

## #FORGRANDPARENTS

Community Group Curriculum for the week of October 5, 2014

### Big Picture

Grandparents are amazing gifts from God. They are a counter to our ever busy world. They could be superb instructors, but their best lessons are caught, not taught. Their Christianity is seasoned, filtered through years of realism, heartache, loss, and compromise. Jesus is not only their Lord, He's their friend and longtime counselor. Grandparents are like a massive tree – they provide shade, they add beauty to the landscape, and they don't mind being used. They are there. Even if not much is happening, they are there. Their favorite gesture is open arms. Their favorite question is "What do you wanna do?", and their favorite words are "I love you, honey." And we thank them for that.

### Let's Explore Together!

1. A recent study shows that the bond between grandparents and grandchildren is second in emotional power and influence only to the relationship with parents and children. Grandparents affect the lives of their grandchildren for good or ill, simply because they exist. Unfortunately, this is lost on many grandparents. Of the children studied, only 5% reported close, regular contact with at least one grandparent. The vast majority see their grandparents only infrequently, not because they live too far away, but because the grandparents have chosen to remain emotionally distant.
  - a) Discuss your relationship (past and/or present) with your grandparent(s).
  - b) Share your thoughts about the results of the study mentioned. Agree or disagree? Why?
2. Read **Psalm 71**. Now focus on verses **17-18**. The greatest legacy you can leave your grandchildren is the gift of faith. Model your faith, letting them see what the Christian life looks like in real life.
  - a) What are we charged to do in old age? Did your grandparents share Jesus with you? If so, describe. If YOU are a grandparent, how have you influenced your grandkids for Jesus?
  - b) Read **Psalm 9:1, 26:7, 66:16**. What do these verses tell you?
3. Read **Galatians 5:22-25**. Another legacy you leave is the legacy of life. The characteristics of real life are based on the fruit of the Spirit. How can you (grandparent) show the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) to your grandchildren? Grandchildren, describe how your grandparent(s) have exemplified these characteristics to YOU!
4. Read **1 John 4:7-21**. The legacy of loving your grandchildren will have a powerful influence on the kind of parent they will grow up to become.
  - a) According to this passage, where does true love originate from and what is our example? What differentiates one who loves and knows the Lord vs. one who loves and does NOT know the Lord?
  - b) What are the correct ways to love your grandchildren?
  - c) Are there incorrect ways to love your grandchildren?
  - d) Share an example of how your grandparent(s) loved YOU.

5. Read **Isaiah 46:4; Proverbs 16:31, 20:29**. What promises are given in Isaiah as we age? What do the Proverbs passages say about old age? Describe in your group how God continues to provide for you as you age.
6. Read **Acts 13:36** and then reread **Psalms 71:18**. King David wants to stay alive long enough to leave a legacy "...till I declare your power."  
a) How would you complete this sentence: "GOD ALLOW ME TO SAY ALIVE UNTIL I \_\_\_\_\_."  
b) Are you serving God's purpose in your generation (and this applies to everyone, whether you are a child, parent, grandparent, or all three)?  
c) Are you influencing your grandchildren in such a way that they become a joy to their parents and other people? Are you influencing them to be faithful, obedient, respectful, responsible and fun to be with? Or are you spoiling them rotten and then sending them home?

"Oh, one more thing!" One final legacy you leave for your grandchildren is the legacy of memories. Sharing stories about your life and your childhood, and youth let your grandchildren know about whom you are and who you were. They create a sense of history and heritage.

### **Prayer for Grandparents**

"If it were not for our grandparents where would some of us be? We thank you for gifts of love and time and patience. We thank you for the sacrifices you made in middle age and retirement so that we would feel wanted. May God bless you for helping your children raise us, for teaching us your faith, for praying for us when we were lost, and for keeping a strong light shining in a world full of darkness."

### **Personal Responsibility for Grandparents**

Here are some things grandparents can provide for their grandchildren:

- Guide them about God and spiritual things.
- Guide them towards good marriage by modeling a good one.
- Don't curse and smoke, if you don't want them to.
- Be consistent and follow through on things.
- Play with them.
- Tell them that you love them often.
- Share your life, the good and the bad, so that they might learn from you.
- Point them towards heaven as your time on earth is likely shorter than theirs.
- Talk to them straight about sensitive subjects.

### **Charles Spurgeon's Charge to Seniors**

"If, like David, you have slain the lion and the bear and the Philistine when you were young, up, man, and do another deed of daring, for the Lord liveth still, and his people have need of you. Though your joints are rather rusty, and your limbs can hardly bear you to the battlefield, yet limp to the conflict. He who helped you when you were but a youth and ruddy, will help you now though you are old and infirm, who knoweth what you may do yet? Let the young ones see how victories are won...and let us see how he who is washed in the blood of Jesus would not hesitate to shed his own blood in the Redeemer's cause."

**INTRODUCTION:**

**SCRIPTURE:** Ps. 71: 17-18; 92: 12-15; Prov. 17:6; 2 Tim. 1:5

**EXPOSITION:**

1. Be a \_\_\_\_\_! (Ps. 103:17; Prov. 10:7; 13:22)

2. Be a \_\_\_\_\_! (Deut. 4:9; Ps. 78: 2-8; 145:4)

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