

Great GRANDPARENTING

SEMINAR



O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.
(Psalm 71:17,18)

Using this resource

These materials have been prepared by the Uniting Young People Team of the Uniting Church SA to help congregations honour and support grandparents as they 'proclaim God's might to all the generations to come'.

You may make as many copies as you need of the resource and/or participant handouts.

If you use the resource, we would appreciate your letting us know what you use and how you use it. Please send a brief email to uypp@sa.uca.org.au

More resources from the Uniting Young People Team are available at:

For other intergenerational worship ideas see sa.uca.org.au/uypp and click on 'resources'.

The Grandparenting suite of resources includes:

- grandparent posters
- a PowerPoint for the seminar
- an 'Honouring Grandparents' worship resource.

Seminar Aims

- to recognise and affirm the role grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren
- to encourage and resource Christian grandparents to be intentional in nurturing the faith of their children and grandchildren.
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Introduction for the Leader

You've been asked to lead a *Great Grandparenting Seminar*. What a privilege! You have the opportunity to spend time with VIPs of their families and of your congregation. You can help them feel honoured and appreciated.

Through the seminar you will provide time and space for grandparents to share experiences and support one another. You will add some more formal content affirming the significance of the grandparents' role in families — no matter what the make-up of the family may be.

You may be an individual or a couple. You maybe a grandparent yourself, but not necessarily.

As leader you will set the tone for the gathering, being friendly and informal, supportive and respectful, honest and caring. You will allow freedom to disclose or not disclose personal information and assure confidentiality of information shared.

In preparing to lead the seminar, you will need to:

- pray for sensitivity and understanding as you work with grandparents; invite at least one other person to be praying for the seminar itself
- become familiar with these notes
- reflect on your personal experience of being a grandparent and/or grandchild. Find, in your own experience, stories that you may incorporate into the seminar
- make sure that these details are attended to, either by another person or by yourself
 - Promotion, invitation, registration
 - Physical set up of meeting area
 - Preparation of needed equipment, including printing
 - Food and beverages for the break
 - Arrangements for follow-up prayer, counselling or support should the need arise.

The *Great Grandparenting Seminar* is designed to last two and a half to three hours. Suggested minimum times are:

15 minutes	Informal start up activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Grandparent crown making(2) Grandparent poster gallery viewing
60 minutes	Formal Session Part 1: Grandparents as great lovers <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Alphabet of Grandparenting(2) Great Grandparenting words(3) Love languages of Grandparents
15 minutes	Break
60 minutes	Formal Session Part 2: Grandparents as spiritual guides <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Grandparenting in the Bible(2) Attending to your own faith Journey(3) Being a spiritual guide for your grandchildren(4) Conclusion

The following notes include scripted words to 'say' (*written in italic print*). Once you are familiar with the notes and the flow of the seminar you will be able to convey the information and instructions using your own words and your own examples.

Program Notes for Leaders

INFORMAL START-UP ACTIVITIES

Before people arrive,

- lay out the materials needed for crown making on a work table.
- pin up posters.
- do both activities yourself: make a crown (and wear it), put your stickers on three posters.

As people arrive, invite them to do one or both of these activities.

Encourage people to chat with other participants as they do so.

CROWN MAKING

Take a crown pattern, cut the sheet into four strips.

Use staples and/or tape to form one long strip.

The wording will be at the centre front of the crown.

Glue on a jewel for each grandchild or great-grandchild.

Decorate the crown as you choose.

Once decorated, adjust the strip to size, staple or tape the ends together and wear the crown.

POSTER GALLERY

Look at the Grandparenting posters on display.

Each person has three heart-shaped stickers to attach to the three posters that resonate best with their experience of Grandparenting.

You will need:

Crown pattern (from HANDOUTS) copied, one sheet for each participant.

Jewel stick-ons (from craft shops)

Scissors

Coloured marking pens

Stapler and staples;

Sticky tape.

Posters (see separate document)

Copied and hung on the wall, well spaced out.

Three heart-shaped stickers for each participant.

SESSION 1: GRANDPARENTS AS GREAT LOVERS

SEATING

Invite participants to sit comfortably at tables of 4-8 people. Having tables will make it easier for people to converse and to use the materials, but they are not absolutely necessary.

