



Intentional GRAND parenting

Kick-off Questions

Oprah kicks off every meeting with three questions

- What's our intention for this meeting
- What's important
- What matters



Play Important Legacy



I'll show you mine if you show me yours...

Break out your phones

- Share pics
 - Share one special trait or characteristic that child has
 - Share one important thing you'd like them to know as an adult
- If you don't have grandchildren yet,
 - Who are the children in your life right now that you could start passing a legacy to?

This why we're here!

AARP report can give us a broad outline of American grandparents today that won't be far off the mark. Here are some of the basics:

- About **one-third** of all adults are grandparents.
- The average age of becoming a grandparent is **around 47**.
- The average age of grandparents is **around 64**.
- The average grandparent has **six grandchildren**.
- About 77% of grandparents are married.
- About half are still working.
- About 6% of grandparents have a grandchild living in their home.
 - Parents are not present in around 43% of those homes, a phenomenon known as a skip-generation family.
- About 15 % provide regular child care for grandchildren in their homes.
- More than half of grandparents help with grandchildren's educational expenses.
- A little less than half of grandparents help with grandchildren's living expenses.
- A quarter of grandparents help pay for **medical or dental care** for their grandchildren.
- **More than half of all grandparents believe they play a very important role in their grandchildren's lives.**

Grandparenting Facts & Figures



Where I come from...



What's my heart for intentional grandparenting...



Who I am, who are you...

Share grandparenting memories or lack thereof.



Who were the grand parents or people who played those roles in our lives?



What's the lesson or memory that stands out the most?

My Personal Family Tree



Starting where we are...



SOCIAL



EMOTIONAL



SPIRITUAL

Social Legacy Evaluation



1. Which words most closely resemble the social tone of your family?
 - 1 Cruel and cutting
 - 2 Cutting sarcasm
 - 3 Chaotic and distant
 - 4 Non-communicative but stable
 - 5 Secure with open communication
 - 6 Loving and fun
2. What was the message of your home life with regard to relationships?
 - 1 "Step on others to get your way."
 - 2 "Hurt them if they hurt you."
 - 3 "Demand your rights."
 - 4 "Mind your own business."
 - 5 "Treat others with respect."
 - 6 "Put others before yourself."
3. How were rules set and enforced in your home?
 - 1 Independent of relationship
 - 2 In reaction to parental stress
 - 3 Dictatorially
 - 4 Inconsistently
 - 5 Out of concern for my well-being
 - 6 In the context of a loving relationship

4. Which word best characterizes the tone of communication in your home?
 - 1 Shouting
 - 2 Manipulation
 - 3 Confusing
 - 4 Clear
 - 5 Constructive
 - 6 Courteous
5. How did your family deal with wrong behavior?
 - 1 Subtle reinforcement
 - 2 Accepted in the name of love
 - 3 Guilt trip
 - 4 Severe punishment
 - 5 Discussion
 - 6 Loving, firm discipline

RESULTS:

- Above 24 Strong social legacy
- 19-24 Healthy legacy
- 14-18 Mixed legacy - good and bad elements
- 10-13 Weak social legacy
- Below 10 Damaged social legacy

Spiritual Legacy Evaluation



1. To what degree were spiritual principles part of daily family life?

- 1 Never
- 2 Rarely
- 3 Sometimes
- 4 Frequently
- 5 Almost always
- 6 Consistently

2. Which word captures the tone of how you learned to view God?

- 1 Absent
- 2 Adversarial
- 3 Fearful
- 4 Casual
- 5 Solemn
- 6 Intimate

3. How would you summarize your family's level of participation in spiritual activities?

- 1 Nonexistent
- 2 Rare
- 3 Occasional
- 4 Regimental
- 5 Active
- 6 Enthusiastic

4. How were spiritual discussions applied in your home?

- 1 They weren't
- 2 To control
- 3 To manipulate
- 4 To teach
- 5 To influence
- 6 To reinforce

5. What was the perspective in your home with regard to moral absolutes?

- 1 If it feels good, do it!
- 2 There are no absolutes
- 3 Let your heart guide you
- 4 Dogmatic legalism
- 5 Moderate conservatism
- 6 Clear life boundaries

RESULTS:

- Above 24 Strong spiritual legacy
- 19-24 Healthy legacy
- 14-18 Mixed legacy - good and bad elements
- 10-13 Weak spiritual legacy
- Below 10 Damaged spiritual legacy

Emotional Legacy Evaluation



1. When you walked into your house, what was your feeling?

- 1 Dread
- 2 Tension
- 3 Chaos
- 4 Stability
- 5 Calm
- 6 Warmth

2. Which word best describes the tone of your home?

- 1 Hateful
- 2 Angry
- 3 Sad
- 4 Serious
- 5 Relaxed
- 6 Fun

3. What was the message of your family life?

- 1 You are worthless.
- 2 You are a burden.
- 3 You are okay.
- 4 You are respected.
- 5 You are important.
- 6 You are the greatest.

