

FORBIDDEN TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

EPISODE 3: KEEPING THE GATES OPEN

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

 **PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Follow Up on Last Episode's Assignment

- Who did you commit to praying for each day? What has God been teaching you through that time of prayer?
- How were you able to demonstrate the person of Jesus through your actions this week?
- In what ways did trusting God with someone else's salvation bring you greater peace?
- What changes have you noticed in your own heart as you've focused more on prayer than depending only on persuasion?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven't already, watch this week's video: “*Keeping the Gates Open*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 3: Keeping the Gates Open**

Episode Summary

When doors close to sharing our faith, our first response should not be frustration but humility. God calls grandparents to honor the authority of their adult children, examine their own hearts, and pursue reconciliation wherever it is needed. As we faithfully respect boundaries and trust God's timing, He remains at work in the lives of those we love while opening new opportunities to share His love with others.

Grandparents aren't the coaches.

We're the cheerleaders.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This series helps grandparents navigate one of the growing challenges of our time: being forbidden from sharing their faith with those they love most. Each episode offers biblical perspective, practical wisdom, and lasting hope for those facing rejection because of their faith. The goal is not to provoke conflict or win arguments, but to help you respond with truth, love, and confidence while trusting God to continue His work.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why is it sometimes difficult to accept the changing role from parent to grandparent?
2. What does it mean to be a “cheerleader” rather than a “coach” in the lives of your adult children and grandchildren?
3. Is it possible past hurts—not your faith itself—may be contributing to closed doors? How should we respond to that possibility?
4. What does it mean to have complete repentance? What might your repentance look like to your adult children?
5. How can God use you to invest in other children, grandchildren, or younger believers while you wait for Him to open doors within your own family?

Episode Notes

1. Respect God's design for the family.

- Parents—not grandparents—are the primary spiritual coaches of their children.
 - Grandparents best serve their families by becoming faithful cheerleaders.
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2. Reconciliation opens doors.

- Unresolved wounds from your relationships with your adult children may be the real reason spiritual conversations have been closed.
 - Your humility in listening, confessing, and asking for forgiveness reflect the heart of Christ and can open doors.
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3. Trust God to open new doors.

- Respect the boundaries your adult children have established.
 - While some doors remain closed, God opens countless others for you to influence the next generation.
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WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:23–24 - “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.” Jesus teaches that pursuing reconciliation is an essential part of faithfully following Him.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:12 - “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” The commandment to honor our father and mother also calls grandparents to honor their adult children as parents. Undermining their authority over their own family violates the fifth commandment.



Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Commit to practical steps for living out this week’s lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Romans 13:2
Genesis 2:24

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Prayerfully consider whether there is an unresolved hurt or misunderstanding between you and one of your adult children. If appropriate, ask if they would be willing to share how they experienced their upbringing, in your home or in the church, and whether there are wounds that still need healing. Listen with humility, resist the urge to defend yourself, and, where needed, ask for forgiveness.

At the same time, ask God to show you one new door He may be opening for you to encourage, mentor, or invest in another child, grandchild, or young person who needs the hope of Christ.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach next-gen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage one another to remain hopeful as you trust God with the doors that seem closed. Close in prayer, asking the Lord to heal broken relationships, grant humility where repentance is needed, and open new opportunities to share His love. Thank Him that His plans for those we love are always greater than our own and that no closed door can prevent Him from accomplishing His purposes.