WELCOME AND OUTLINE

Say: *Welcome friends. You are royalty today. You are wearing crowns that are a mark of your favoured position in society.*

We are here to talk about Grandparenting; to share experiences, to encourage one another and look at some suggestions from 'experts'.

We'll have two formal sessions: the first, on being great lovers; the second, on being spiritual guides. We'll be having a coffee/tea break between sessions, in about an hour. The formal part of the afternoon will conclude with a group photo at about ___ o'clock.

ALPHABET OF GRANDPARENTS,

Distribute copies of the Alphabet of Grandparents.

Say: *Here in the first part of the 21st century, every grandparent has a different story, and our stories may not resemble our own grandparents' stories or the ones in books we knew as children. Or the posters we have just looked at.*

Read through the 'Alphabet of Grandparents' stories quickly by yourself. Underline any sentences or phrases that reflect your own Grandparenting story.

Then share your own story with someone sitting near you. Or, if you prefer, there's space at the bottom of the sheet for you to write your own story,

After about 10 MINUTES

Say: *Thanks for participating in that. It may have been difficult for some of you, because Grandparenting simply isn't always the lovely experience described on our posters, is it.*

GREAT GRANDPARENTING WORDS

Say: *If there are so many different ways of being grandparents today, what can we say about Great Grandparenting? Let's brainstorm some characteristics, attributes, activities that you think we can use to talk about great Grandparenting.*

You may ask someone to act as scribe as the group suggests Great Grandparenting words. Most likely the suggested list will include 'love' and/or a number of words that you can group as relating to love.

Highlight the love word or words in your list.

You will need:
a copy of the
Alphabet of
Grandparents
HANDOUT for each
person (or couple)
Pencils or pens.

You will need:
a whiteboard or
chart paper.
Markers.

LOVE LANGUAGES OF GRANDPARENTS

Say: It is probably fair to say that great Grandparenting is about great loving.

You have probably heard of a wonderful series of books by Gary D Chapman that deals with the Five Love Languages. These are five different ways people express their love and receive love from others.

We'll explore how these love languages apply to Great Grandparenting.

Distribute copies of Great Grandparenting is Great Loving.

Say: Gary Chapman: theorises that although people can express and accept love in all of these ways, each person has a preferred language. Sometimes a grandparent and a grandchild are fluent in the same love language. Perhaps, for example, for both of them the language of 'touch' shouts 'I love you' loud and clear. They both get the same message from a hug.

Sometimes the preferred love language of a grandparent is different from the language of their grandchild. Perhaps Grandpa is a server. He expresses love by making things and fixing things, even postponing retirement to finance his grandson's education. 'But he never spends any time with me,' says the grandson, who craves the love language of 'time'.

In situations like this, it is the grandparent who is the 'adult'. The grandparent may have to work at discovering the child's preferred love language and make an effort to show their love the way the grandchild wants to receive it.

Look at the five languages shown on your sheet. As a table group, discuss two questions

First, which of the five love languages comes most easily to each person?
(Write your name in your segment)

Second, how might you speak love to a child who prefers each of the love languages?
Think of the ages of your own grandchildren: infants to teens to adults.

After about 10 MINUTES,

Say: The amazing thing about these love languages is that God uses them when he communicates his love to us.

God uses words in the Bible and through other people.

God speaks to us in 'the Word made flesh — Jesus.

God gives time — God is with us always.

God gives gifts — every good thing we have is a gift from God.

God serves us in ways we don't even comprehend.

God even touches us physically through the Sacraments (and sometimes through our grandchildren)..

The greatest thing Great Grandparents do for their children is to share that love with them.

You will need:

a copy of Great loving HANDOUT for each person (or each couple).

Pencils or pens.

It would also be good to have one of Chapman's **Love Languages** books to display.

BREAK

During the break time you may circulate and ask participants to tell you about the 'jewels' in their Grandparenting crowns.

SESSION 1: GRANDPARENTS AS SPIRITUAL GUIDES

SEATING

Invite participants to return to their seats.

INTRODUCTION

When settled,

Say: *In the first part of the seminar we looked at some general aspects of great grandparenting. Now we are going to explore more deeply the spiritual aspects of grandparenting.*

The comments come primarily from a book titled: 'Parents and Grandparents as Spiritual Guides (nurturing Children of the Promise)' by Betty Shannon Cloyd. There are lots of books about Christian parenting, this one recognises the special role of grandparents.