4. Which word best describes the fragrance of your home life?

- 1 Repulsive
- 2 Rotten
- 3 Unpleasant
- 4 Sterile
- 5 Fresh
- 6 Sweet

5. Which was the most frequent in your home?

- 1 An intense fight
- 2 The silent treatment
- 3 Detached apathy
- 4 A strong disagreement
- 5 A kind word
- 6 An affectionate hug

RESULTS:

- Above 24 Strong emotional legacy
- 19-24 Healthy legacy
- 14-18 Mixed legacy - good and bad elements
- 10-13 Weak emotional legacy
- Below 10 Damaged emotional legacy




Envisioning
where we
want to be

Letting go of the past failures

Embracing the good

Empowered by a Heavenly
Father who wants the best for
us and our children's children



Impact requires intentionality

What impact do you want to have?

What are you doing to be intentional?

What we do today has an impact tomorrow good or bad.

Reality Check-

Preparing a legacy

- What are you doing right now to plan for retirement?
- What have you been doing?
- What are you doing right now to build your spiritual legacy?
- What have you been doing?



Landscaping



My yard/Larry's yard

What's needed

- A vision
- A plan
- Intentionality
- Getting the started early
- Small regular changes over time
- Constant tending

Growing a Legacy - Focal Scripture One

Psalm 1 1

Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

2 **But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.**

3 **They are like trees planted along the
riverbank,**

bearing fruit each season.

**Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.**

4 But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff,
scattered by the wind.

5 They will be condemned at the time of
judgment.

Sinners will have no place among the
godly.

6 For the Lord watches over the path of
the godly,

but the path of the wicked leads to
destruction.

New Living Translation (NLT)

Growing a Legacy - Focal Scripture Two

Jeremiah 17:7-8

7 “But blessed are those who trust in the Lord
and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.

8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.

Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.

Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.

New Living Translation (NLT)

Growing a Legacy...

Like a tree

- Roots
- Trunk
- Branches
- Leaves
- Fruit in season

Planned

- getting strength from deep roots and good soil
- standing against sun and storms

This imagery is going to be our guide as we look at growing our legacy



Roots - Grow Deep

- What are the things we've rooted our lives in?
 - Fortune
 - Family
 - Finance
 - Faith

What's feeding our lives? What's most important?

It's easy to pick what we think it should be but what do we really put our time towards?

"... for where your heart lies, that's what you save your time for" Frank Gilbreth

Good roots - bad roots - bitter roots

1

What do you seek for, aim for, pursue - what makes your life sing?

2

What do you want to get out of life- what payoff do you seek out of the things you do?

3

What's one area in your life that you can identify as being successful in in the eyes of your children?

4

On your deathbed, what would sum up your life as worthwhile?

Roots - A few X-ray questions...

Video 1
It Starts at Home
Matt Chandler



Play Intro Video



Play Session One Video

What's the Biblical Standard

Deuteronomy 4:9

Watch out (YOU implied) be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live. And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.

Watch

Keep
relationship
with God
what He's
done and IS
doing

Teach

Share

Core Roots

Belief

- Foundational beliefs about God, ourselves, the world; right

Identity

- Male, female, self sacrificing towards each other; healthy identity

Character

- Diligence in virtue working to do the right thing

Purpose

- Man's chief end is to glorify God, clear purpose

Gospel shaped Grandparenting What drives us?

Are we more
validated through our
culture or the Gospel
transformation?

