia](#)

READ [Genesis 1:26-27](#), [Colossians 3:1-4](#), [Romans 8:26-27, 35-39](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why is it comforting to remember that we are made in the image of God when something like a dementia diagnosis alters the course of our lives?
- Have you ever thought about Holy Saturday before? Does Dr. Suzanne McDonald's observation that it is a space for lament and grief resonate with you? Consider the disciples' experience, their loss of identity, and their probable emotions on that first Holy Saturday. How does reflecting on their experience help you?
- Reread [Romans 8:35-39](#). How might the assurance spoken of in this verse calm fears in the face of dementia? Why is it comforting for individuals diagnosed with dementia? What about caregivers?
- In segment 3, the hosts talked about practical ideas for compassionately caring for individuals with dementia. Reflect on these suggestions. Why is compassionately caring for others important? How can it impact our own faith? How does preserving the dignity of others help us follow the Greatest Commandment we find in [Matthew 22:36-40](#)?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Isaiah 49:15-16](#), [Psalm 139](#), [2 Corinthians 4](#)

CONCLUSION

Read [Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24](#). How does this passage provide encouragement and strength for a believer living with dementia? What about for a caregiver? Close by rewriting the passage as a prayer for any individuals and/or caregivers of people living with dementia that you know.

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