In your table groups, will you please discuss the phrase 'Grandparents as spiritual guides'.

What do you think of when you hear the phrase 'Grandparents as spiritual guides'?

What do you think the author may be writing about using this title?

After about THREE MINUTES

GRANDPARENTING IN THE BIBLE

Say: *The things you just discussed will likely be significant as we proceed with unpacking the concept of Grandparents as Spiritual Guides.*

Let's begin by noting that the idea of Grandparents as Spiritual Guides is not new. We can find instances of it in the Bible.

- *The Old Testament promise to Abraham had to do with Abraham's descendents: his children, grand-children, great grandchildren and further generations.*
- *Over and over we read of people referring to 'the God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob'.*
- *When God took his people out of slavery in Egypt, he provided that generation with symbols and traditions for passing on the story to succeeding generations.*
- *When God gave the law at Sinai, God spoke of his mercy toward generations of people who kept the law.*
- *The lineage of Jesus (his earthly grandparents, going back some 40 generations) is enumerated twice in the New Testament (Matthew 1:2–16 and Luke 3:23–38).*
- *Jesus' parents fulfilled the faith-nurturing practices handed down to them through the generations: having their child circumcised and dedicated. Taking him to the temple at age 12.*

And then, there's my favourite. Paul writing to Timothy:

- *I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. (2 Timothy 1:5)*

The Bible was written at a time when households of three, or even more, generations living together were the norm. A grandparent's role as spiritual guide may have come more naturally, less strategically than it does today.

Today, if we want to be spiritual guides for our grandchildren, we need to be strategic.

Continue: *In her book, Betty Cloud suggests two primary aspects, or 'strategies' if you wish, of Great spiritual Grandparenting.*

First: *Attend to your own spirit and faith*

Second: *be proactive and strategic in guiding your grandchildren.*

You will need:

If possible, a copy of 'Parents and Grandparents as Spiritual Guides'.

You will need:

a Bible so you can read the 2 Timothy passage directly from the Bible.

ATTENDING TO YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL HEALTH

If you were climbing a mountain or exploring a strange city, you'd like a guide. And you'd want that guide to be familiar with the journey and to go with you on the journey. So it makes sense that for a Grandparent to be a Spiritual guide, the grandparent must attend to their own spiritual journey.

Distribute copies of 'Your own Spiritual Journey'

Say: There's probably nothing new to you on this sheet. But take a moment on your own to tick the disciplines you are already using. Select the one that you find the most helpful and tell your group about how you use it in your own life.

After about 10 MINUTES,

You will need:

a copy of Your own Spiritual Journey HANDOUT for each person (or each couple).

Pencils or pens.

SORROWING GRANDPARENTS

Say: While we're thinking about our own spiritual lives and journeys, there's something I feel we need to deal with.

St John wrote that he had no greater joy than to know that his children are walking in the truth. I love it that one translation says: 'some of my children' are walking in the truth.

For some grandparents, their greatest sorrow is to know that their children are NOT walking in the truth. That sorrow is intensified when they see the impact their children's choices have on their grandchildren.

If you happen to be one of those sorrowing grandparents, I urge you to

- Pray about your feelings of sorrow or regret.
Please circle or underline on your sheet the word 'prayer'.
- Talk with someone about it — in your small group or your pastor or a counsellor.
Please circle or underline on your sheet the words 'spiritual support'.
- If possible, talk with your children themselves
- Confess your guilt and sorrow to God and accept God's forgiveness in Christ.
Please circle or underline on your sheet the words 'confession' and 'forgiveness'.
- Don't dwell on the past, but focus on the future, what you really want for your children and grandchildren. With your children's permission, take on some aspects of the role of being a spiritual guide for your grandchildren.

We also need to consider if our understanding of 'walking in the truth' is the same as John's — or Gods. It can be difficult to accept that 'going to church on Sunday' may not be the only way of being a Christian or walking in the truth. That's a discussion we need to have with our children.

BEING A SPIRITUAL GUIDE FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

Say: In her book, Betty Cloud uses some interesting images to explain the role of grandparents as Spiritual Guides.

We're going to be creating tableaux (a freeze frame picture) using your own bodies to illustrate the concepts. For example, if my concept was a 'sandal tier'

I would . . .

Illustrate with another person; you kneeling down to tie the 'sandal' of the other.