A gospel shaped
approach is no
guarantee but your
life will make an
impact

Gospel shaped Grandparenting



It means having a clear grasp of what the Gospel means

Good news, we are saved by grace FROM wrath

New birth, we are saved FOR good works to display His glory and bless others



It means a new way of thinking, living and seeing the world through a Biblical lens



It means my desire to share the Gospel with my family including my grand children and great grand children is my #1 priority



My life is driven not by the despair over the condition of the world but by the hope of the promises of God and our eternal reward

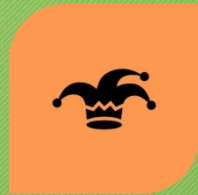


Prayer is my first offensive and defensive weapon against the schemes of the enemy and that I am utterly dependent upon the power of God for and through me.

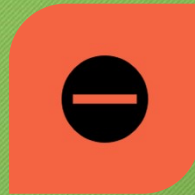
Roots lead to a strong trunk



HOW HAVE OUR
ROOTS AFFECTED
OUR TRUNK?



WHAT DO THE
RINGS OF OUR
LIVES LOOK LIKE?



WHAT'S THE
DAMAGE ON THE
OUTSIDE?



DO WE SWAY OR
DO WE BREAK?



THERE ARE NEW
BEGINNINGS FROM
A BROKEN TRUNK

Ways Grandparents Can Build Family Strength

Commitment

- Time and Treasure
- Sacrifice

Expressing Appreciation

- Be observant
- Be specific
- Be sincere

Good Communication

- Talk about plans and goals and reasons behind them

Religious involvement

- Simply live out your faith in front of them - more caught than taught

Problem solving skills

- Be reconcilers- draw on experience and wisdom

Video 2 -Intentional Faith Conversations

Matt Chandler Video

Deuteronomy 6:4-8

⁴ “Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.

New Living Translation (NLT)



Play Session Two Video

Four Ways to Prepare for Adulthood 1-2

Start meaningful conversations about life

- Playtime
- Mealtime
- Bedtime

Encourage growth producing events

- Bake and serve
- Service opportunities (Habitat, etc)
- Enjoy art. Music, read together
- Fishing, hunting, shopping, learn a skill

Four Ways to Prepare for Adulthood 3-4

Work at being critically
open minded

- Why is this true?
- Who told you it's true?
- What if it's not? Would you want to know?
- How do you think we can find the truth?

Be careful what you say

- Little ears are listening
- Words have impact

Branches

- Shade for the Children
- Fruit in due season

Branching Out

- Family
- Extended Family
- Church
- Work
- Community
- Country

Fruit in Future

Psalm 78 New Living Translation (NLT)

A psalm[of Asaph.

1 O my people, listen to my instructions.

Open your ears to what I am saying,

2 for I will speak to you in a parable.

I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—

3 stories we have heard and known,
stories our ancestors handed down to us.

4 We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation

about the glorious deeds of the Lord,
about his power and his mighty wonders.

5 For he issued his laws to Jacob;
he gave his instructions to Israel.

**He commanded our ancestors
to teach them to their children,**

**6 so the next generation might know them—
even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.**

**7 So each generation should set its hope anew on God,
not forgetting his glorious miracles
and obeying his commands.**

Psalm 78:1-7

To your children

To your grandchildren

For generations not yet born!

So each generation might set it's
hope anew on God.

Not forgetting His glorious miracles

Obeying his commands

A house is built through wisdom and becomes strong through good sense. Through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables.

NLT

Proverbs
24:3

Proverbs 22



A good name is more desirable than riches and should be esteemed better than silver or gold.



What's the most important thing to pass down to your family?

Video 3 -Creating a Legacy that Lives On

Matt Chandler Video 3

Hebrews 12:6 New Living Translation (NLT)

“For the LORD disciplines those he loves,
and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

- Discipline is not only punishment
 - View of the future that’s working today
 - Working with an end in mind
 - A long view of today
- Develops deeper goals and visions for our kids and grandkids



Play Session Three Video

Titus 2

New Living Translation

Promote Right Teaching

2 As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching. 2 Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.

3 Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers.[a] Instead, they should teach others what is good. 4 These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, 5 to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes,[b] to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.

6 In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely.

Branches

Strategy One - Leverage Legacy

Exodus 20:5-6 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ⁶ But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

Legacy Principle

What we do today will directly influence a multi generational cycle of family traits, beliefs and actions - GOOD or BAD

Pass the Positive -We GIVE what we LIVE

Strategy Two - Play the Odds

Proverbs 22:6 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶ Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Likelihood Principle

In the context of healthy relationships, children tend to embrace the beliefs and values of their parents.

