

# GRANDPARENTS MAKING DISCIPLES

## Awakening a “Retired” Generation

### Handout

#### I. The Cultural View

Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have a multitude of advantages at our fingertips. But we are also at the mercy of copious modern cultural lies. One lie is as we age our value diminishes. We are to step aside to let the next generation take charge. In scripture, we learn about the lives of people like Moses, Caleb and Abraham. These people were in their 80’s or 90’s when the Lord used them in a mighty way. Clearly, God does not think for a minute (!) we are to fade into the sunset as we age. As long as there is breath in us, God has a purpose for us.

With the Industrial Revolution starting in the 1790’s, the family began to seriously break down. Grandparents were moved from a place of role-modeling and wisdom to a position of babysitting and companionship.

Today, parents tend to look first to professionals for help. An example is sports.

A second resource for parents is books. Busy parents quickly order a parenting book from Amazon. It is delivered to their front door step in one day.

The result is that most grandparents are sought to be the babysitter or entertainer of the grandchildren. To be a “good friend”.

Many seniors, especially those who have retired, struggle with their purpose in this season of life. This feeling of insignificance is pervasive in grandparents living in the industrialized west.

As a culture, we consider the AARP organization to be a top authority in our country for senior citizens.

#### II. The Biblical View

As Christians, we know the Bible is our true authority. You will not find the exact word “grandfather”, “grandmother”, or “grandparent” in the Bible. Instead, the authors of scripture used words like “father”, “forefather”, “father’s father”, “generations”.

Grandparents are told in Psalm 78 to “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.”

Three more significant scriptures directing grandparents are:

1. Psalm 145: 4 – 7
2. Joel 1:3
3. Deuteronomy 4:9

God has as much of a plan for us in our 60’s, 70’s and beyond as He did for us in our 30’s and 40’s. At the top of the list is for grandparents to disciple their children and grandchildren. His plan has always been for grandparents to come beside the parents to disciple the children, to pass a legacy of

faith in Christ to the future generations. This is Biblical discipleship at its highest. As Christians we are called to “The Great Commission”. As grandparents, we are called to “The First Mission” of leading the hearts of our families towards the Lord.

### III. Practical “keys” to Biblical grandparenting

The question then is *how* are grandparents to disciple their grandchildren? There are many resources for Christian parenting. There is a paucity of resources for Christian grandparenting.

The result is I wrote a book, *Pass the Legacy: 7 Keys for Grandparents Making A Difference*. It is my story of encouraging and equipping my generation through seven basic steps. These “keys” are foundational steps any grandparent can follow to disciple their loved ones.

#### The 7 Keys

##### *Pass the Legacy: 7 Keys for Grandparents Making a Difference*

- 1st Key: Surrender Your Heart to Christ
- 2nd Key: Read the Bible Daily
- 3rd Key: Pray Fervently
- 4th Key: Pursue Healthy Relationships with Loved Ones
- 5th Key: Heal Broken Relationships
- 6th Key: Leave a Well-Written Legacy of Love
- 7th Key: Pass Your Faith

It is important for grandparents to become pro-active in intentionally discipling their families.

### IV. The Role of The Church

The Church has the God-given opportunity to play a crucial role in encouraging grandparents in this endeavor. The need is huge. Grandparents need help in discipling their families. They particularly need help in reaching the hearts of those grown children who have wandered away from the faith.

What can your parish do to encourage, inform and equip your grandparents?

Practical Steps for Churches to Encourage and Equip Godly Grandparenting:

1. PRAY for the Holy Spirit to show you, your parish leadership how to guide your grandparents. Pray for your leadership to be given a heart for the grandparents.
2. If you are not one of the priests of your parish, then make an appointment to share with him what you have heard here.
3. Celebrate Grandparent’s Day.
4. Cast God’s Vision for grandparents through:
  - A. Workshop(s)
  - B. Sunday School Classes
  - C. Book Studies
  - D. Sermon: What Does It Mean to be a Biblical Grandparent
5. Offer a (G@P) Prayer Group
6. Continue to offer workshops/Sunday School classes/book studies to encourage and equip
7. Potential topics for future workshops:

“Praying Fervently for Your Grandchildren”  
“Speaking The Blessing”  
“Pursuing/Mending Broken Relationships”  
“Grandparenting Long-Distance”

8. Other opportunities:

Grand Camp  
“One Day”  
Conferences

V. Conclusion: God’s Vision

There is no retirement in God’s Kingdom. You may retire from a profession or a job. But God has a plan for your life until you take your final breath. It is critical for the Church to become pro-active in intentionally encouraging our seniors in this God-given role.

God’s vision is not for us to retire. His deep desire is for us to re-fire.

“An Earthly Picture of a Heavenly Truth: My Granddaddy’s Story” (see Chapter One, *Pass the Legacy: 7 Keys for Grandparents Making a Difference*)

Will you join me in this God-calling to disciple our grandchildren for the Lord?

There is no higher calling.

There is no greater legacy.

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