Distribute a set of 'Spiritual Guides' cards to each group of four people. Lay the stack of cards face down in the middle of the group.

Say: I'd like each group to take the top card from your 'deck' and plan a picture illustrating the concept. You have 30 seconds.

You will need:

a set of seven Spiritual Guides cards for each group of four people (see HANDOUTS).

Arrange the cards and fasten with a rubber band so that each set has a different card on top when the cards are laid face down.

After THIRTY SECONDS.

Say: Now you can open your pack of cards and look at all the possibilities.

Invite groups, one at a time, to form their tableaux and the other groups to identify/guess which of the Spiritual Guide concepts is being shown.

Say: Thanks, that was fun. I think we're all going to remember some of those pictures for a long time.

But they are just pictures. Let's get a bit more practical.

In your groups, you may use your same concept or select another one. Try to think of some practical ways you could or actually open the gate for the Holy Spirit or be a holy listener in the life of your grandchild or whatever your card suggests. Write your two best ideas on the back of your card.

After about TEN MINUTES

Invite groups, one at a time, to re-form their tableau and report on the practical ideas they have come up with. Give some positive feedback relating to each suggestion.

CLOSING

Say: Please stand in a circle as we 'round out' our sessions. Please wear your crowns.

When people are arranged,

Say: St John, in the book of Revelation, describes an image of Heaven as a place where all generations are gathered together around God's throne. The elders are wearing crowns.

Please put your right hand on the shoulder of the person to your right, to pass around God's blessing.

In John's vision, the elders lay their crowns before God's throne.

Please lay down your crown, by holding it your left hand.

The elders say: 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.'

As people in a special relationship created by God, may each of you

Be present in the life of your grandchildren,

Love your grandchildren unconditionally,

Connect your grandchildren with other generations,

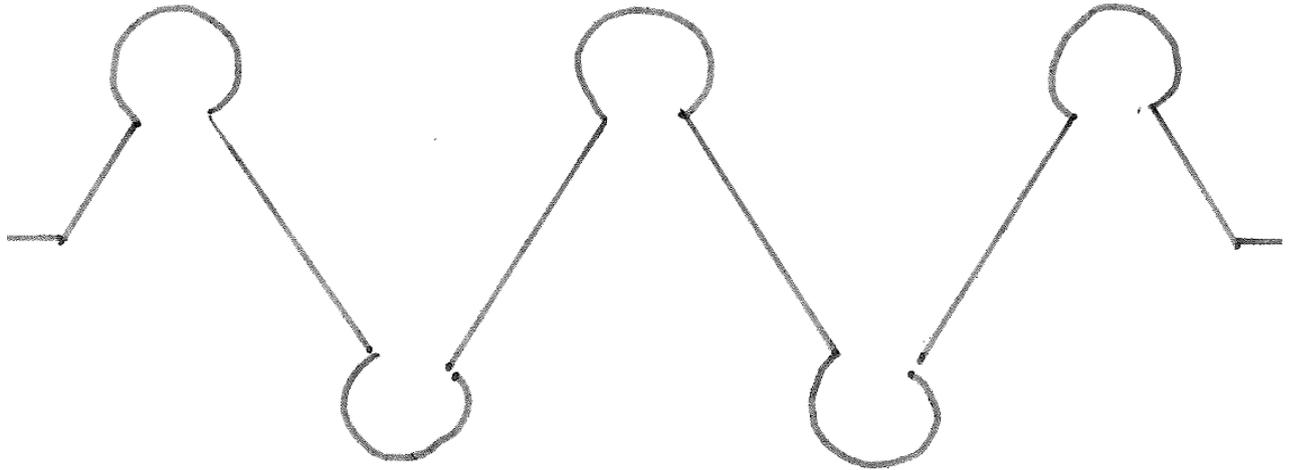
Provide emotional, physical and spiritual support for your grandchildren
and their parents.

Proclaim God's might and love to all the generations to come.