The odds are in our favor, but this scripture is hope not promise rather a principle to heed

Note - God knows the pain of rejection.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a lush green field with a faint rainbow visible in the distance. A large black rectangular box is overlaid on the left and center of the image, containing white and yellow text. A solid yellow square is positioned in the upper right corner of the slide.

Strategy Two - Play the Odds

THE SECRET FORMULA

Enjoy you children/grandchildren
and LET THEM enjoy you!

Create an environment where you
have fun together.

This is like nails on a chalkboard to Satan!

Strategy Three - Define “Normal”

John 8:44 ⁴⁴For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:31-32 ³¹ Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³²And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 3:19 ¹⁹And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

Lenses Principle

Our children need the corrective lenses of truth to navigate the deceptive road of life.

We live consistently with what we believe even when what we believe is not true.
Remember real truth is NOT relative

Strategy Four - Go with the Grain

Learning Principle

Our children can only learn what we TEACH them in a manner that will REACH them

Know how our kids learn best

We need to actually want them to learn

Strategy Four - Go with the Grain

Reality One Children have a free will

Reality Two Children have a conscience

Reality Three Children yearn for relationship

Ages & Stages

- Imprint - 0-7
- Impression - 7-14
- Coaching - 15 on

DIKW Data Information Knowledge Wisdom

Leverage Legacy - Legacy Principle

What we do today will directly influence a multi generational cycle of family traits, beliefs and actions - GOOD or BAD. Pass the Positive
-We GIVE what we LIVE

Play the Odds - Likelihood Principle

In the context of healthy relationships, children tend to embrace the beliefs and values of their parents.

Define Normal - Lenses Principle

Our children need the corrective lenses of truth to navigate the deceptive road of life. We live consistently with what we believe even when what we believe is not true.
Remember real truth is NOT relative.

Go with the Grain - Learning Principle

Our children can only learn what we TEACH them in a manner that will REACH them
Know how our kids learn best, we need to actually want them to learn

Effective Strategies Overview

Invest in Your Legacy (Fruit) Beyond Your Family



Who are you investing in, and who are you allowing - even inviting - to invest in you? It's not just about who you'll call in the best and worst times of life. It's about who you'll call, drive to, sit with and sacrifice for during daily life.



Consider the people surrounding you. Are the people by your side going to be by your side in 10, 25, 50 years? Life changes. People move. Interests change. Transitions are part of every person's life. But you might see life as so transitory that you've become comfortable in the transition instead of investing in the long-term possibilities.



Investing even the smallest amounts of money will accumulate into a growing investment. **Are you doing the same with relationships?** Surely, you have time, energy and resources to invest in growing relationships.

01

Catch a vision that motivates you

GUILT is not a good motivator

02

SMART Goals

- Specific (Spiritual)
- Measurable (Memorable)
- Attainable (Active)
- Relevant (Relatable)
- Time bound (Trust-building)

03

Make an Action Plan

Write it down
Keep it simple

04

Stick with it

Get it on the calendar

Develop a Simple Plan - Start Thinking

Listening

Listening

- Active listening - stepping stones to open up dialogues
- Young children 2-6 will ask upwards of 40,000 questions

Ask leading questions to get discussion started

- Take time
- Really listen
- Repeat back

Three Words

- I HEAR you
- I love you

Learning

Learn Together

- Build something
- Bake something
- Play a game
- Teach a skill
- Plant something

Builds emotional satisfaction

- Keeps brain cells active
- Builds stronger connections

Helps us connect with the issues our children and grandchildren are facing

- We learn directly from the source.
- Learn their gifts talents and aptitudes

Leading

Tag team approach with parents

- Two steps ahead

Help them create a reservoir of TRUST

- Future leaders need discernment
 - Navigating between
 - What is true and what is false
 - What is right and wrong
 - What is real and what is fake

Putting together a puzzle

- The better you know the picture the easier it is to know where the pieces go

Tell them your stories

- Things have you learned
- Trials and traps

Malachi 3:16-18

The LORD's Promise of Mercy

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, **a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name.**

¹⁷ **"They will be my people,"** says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "On the day when I act in judgment, they will be **my own special treasure**. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. ¹⁸ Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

The Coming Day of Judgment

⁴ ^[a] The LORD of Heaven's Armies says, "The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.

² "But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. ^[b] And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. ³ On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

⁴ "Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai ^[c] for all Israel.

