

## **FAQ's About Blessing Gifts**

One of the <u>five love languages</u> is receiving gifts. For some people, receiving a heartfelt gift is what makes them feel most loved. The other four love languages are

- Quality time
- Acts of service
- Words of affirmation
- Physical touch

When we enter a home, we may not know their love language and feel that it is always best to hit them all in each visit! Think about it. If you are with them, you are providing QUALITY TIME. If you speak words of encouragement, your are providing WORDS OF AFFIRMATION. If you put your hand on their shoulder or give them an appropriate hug, you are providing PHYSICAL TOUCH. If you ask, "Is there anything I can do for you?" you are providing ACTS OF SERVICE. If you take in a *Blessing Gift*, you are providing RECEIVING GIFTS. If receiving gifts is not yours or their love language, you or they may not want the gifts or appreciate them as much as someone who enjoys receiving gifts. Below are some answers and ideas to frequently asked questions about *Blessing Gifts*.

What if somebody doesn't know what to do with a *Blessing Gift* they receive? Some ideas to share might be to pass it along to another senior, family member, caregiver, or grandchild as a special "Thinking of You" or "Thank You" gift when they come visit.

What if the *Blessing Gift* for a particular month isn't something I think they would appreciate and use? Good question! You may want to visit and take nothing, create your own "gift" of a drink, a loaf of bread, or something you now they would enjoy more. We appreciate your feedback on "what would make a good *Blessing Gift*." Please send us your ideas!

What if the recipient really doesn't want the *Blessing Gift*? Take it with you as you leave and perhaps find another homebound senior who might welcome the thoughtfulness and have receiving gifts as their love language!

What if the recipient doesn't want visits? Perhaps calling monthly and checking in on them (and leaving a message if they don't answer) would show we still care and want to reach out. If you have the phone number of a family member, you can call them monthly and ask them how their loved one is doing and that you just wanted to check in on them. One question you can ask each time you call is, "how can I pray for you?" and then follow up on that prayer request next time you talk to them. You can also send a monthly "thinking of you" card.

What if the recipient is diabetic and can't eat the gift or it is tempting them? Good question! If there are any allergies, dietary restrictions, or even cognitive issues where it would not be in the best interest to give them the *Blessing Gift*, DON'T! You may choose to provide something more appropriate or nothing at all. Remember, the real *gift* is your visit!

Be sure and click on our <u>"What's Better than a Blessing Gift?"</u> tab for two wonderful ideas that top that of a Blessing Gift!