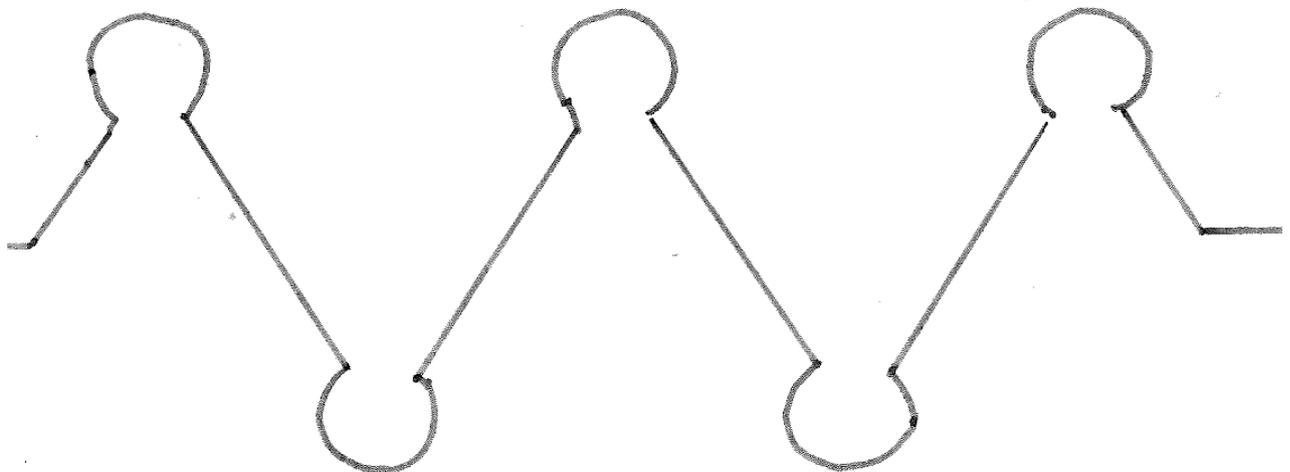
Amen.

Thank you participating in this Great Grandparenting seminar. You have been a blessing to one another today as you are a blessing to your children, your grandchildren, and your great-grandchildren throughout their lives.

Crown pattern



Grandchildren are like a crown to older people. (Proverbs 17:6)



An alphabet of grandparents

Anna considers her teen-aged granddaughters to be her best friends. When they were little she made a point of taking the girls to concerts and museums — all the things she loved to do herself. Now they continue the special outings together.

Barbara's daughter and son-in-law pay her to be a child-minder. Five days a week, her daughter drops off her two preschool daughters to Barbara. **Barbara's** son-in-law picks up the girls sometime between 2 and 8 pm. **Barbara** loves the children, but the financial arrangement — which she does appreciate — makes it seem like a business rather than a choice. And sometimes she'd like a break.

Colin and **Daphne's** daughter was drug addicted when she became an unwed teenage mother. They raised their granddaughter as their own. The granddaughter has developed chronic fatigue and returned with her own daughter to **Colin** and **Daphne's** home. They are now raising their great granddaughter.

Erich's son and his wife have decided not to have children. His son has, however, been a sperm donor for friends. **Erich** longs to have a relationship with this grandson.

Fran and **Greg** have two sons, each has three children. **Fran** and **Greg** see the grandchildren who live near them a couple times each week, but they see the family that lives in Dubai only every second year.

Helen and **Ian** added a second story to their home when their daughter left her husband and came to live with them along with her son. After a year, the daughter went back to her husband, a move that **Helen** and **Ian** thought was unwise. The young family moved interstate. **Helen** and **Ian** have not seen their daughter or grandson for several years.

Janet's son can't stand **Janet's** new partner. **Janet** has torn loyalties. She's decided that to keep some peace, it's best to keep them apart. That means she very rarely sees her grandchildren