⁵ "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. ⁶ **His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers.** Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse."



Play
Viewfinder

The Lord's Promise of Mercy

Share Your Story 1



Focus

Share significant moments in your life when your life trajectory changed dramatically



Failures and Fractures

Be honest and open
What hurt
Do you still live with it
How has it impacted you



Future

How do you want to spend your remaining years?
What do you want your legacy to be?

Share Your Story 2



Family

Visual?

- Physical
- Spiritual

What were the relationships like?

How was it with Mom & Dad, siblings?



Faith

When and WHY you became a follower of Christ

What prompted you?

How has it changed you?

Your Story - Write It Down

Psalm 102:18

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord ...

- Who am I?
- Our stories are treasures
- Just get started...Not writing a best seller...see what happens.
- Who loses if you don't tell your story?
- See book - *Passing on a Written Legacy* - Lana Rockwell



The Story
of Love

Geoff
Moore

Distance Grandparenting Attitudes

You don't have
to loose touch

Be intentional have an
impact at a distance

Distance cannot keep us
from staying in touch
but our attitude can

Distance Grandparenting - Share what works...



Planned visits



Stay connected

1. Use technology
Cell phone
Skype/Facetime
2. Use Snail Mail
Cards/Letters
Care packages/gifts



Pray

In prayer there is no distance
Prayer should be our first response not last resort
Let them know you're praying for them
When possible pray with them

Prayer - whether near or far away

Grandparents frequently ask what they can do when things get hard -

- when the parents of their grandchildren want nothing to do with Christ
- when their grandchildren make bad choices
- when they have little contact with their grandchildren

They often ask because they assume there are some kind of secret “solutions” they must not know which they can put into practice.

The good news is that there is a “secret” weapon that is no secret at all: PRAYER. This is not a weapon of last resort, but our first line of offense and defense.

Prayer Guides

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

Scriptures
TO PRAY FOR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

Dear Father, I pray that... (Insert child's name)

ACCEPT ADVICE
_____ will listen to constructive criticism and correction, and through it gain understanding. Prov. 15:31, 32

ANGER
_____ WILL BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK, AND SLOW TO BECOME angry. James 1:19

ANXIETY
_____ will cast all his/her anxieties and disappointments on You to experience Your care for him/her. 1 Peter 5:7

CONFIDENCE
_____ will understand that the Lord is his/her helper and will always help him/her in every situation. Heb. 13:6

COMPASSIONATE
_____ will be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to others. Ephesians 4:32

PEACE
_____ will not worry about anything, but pray about everything. Philippians 4:6

PROTECTION FROM THE ENEMY
_____ will be alert and watch out for the temptations from the enemy, standing firm in his/her faith. 1 Pet. 5:8, 9

RESPONSIBILITY
_____ will learn to be responsible for his/her own actions and behavior. Galatians 6:5

SALVATION
_____ will believe that Jesus loves him/her and died for his/her sins so he/she can have a personal relationship with You and enjoy eternal life. John 3:16

SECURITY
_____ will always remember that You will never leave or forsake him/her. Joshua 1:5

SELF-CONTROL
_____ will live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct and devotion to God. Titus 2:12

SERVANT'S HEART
_____ will develop a servant's heart, serving wholeheartedly, as unto the Lord and not men. Eph. 6:7

SPEECH
_____ will keep his/her tongue from evil and keep his/her lips from lying. Psalm 34:13



The Keeper

Geoff Moore

This is a call to grandparents who follow Christ to get on your knees so you can stand against the treachery of the Enemy who would devour and take captive the hearts, minds and souls of our grandchildren!
PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Grandparents and Parents Disagreeing? 11 Tips for Both of You

1. Assume the Best

2. Don't Criticize

3. Act Kindly When a Boundary Has Been Crossed

4. Unless Asked, Don't Tell

5. Don't Get Stuck in the Middle

6. Support Your Mate

Grandparents and Parents Disagreeing? 11 Tips for Both of You

7. Define Yourself and Your Role

8. Don't Dredge UP Unresolved Issues

9. Stay in Your Own Box

10. Trust Your Kids to Parent Their Kids

11. Work to Make It Work

Broken Relationships

10 steps toward achieving reconciliation might help heal the rift in your family:

