

Session 1 Notes: Introduction — God’s Calling for Grandparents

****Series Length:**** 5 weeks

****Session Focus:**** Introduction to biblical grandparenting

****Main Theme:**** Grandparenting is not merely a family role; it is a God-given calling and responsibility.

1. Opening Purpose of the Series

This session introduced the purpose of the grandparenting series. The focus is not primarily on **techniques** or “how-to” methods of grandparenting, but on what God says about the responsibility, purpose, and calling of grandparents.

Grandparents are designed by God to have influence in the lives of specific children. This is part of God’s plan. Each grandparent has a role in contributing to the spiritual health and spiritual condition of their grandchildren.

Key Idea

Grandparents are called to be:

- Spiritual contributors
- Partners with parents
- Disciplers of the next generation
- Faithful examples of walking with God
- Intentional witnesses to the truth of Scripture

This calling does not change based on family circumstances, distance, personalities, or relational dynamics. God’s Word remains constant.

2. What the World Says About Grandparenting

Alan began by contrasting the world's view of older generations with God's view.

The World's Message

The world often tells grandparents and older adults:

- "You have worked hard; now it is time to relax."
- "Spend your money on yourself."
- "Travel, play, and enjoy your golden years."
- "You have already raised your children."
- "Your main purpose now is leisure."
- "You are less relevant or even invisible."
- "You are separate from the nuclear family."

The world tends to diminish the role of grandparents. Modern culture often emphasizes the nuclear family as only husband, wife, and children, leaving grandparents outside the daily spiritual formation of the family.

Cultural Shifts Mentioned

Several cultural changes were discussed:

- The rise of television and electronic entertainment
- The influence of online voices and non-Christian influencers
- The decline of intergenerational conversations
- The loss of families sitting together and learning from one another
- The rise of retirement culture focused on pleasure and escape
- The segregation of age groups, even within churches

Alan described modern society as a “microwave world,” where people want everything quickly and with little effort. This mindset can also affect Bible reading, prayer, discipleship, and spiritual growth.

Key Warning

A quick devotional life cannot replace deep time with God. If grandparents are going to disciple others, they must first be shaped by God’s Word themselves.

3. What God Says About Grandparenting

God’s message is very different from the world’s message.

God does not view grandparents as irrelevant, retired from purpose, or spiritually unnecessary. Instead, Scripture presents grandparents as important carriers of faith, truth, testimony, and spiritual memory.

Grandparents Have a Continuing Calling

The calling of grandparents includes:

- Passing down the truth of God's Word
- Speaking of God's faithfulness
- Praying for children and grandchildren
- Living as examples of genuine faith
- Helping future generations set their hope in God
- Teaching the next generation not to forget the works of God

4. Personal Testimony: Becoming Intentional with God

Pam shared her personal testimony about learning to become intentional in her relationship with God.

She was saved at age 14 and sincerely loved the Lord. She prayed, trusted God, attended church, listened to Christian music, read Christian books, and participated in Bible studies. However, she realized later that she had not developed a deep personal habit of spending time with God in His Word.

She described herself as a “doer” who struggled to sit still, study, listen, and spend quiet time with the Lord.

The Turning Point

After both of her children married in the same year, Pam experienced emptiness and began crying out to God. While at the beach with friends, she sensed God speaking to her heart:

> “Pam, I want you to become intentional about Me.”

She realized God was calling her not merely to attend church or hear from others, but to get into His Word personally, listen to Him, and teach other women to do the same.

The Bible Study Method God Showed Her

Pam began studying Scripture in a simple, repeated, meditative way:

1. Choose a book of the Bible.
2. Read the first chapter every day for one week.
3. Ask God to speak through the chapter.
4. Write down observations.
5. Cross-reference other Scriptures.
6. Ask how the truth applies to current circumstances.
7. Live out the truth during the week.

She began with the book of James.

Result

Through this practice, God began changing her life. She gained wisdom, understanding, conviction of sin, and a deeper awareness of her need for Christ. The Word came alive to her, and new ministry opportunities opened.

Key Application

You cannot pass down what you do not possess. Grandparents cannot spiritually lead grandchildren into truth they themselves are not walking in.

5. Important Self-Examination Question

Pam shared a question originally asked by an inmate in prison ministry:

> “What kind of follower would your grandkids look like if they imitated you spiritually?”

This question challenges grandparents to examine their own walk with Christ.

Reflection Questions

- Do my grandchildren see me walking with God?
- Do they see me praying?
- Do they hear me speak about Scripture?
- Do they know I depend on the Lord?
- Am I only listening to others who have heard from God, or am I personally hearing from Him through His Word?
- If my grandchildren copied my spiritual habits, what kind of disciples would they become?