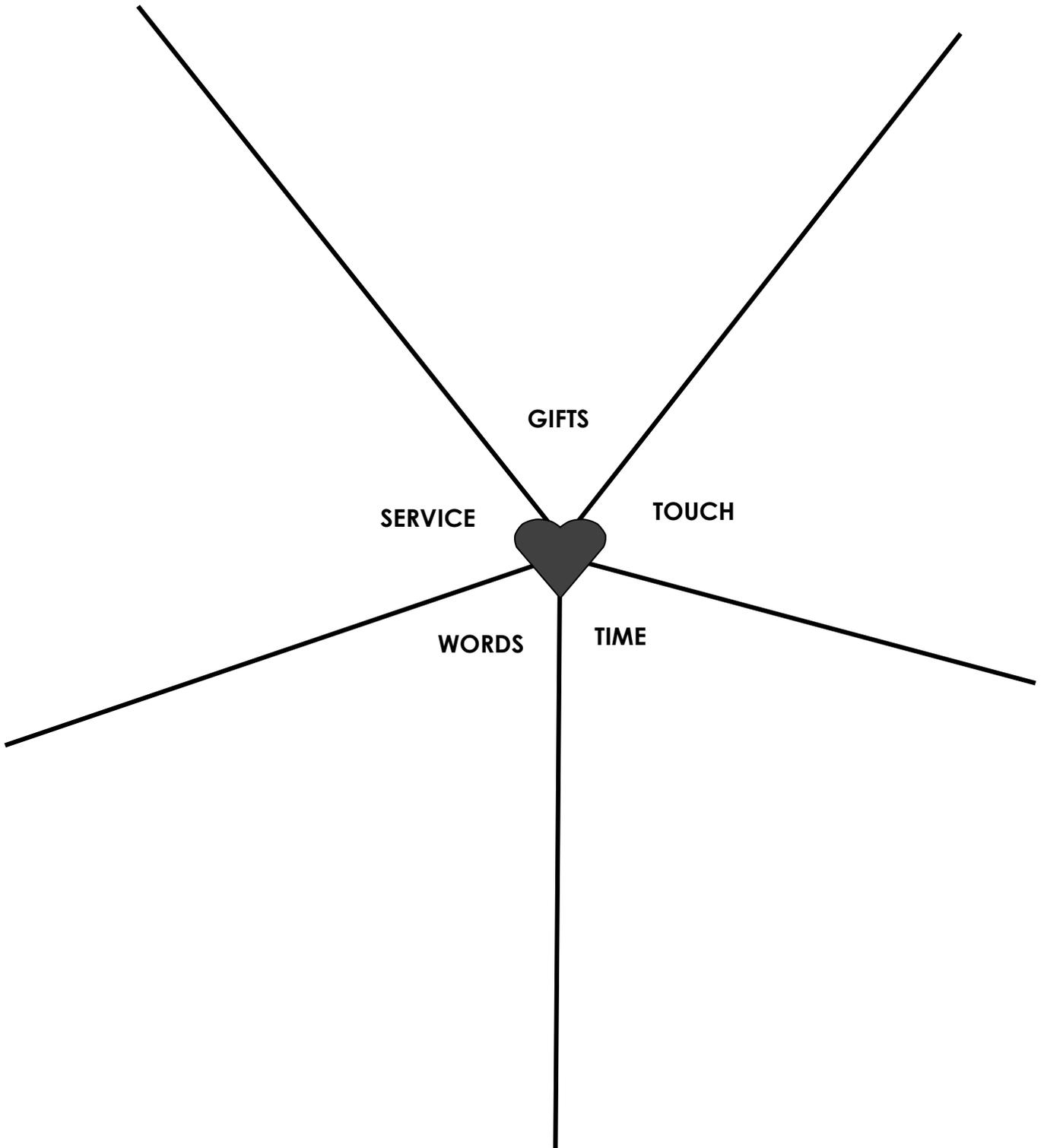
Kate and **Les** would love to make more trips interstate to see their grandchildren, but **Les's** elderly mother requires constant care and supervision. They don't feel they can get away for even short trips.

Mike and **Nita** spent years building up their farm business, acquiring acreage to pass on to their sons. The boys have all pursued city careers. **Mike** and **Nita** are so busy running the farm on their own now, that they seldom get away to see their grandkids.

Owen never sees his biological granddaughters because his son lost custody of them through a divorce. **Owen** dotes on a new step-grandson, sharing the grandparenting role with two other sets of grandparents.

Paula finally bit the bullet and learned to use a computer. The joy of her life is a weekly Skype visit with her daughter and grandsons.