1. **Identify the payoff for reconciling** — for example, restored time with your grandchildren. Write it down and keep it where it will be in view when you make the first conciliatory phone call.
2. **Express your feelings to someone other than the person from whom you're estranged.** You'll find it easier to move toward reconciliation if you've vented your hurt and anger with a trusted friend or counselor first.
3. **Try to understand their point of view.** List three reasons why your grandchildren's parents might think it right to pull away from you. Even if you don't agree with the reasons, the process will help you step into their shoes and see the situation from their perspective.
4. **Make the call.** Dial the parents and request a time when they might be willing to talk for a few minutes. Don't force a conversation in this initial call, and stay calm and respectful. If you're aggressive or insistent, they may resist meeting with you.
5. **Acknowledge the cost of the estrangement** and how it would be better for everyone if you could heal and move forward.

Broken Relationships

6. **Apologize sincerely.** Don't say, "I'm sorry you got angry with me for taking Devon to that PG movie, but if you had told me ahead of time that you don't approve, I wouldn't have taken him." That is an explanation, not an apology. Simply say, "I'm sorry," without adding your defense. A genuine apology consists of three parts:

"I'm sorry." "I can understand how you might have felt upset." "How can I make it right?"

7. **Hear them out.** Allow the parents to express the feelings that prompted their estrangement. When they're finished, resist the urge to debate or tell your side. Simply ask them if there's more they'd like to say. Don't rush them or cut them off. Give them time to completely offload whatever pent-up feelings precipitated the rift.

8. **Make things right.** Ask them what they need from you to get things back on track. Listen without interrupting, and let them know you'll think about what they've said. Don't say they're asking for too much, but at the same time, don't impulsively promise to do something you can't reasonably commit to.

9. **Let it go.** You may want to hear an apology from the parents, but don't try to force one from them. While it would be wonderful if they would take responsibility for their contribution to the problem, they may not be ready yet. Allow them to apologize in their own time, and be prepared for the possibility that they may never say they're sorry for the estrangement. It may be frustrating, but remember to keep the benefits of reconciliation foremost in your mind.

10. **Forgive.** Staying angry at someone isn't worth the price in stress, sadness, and wasted energy. We all make mistakes. We all forget to be our best selves out of fear, hurt, or pride. As Mark Twain said, "Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it." **Find the best version of yourself, forgive, and move forward.**

Life is too short not to enjoy the love and companionship of our children and grandchildren, even if it means taking the leap of faith required to attempt a reconciliation.

The emotional toll of parenting grandchildren

One of the issues that makes grandparenting these kids difficult is the emotional toll. There is always a reason grandchildren have to live with the grandparents. Many times the reason brings great stress to the grandparents. Here are emotional issues grandparents may encounter when grandchildren are thrust upon them:

- Grieving the loss of their own child or the divorce of their adult child
- Parental failure and guilt: They may experience guilt that somehow the divorce, or whatever situation resulted in the parent not being able to parent the child, was their fault because they weren't model parents themselves
- Having to put their wants, such as retirement, on hold
- Resentment at not wanting to parent full time again
- How to cope with caring for a child at my age
- How to deal with being both a grandparent and a parent to the child
- Just wanting to be the "fun" grandparent who gets to send the child home at the end of the day

The emotional price of raising grandchildren

We can also add to the following:

- Loss of their dreams for their own child
- They may feel overwhelmed with all of the responsibilities
- They may feel sad/depressed
- Some grandparents will feel extreme anger at their own child for not being a better parent to the grandchildren
- Some will be embarrassed about their family's situation; they may not want to talk about it or let others know they are struggling
- May have problems concentrating, organizing, and problem solving due to the extreme stress parenting at their age brings
- Some elderly will just not want to adapt to this new family structure and will feel extreme stress at feeling like they have to provide for their grandchildren
- Relationships with other family members may be affected

Ways our church can help

- Provide parenting classes or resources for parenting traumatized children.
- Provide tips or classes on new technologies.
- Find a parent with children the same ages to help the grandparents get the grandchildren registered in school and purchase school supplies. Elderly grandparents may simply not know what some items on a school list are.
- Teach or provide resources to your lay leadership about the effects of trauma on children.
- Teach lay leaders how to mentor and love these grandparents and grandchildren.
- When you preach on parenting, be sure to address and affirm grandparents who parent their grandchildren

01

Catch a vision that
motivates you
GUILT is not a good
motivator

02

SMART Goals

- Specific (Spiritual)
- Measurable (Memorable)
- Attainable (Active)
- Relevant (Relatable)
- Time bound (Trust-
building)

03

Make an Action Plan

Write it down
Keep it simple

04

Stick with it
Get it on the calendar

Develop a Simple Plan - Get Started

Activity - Create GrandPARENTING Plan

Name

Name at least 3 primary things you want to leave as part of your grandPARENTING legacy

Express

Now express each one in a 'story'

- As ____ I want to ____ so that____.
- Why is it important, who will benefit?