6. Key Scriptures from the Session

Acts 4:20

> “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

****Application:**** Grandparents are to speak about what they have seen and heard from God.

John 17:17

> “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

****Application:**** God’s Word is the foundation of discipleship and spiritual growth.

Philippians 4:9

> “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

****Application:**** Discipleship includes both teaching and example. Grandchildren need to hear truth and see it lived.

2 Timothy 1:3-7

Paul remembers Timothy's sincere faith, which first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.

****Key Emphasis:****

Timothy's faith was shaped by previous generations. His grandmother and mother had a spiritual influence on him.

Important themes from this passage:

- Pray for loved ones continually.
- Faith can be passed down through generations.
- Grandparents have spiritual influence.
- God gives power, love, and a sound mind, not fear.

Psalm 78:1-7

This passage was presented as one of the key biblical texts for grandparenting.

Important phrases include:

- “We will not hide them from their children”
- “Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord”
- “His strength and His wonderful works”
- “That they may set their hope in God”
- “And not forget the works of God”
- “But keep His commandments”

****Application:****

Grandparents are to tell the next generation about who God is, what He has done, and why they should hope in Him.

Deuteronomy 4:9

> “Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen... and teach them to your children and your grandchildren.”

****Application:****

Grandparents must remember what God has done and intentionally teach those things to children and grandchildren.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

This passage emphasizes loving God fully and teaching His commands diligently.

Important teaching moments include:

- Sitting in the house
- Walking by the way
- Lying down
- Rising up
- Everyday life routines

****Application:****

Discipleship happens in ordinary moments, not only formal teaching settings.

7. The Importance of Prayer

Alan emphasized praying for grandchildren by name every day.

Paul's words to Timothy were used as an example of continual prayer:

> "Without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day."

Practical Application

Grandparents should pray specifically and consistently for:

- Each grandchild by name
- Their salvation
- Their spiritual growth
- Their protection
- Their future
- Their parents
- Their relationships
- Their calling and purpose

Alan and Pam shared that they prayed diligently for their granddaughter's salvation. When she later came to faith in Christ, they saw God's faithfulness in response to prayer.

Key Encouragement

God's promises are trustworthy. Grandparents should not give up praying for the salvation and spiritual growth of their grandchildren.

8. Intentional Grandparenting

A major theme of the session was intentionality.

Grandparents should make use of every moment with their grandchildren. Time together should not be wasted or treated casually.

Intentionality Includes

- Planning spiritual conversations
- Asking meaningful questions
- Sharing testimonies of God's faithfulness
- Taking grandchildren along in ministry
- Praying with and for them
- Teaching Scripture naturally
- Using everyday moments as discipleship opportunities
- Learning each grandchild's personality and needs

Example Shared

Alan told stories of taking his children with him during ministry visits. Even when children seemed to be playing or not paying attention, they were listening and learning.

One example involved his son noticing the spiritual condition of a man after a gospel conversation. Another involved his daughter compassionately asking to pray for a sick child in a hospital.

Key Lesson

Children and grandchildren absorb more than adults often realize. They listen, observe, and remember.

9. Memorials: Remembering God's Works

Alan discussed the biblical pattern of building memorials to remember what God had done.

In the Old Testament, God's people often built altars or gathered stones to mark moments of divine intervention and faithfulness.

Modern Application

Grandparents can establish “memorials” in their family by:

- Telling stories of answered prayer
- Remembering moments of healing or provision
- Keeping visible reminders of God's faithfulness
- Sharing family testimonies
- Celebrating spiritual milestones
- Passing down stories of God's work across generations

Alan shared that he wears bracelets as reminders of times God healed and worked in their family. His grandchildren have asked about them, giving him opportunities to share God's faithfulness.

Key Idea

Memorials create opportunities to tell the next generation about God.

10. Relational Discipleship

Pam closed by explaining that discipleship does not have to be complicated or intimidating.

She shared an illustration about a man who took one guitar lesson, learned three notes, and then taught those three notes to others. With the money he earned, he took another lesson and taught what he learned again. Over time, he became highly skilled and developed a professional studio.

Discipleship Lesson

You do not have to know everything before discipling someone else.

You can:

1. Spend time with God today.
2. Learn from His Word.
3. Listen to what He is teaching you.
4. Share that with someone else.
5. Continue growing.
6. Continue passing it on.

Key Definition

Relational discipleship is building a relationship with someone and sharing what God is teaching you through His Word and through your life.