Great loving



Your own spiritual journey

- Be attentive to God's presence in all aspects of life

- Pray daily

- Study the Scripture

- Be part of a faith community

- Participate in a small group for spiritual support

- Worship regularly

- Participate in confession and assurance of forgiveness
in words and in the sacrament of Holy Communion

- Journal your journey with God

- Do good deeds for others

- Use fasting and/or retreats

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<p>As a Spiritual Guide, a Grandparent can be</p> <p><i>A holy listener</i></p>	<p>As a Spiritual Guide, a Grandparent can be</p> <p><i>Someone who reflects Christ's love</i></p>	<p>As a Spiritual Guide, a Grandparent can be</p> <p><i>A friend of the soul</i></p>
<p>As a Spiritual Guide, a Grandparent can be</p> <p><i>Someone who points beyond themselves to God's Kingdom</i></p>	<p>As a Spiritual Guide, a Grandparent can be</p> <p><i>A companion in the difficulties and joys of life</i></p>	<p>As a Spiritual Guide, a Grandparent can be</p> <p><i>Someone who ushers the child into God's presence</i></p>
<p>As a Spiritual Guide, a Grandparent can be</p> <p><i>Someone who opens the gate for the Holy Spirit</i></p>	<p><i>Spiritual guide cards</i></p>	

Grandparents in the Bible

I will make my covenant with you. It will last forever. It will be between me and you and your children after you for all time to come. I will be your God. And I will be the God of all of your family after you. (Genesis 17:7)

May he give you and your children after you the blessing he gave to Abraham. (Genesis 28:4)

'They are the sons God has given me here,' Joseph said to his father. Then Israel said, 'Bring them to me. I want to give them my blessing.' (Genesis 48:9)

Then you will be able to tell your children and grandchildren how hard I was on the Egyptians. You can tell them I did great miracles among the people of Egypt. And all of you will know that I am the Lord. (Exodus 10:2)

I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God. I punish the children for the sin of their parents. I punish the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those who hate me. But for all time to come I show love to all those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:5,6)

Stand up in order to show your respect for old people. Also have respect for me. I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:32)

Don't be careless. Instead, be very careful. Don't forget the things your eyes have seen. As long as you live, don't let them slip from your mind. Teach them to your children and their children after them. (Deuteronomy 4:9)

Then you, your children and their children after them will have respect for the LORD your God as long as you live. Keep all of his rules and commands I'm giving you. If you do, you will enjoy long life. (Deuteronomy 6:2)

The Lord your God will keep your hearts from being stubborn. He'll do the same thing for your children and their children. Then you will love him with all your heart and with all your soul. And you will live. (Deuteronomy 30:6)

Then Naomi took the child in her arms and took care of him. The women living there said, 'Naomi has a son!' They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David. (Ruth 4:16,17)

I thought, 'Those who are older should speak first. Those who have lived for many years

should teach people how to be wise.' (Job 32:7)

Teach us to realize how short our lives are. Then our hearts will become wise. (Psalm 90:12)

But the Lord's love for those who have respect for him lasts for ever and ever. Their children's children will know that he always does what is right. (Psalm 103:17)

May you live to see your grandchildren. May Israel enjoy peace. (Psalm 128:6)

A good person leaves what they own to their children and grandchildren. (Proverbs 13:22)

Gray hair is a glorious crown. You get it by living the right way. (Proverbs 16:31)

Grandchildren are like a crown to older people. And children are proud of their parents. (Proverbs 17:6)

They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob. That is where your people of long ago lived. They, their children, their children's children, and their children after them will live there forever. And my servant from David's family line will be their prince forever. (Ezekiel 37:25)

But suppose a widow has children or grandchildren. They should first learn to put their faith into practice. They should care for their own family. In that way they will pay back their parents and grandparents. That pleases God. (1 Timothy 5:4)

I remember your honest and true faith. It was alive first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice. And I am certain that it is now alive in you also. (2 Timothy 1:5)

Tell the older men that in anything they do, they must not go too far. They must be worthy of respect. They must control themselves. They must have true faith. They must love others. They must not give up.

In the same way, teach the older women to lead a holy life. They must not tell lies about others. They must not let wine control them. Instead, they must teach what is good. Then they can advise the younger women to love their husbands and children. (Titus 2:2-4)

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are living by the truth. (3 John 1:4)

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day originated in USA in 1978. In the last few years it has been widely promoted in Queensland (since 2010) and New South Wales (since 2011) with special events held by community organisations, clubs, schools and other groups.

'Grandparents Day celebrates the vital role that grandparents play in our society, as custodians of individual and cultural memories and as providers of care and love to their children and grandchildren. Grandparents Day recognizes the irreplaceable role grandparents have in their families and in the wider community.' (www.grandparentsday.org.au)

'Grandparents Day is a chance for children and the community to thank grandparents for their love and support. This special day recognises the significant contribution that grandparents make to their families and communities. It is also an occasion for acknowledging the efforts and devotion of grandparents who are full-time carers for their grandchildren.' (www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/services/seniors/grandparents-day)

Grandparents Day is facilitated by COTA.

