

Lesson Outline: Grandparenting with Intention -- Boundaries, Blessing, and Faith

1. Opening Focus

The lesson begins with gratitude for the class and recognition that grandparenting does not come with one simple guide for every family. Every home, relationship, and situation is different, but God gives wisdom and direction to those who seek Him.

Key principles:

Seek first the kingdom of God.

Ask God for wisdom.

Trust the Holy Spirit to guide and correct.

Pray continually for grandchildren and families.

2. Our Primary Calling as Grandparents

Grandparents are called to help pass faith to the next generation.

We are not called to:

Co-parent

Control

Compete with other grandparents

We are called to:

Live faithfully before our family

Build relationships

Pray for our grandchildren

Encourage and bless

Be intentional with the opportunities God gives

3. Respecting Boundaries

Boundaries may look different in every family. Grandparents may not always agree with the choices of their adult children, but they should respect them as the parents.

Important reminders:

Respect the parents' rules.

Do not undermine their authority.

Discern between major issues and minor preferences.

Keep trust by honoring what parents have asked.

Support adult children in their parenting.

Examples of minor preferences:

Haircuts

Pacifiers

Clothing

Food routines

Bedtime or schedule choices

Rules about TV, screens, or activities

4. Supporting Adult Children

A strong relationship with adult children helps keep the door open to grandchildren. If the relationship with adult children becomes strained, access and influence with grandchildren may also be affected.

Ways to support adult children:

Encourage them.

Pray for them.

Speak blessing over them.

Avoid constant correction or criticism.

Recognize the pressures young families face today.

Modern parents often carry many pressures:

Financial burdens

Busy schedules

Sports and activities

Technology and social media

Anxiety and comparison

Pressure for children to succeed

5. Encouraging Through God's Word

One story shared involved a granddaughter dealing with anxiety before a tournament. Reading and discussing Philippians 4 helped bring peace and reminded her to pray, give thanks, and trust God.

Key truth:

God's Word works. It brings peace, wisdom, and direction.

Helpful Scriptures mentioned:

Philippians 4

Proverbs 12:25

1 Peter 3

James 1:19

Proverbs 25:28

James 2:18

Colossians 1:28-29

6. When Grandparents Need Boundaries Too

Sometimes grandparents must also set healthy boundaries with adult children.

Possible areas for boundaries:

Being expected to always be available

Last-minute requests

Financial dependence

Feeling used or taken for granted

Enabling adult children instead of helping them grow

Healthy boundaries help prevent unhealthy dependence and allow adult children to take responsibility for their own families.

7. When Faith and Values Differ

Some grandparents may face difficult situations where adult children do not share the same faith or values, or may not want grandparents to speak openly about faith.

In those situations:

Pray without ceasing.

Ask God for wisdom.

Respect boundaries.

Live out your faith visibly.

Let your actions reflect Christ.

Trust God to work even when you cannot speak freely.

There are no boundaries on prayer.

8. The Power of Blessing

The lesson emphasized the importance of speaking blessing over children and grandchildren.

Blessing includes:

Spoken words of love

Words of affirmation

Attaching high value to them

Encouraging their future

Reminding them they are loved and wanted

Speaking God's truth over them

Families need godly words spoken over them.

9. Understanding Love Languages

Grandparents were encouraged to learn how each grandchild receives love.

The five love languages:

Words of affirmation

Quality time

Receiving gifts

Acts of service

Physical touch

Each grandchild may receive love differently. Paying attention helps grandparents love them in ways they understand.

10. Being Intentional with Scripture

Grandparents were encouraged to help grandchildren learn and memorize Scripture.

Suggested verses:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 6:25

Psalms 37

Isaiah 26:3

Jeremiah 29:11

Ephesians 6:1

Colossians 3:20

1 Corinthians 13

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Scripture memorization gives children truth that can remain with them for life.

For younger grandchildren, Scripture songs can be helpful. Seeds Family Worship was mentioned as one example.

11. Intentional Grandparenting

Grandparents should not drift spiritually or relationally. The enemy is active, and grandparents must be intentional in how they use their time and influence.

Intentional grandparenting may include:

Planning conversations

Praying before visits

Choosing Scripture to share

Taking walks and talking

Asking meaningful questions

Blessing grandchildren regularly

Using everyday moments to point them to God

12. Closing Encouragement

Grandparents cannot do this in their own strength. God gives wisdom, energy, and power to do what He has called them to do.

Main takeaway:

Grandparents are vessels God can use to bless, encourage, teach, and influence the next generation. The work belongs to God, and He promises to complete what He begins.