This can happen with:

- Biological grandchildren
- Spiritual grandchildren
- Younger adults
- Children in the church
- People God places in your life

11. Grandparenting Is Part of Finishing Well

Pam and Alan emphasized their desire for their final years to count for Christ.

They do not want to spend their later years only on comfort, entertainment, or personal enjoyment. They want to invest in eternal things and help prepare others to know, follow, and serve Christ.

Key Statement

Grandparenting is not just a family role; it is part of finishing well.

Life Purpose

The calling to disciple the next generation is not only for grandparents. It is part of the Christian life. However, grandparents have a unique opportunity to influence children and grandchildren with wisdom, testimony, prayer, and love.

12. Main Takeaways

1. **Grandparenting is a calling from God.**

It is not optional or spiritually insignificant.

2. **The world's view of aging is often self-centered.**

God's view is purposeful, fruitful, and generational.

3. **Grandparents are spiritual contributors.**

They help shape the faith and spiritual health of future generations.

4. **You cannot pass down what you do not personally possess.**

Grandparents must be in God's Word and walking with Him.

5. **Prayer matters.**

Grandchildren should be prayed for by name continually.

6. **Discipleship happens in everyday life.**

Sitting, walking, driving, resting, and ordinary conversations can become teaching moments.

7. ****Tell the stories of God’s faithfulness.****

The next generation needs to hear what God has done.

8. ****Be intentional.****

Time with grandchildren should be used wisely and spiritually.

9. ****Discipleship is simple.****

Learn from God, then share what He is teaching you.

10. ****Grandparents can finish well.****

Later years can be deeply fruitful for the kingdom of God.

13. Discussion Questions

1. How has the world shaped the way people think about retirement and grandparenting?
2. What are some ways grandparents are treated as “invisible” in modern culture?
3. How does Scripture give grandparents a different sense of purpose?
4. What stood out to you from Psalm 78?
5. Why is it important to tell grandchildren about what God has done in your life?

6. What would your grandchildren learn if they imitated your current spiritual habits?
7. Do you have a regular practice of being in God's Word? If not, what keeps you from it?
8. How can you become more intentional in conversations with your grandchildren?
9. What "memorials" or stories of God's faithfulness exist in your family?
10. Who has God placed in your life that you could disciple relationally?

14. Personal Reflection

Use these questions for private prayer and journaling.

My Walk with God

- Am I personally spending time in God's Word?
- Am I listening for God to speak through Scripture?
- Am I obeying what He shows me?
- What needs to change in my daily rhythm?

My Influence

- What spiritual example am I setting?

- What do my grandchildren hear me talk about most?
- Do they know what God has done in my life?
- Have I shared my testimony with them?

My Prayers

Write the names of your children and grandchildren and begin praying for each one specifically.

Name	Specific Prayer Need	Scripture to Pray
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15. Suggested Weekly Practice

Before the next session, consider doing the following:

1. Begin a Scripture Routine

Choose one chapter of the Bible and read it every day for one week.

Suggested starting places:

- James 1
- Psalm 78
- Deuteronomy 6
- 2 Timothy 1
- John 15
- Philippians 4

Each day ask:

- What does this passage teach me about God?
- What does it reveal about me?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to believe?
- Is there a truth I should share with someone?

2. Pray by Name

Pray daily for each child and grandchild by name.

3. Share One Story

Tell one child, grandchild, or younger believer about a time God answered prayer or showed His faithfulness in your life.

4. Ask God for Opportunities

Pray:

> “Lord, help me become intentional. Show me who You want me to disciple, encourage, and influence for Christ.”

16. Preview of Upcoming Sessions

Future sessions will include:

Heritage and Inheritance

What does God say about passing down a spiritual heritage?

Faithfulness

How do grandparents faithfully pass along the truth of God?

Intentional Grandparenting

Practical ways to make time with grandchildren spiritually meaningful.

Understanding Grandchildren

Topics will include:

- Learning each grandchild's love language
- Understanding different personalities
- Relating to each grandchild individually
- Asking God for wisdom in how to love and disciple them

Memorials

How to create family reminders and stories that point future generations to God's faithfulness.

17. Closing Encouragement

Grandparents have purpose. Their later years are not meant to be spiritually idle or self-focused. God calls grandparents to invest in the next generation by praying, teaching, remembering, sharing, and living faithfully before them.

This calling is not about being perfect. It is about following Christ, remaining teachable, and being intentional with the influence God has given.

- > Grandparenting is a calling.
- > Discipleship is a lifestyle.
- > The next generation needs to hear what God has done.