Determine

Determine action steps to make it happen

Schedule

Schedule one action step

PUSH through to goal accomplishment



Prioritize

80/20 rule focus on what's important



Use what you've got

Lean on your strengths



Simplify the plan

Use what's proven to work
Set small simple steps



Have fun

Seek what you enjoy

Dad (Mom) shows that he (she) loves me _____
 Dad (Mom) is fair in his (her) decisions _____
 Dad (Mom) is interested in my feelings _____
 Dad (Mom) admits when he (she) is wrong _____
 Dad (Mom) spends enough time with me _____
 Dad (Mom) controls his (her) anger and words _____
 Dad (Mom) listens to what I say _____
 Dad (Mom) is fun _____
 Dad (Mom) trusts me _____
 Dad (Mom) respects me _____
 Dad (Mom) enjoys being with me _____
 Dad (Mom) provides spiritual leadership _____
 Dad (Mom) makes me a priority in his (her) life _____
 Overall Grade _____

On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 is best), what kind of relationship do you want with Dad (Mom)? _____

On the same scale, where are you today in your relationship with Dad (Mom)? _____

If your Dad (Mom) could do three things to raise his (her) grade to a 10, what would they be?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

In Deuteronomy 6:4-7, God instructs parents to teach children about following him. In what three areas of your spiritual walk would you like you dad or mom to help?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

This approach opens the door for great conversations. But be careful when using this process. This isn't a time to defend your position; you can only ask questions to clarify a response.

Remember: "Do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged" (Colossians 3:21).

GRAND - Parent Report Card

Simple Truths

- The best present is being PRESENT
- All we're really looking for is to be LOVED
- Listen to the HEART
- Always think and focus on the BEST



Name your weapon!

- Blessing Giver
- Torch Bearer
- Standard Setter
- Legacy Maker

Parting Thoughts..

Psalm 103:17 “But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children ...” (ESV)

Proverbs 17:6 “Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.” (ESV)

Psalm 145:4 “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” (ESV)

Psalm 78:4b “... we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

List of resources

- *It Starts at Home* series on RightNow Media
- *It Starts at Home* Book
- <https://www.heritagebuildersglobal.com/>
 - Activity building guides - <https://www.heritagebuildersglobal.com/family-resources>
- Leading your child to Christ
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/557b3a74e4b0d260ca91bb75/t/5589cdc1e4b09ddb396d543/1435094465730/leading-your-child-to-christ.pdf>
- <https://christiangrandparenting.net/>
- Prayer Guides
<https://christiangrandparenting.net/product-category/free-resources/>
- <https://grandkidsmatter.org/>
- <http://growingalegacy.org>

List of resources

Blog/Article references

- <https://www.empoweringparents.com/article/grandparents-and-parents-disagreeing-11-tips-for-both-of-you/>
- <https://christiangrandparenting.net/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-gospel-shaped-grandparent>
- <https://christiangrandparenting.net/four-ways-to-prepare-your-grandchildren-for-adulthood>
- <https://christiangrandparenting.net/you-have-a-story-to-tell>
- <https://christiangrandparenting.net/five-ways-to-intentionally-grandparents-from-a-distance-part-one/>
- <https://grandkidsmatter.org/hot-topics/ask-the-experts/listening-learning-and-leading-part-1/>
- <https://www.careleader.org/10-ways-church-can-help-emotionally-exhausted-grandparents-raise-grandchildren/>
- <https://www.liveabout.com/grandparents-demographic-information-1695746>
- http://www.everydaychristian.com/blogs/post/becoming_a_godly_grandparent/
- <https://www.empoweringparents.com/article/grandparents-and-parents-disagreeing-11-tips-for-both-of-you/>
- <https://susanstiffelman.com/making-peace-with-your-childs-grandparents/>