Many primary schools in South Australia hold annual Grandparents (Or Special Persons) Day, inviting the special people to visit the school and enjoy some special activities with the students.

DATE

The official date of Grandparents Day is Sunday, 25 October 2015. This falls within Children's Week, which could be a problem for congregations who observe Children's Week. However, it could be an opportunity to combine the two into some sort of Children and Grandparents Day.

Catholic parishes recognize grandparents on July 26. This is the feast day of their

Saints Joachim and Anne, recognized as the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Congregations could plan a worship service honouring Grandparents on any date of their choice.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of having a Grandparents Day is to encourage children and families to acknowledge and thank the grandparents in their lives. Grandparents may be active carers in children's lives. They are also the link with family and cultural history that are vital aspects of each individual's identity.

In Christian communities this may have a special aspect where grandparents are the chief faith-nurturers of the family. It's a role many grandparents take very seriously as they pray for their children and grandchildren, share stories from the Bible and their own personal faith experiences, encourage the family to continue nurturing practices of bedtime and mealtime prayers, devotions and participating in congregational activities.

For grandparents as for the epistle writer John, their greatest joy is knowing that their children and grandchildren walk in truth (3 John 1:4), and the greatest heartbreak can be when they see their children and grandchildren walking other paths.

GRANDPARENTS DAY SONG

You can find two YouTube versions of the national grandparents day song by Johnny Prill:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogzs4zKtNKQ
(lyrics projected)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eya7L9azl-c
(images with song sung, better than above)

You might use either of these as is, or make your own version with your own pictures and/or your own group singing the song.

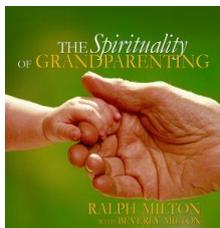
Other resources for grandparents

Once you start looking you, will find a large range of resources for grandparents in both the secular and religious press, as well as on line. They can be helpful, but beware of those that are prescriptive and make assumptions that are not part of your own makeup or the realities of your particular family.

Keeping in mind that the first thing a spiritual guide needs to do is tend their own spiritual life, the most important resource for you is a Bible, possibly one in a study format that allows you to make notes applicable to your role as grandparents. A prayer journal may be used in a similar way.

Speaking of the Bible, age-appropriate Bible story books that you can read to and with your grandchildren are a wonderful way of introducing them to faith stories from the Bible, to which you can add your own story.

Media Com Educational carries two helpful grandparenting books:

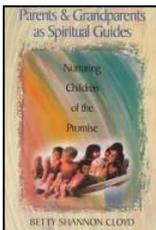


THE SPIRITUALITY OF GRANDPARENTING

By Ralph Milton

Northstone Publishing Inc, hc, 160 pages, \$55.75, ISBN 9781896836867

Milton shares lots of stories of hugs and giggles, of silly songs and tender moments, he also knows that many grandparents struggle with the challenge of long-distance grand-parenting, with the pain and tension of separation from grandchildren due to marriage breakup, and with the anxiety and distress of grandchildren who are in trouble or who are ill. But Milton doesn't dwell on these things. Rather, he returns, always, to the delight, wonder, and love, which is foremost in the experience of any grandparent; and to the inherent bond that exists between older adults and children.



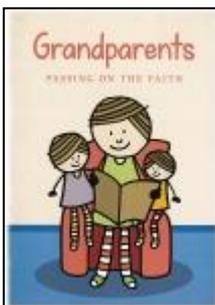
PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS AS SPIRITUAL GUIDES

By Betty Shannon Cloyd

Upper Room Books, pb, 165 pages, \$22.75. ISBN 9780835809238

Christian educator Betty Cloyd reminds parents, 'Before we give our children wings, we must give them roots'. Cloyd urges parents and grandparents to reclaim their primary role as spiritual guide for the sake of their children and society. Readers will find examples of how they can introduce children to the presence of God during daily, routine activities as well as in planned devotional times.

Australian Christian Resources carries this Australian resource



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By Detlev Vosgerau

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Studies: 'God loves my grandchildren even more than I do' (Parts 1&2), 'Always Learning', 'The Grandparents Advantage', 'The Nitty-Gritty'.