

Grandparenting Matters



Inside this Issue

In this inspiring edition, we explore what it means to be Rooted in Christ—the theme of our March 2025 Grandparenting Event, part of our “Inspire Series” on Christian grandparenting. You'll find teaching drawn from Colossians 2:6–7, reflections on leaving a lasting legacy of faith, and creative ideas to help your grandchildren grow spiritually. Julia Alexander shares practical and heartfelt wisdom on nurturing our precious “grandtots,” and we’ve included uplifting prayers and a song suggestion. We hope you enjoy reading it!



Save the Date!

Save the date for our next
Grandparenting Event

‘Windows’

on Saturday 11th October 2025

10.00am – 12.30pm

at Moulton Parish Church.

(more info on the last page!)

Do please join with us!



Rooted in Christ – Passing on a Legacy of Faith

Inspired by Colossians 2: 6-7

‘So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.’ – Colossians 2:6-7

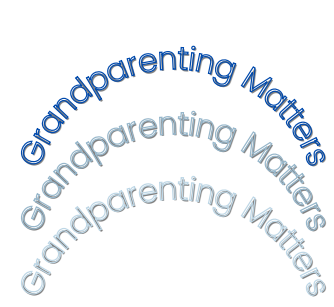
As grandparents, we hold a special role in our families—not just as loving supporters, but as spiritual torchbearers. In Colossians 2:6-7, Paul speaks of being “rooted and built up in Christ,” and this speaks directly to the foundation we need if we are to pass on a lasting, Christ-centred legacy.

To be rooted in Christ means having deep spiritual roots that draw life, wisdom, and strength from Jesus. Our grandchildren are watching us—how we pray, how we respond to challenges, how we speak of God. They need to see in us a faith that is real, enduring, and transformative. Scripture calls us not only to know Christ, but to help the next generations know Him too. Psalm 145:4 says, “One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” If we are to commend God’s works and truth to our grandchildren, we must be firmly planted in Him ourselves.

When we are built up in Him, we become godly examples in a world filled with shifting values. When we are strengthened in faith, we can confidently speak truth into our grandchildren’s lives—even when the culture says otherwise. And when our lives are overflowing with thankfulness, we model a joyful, hope-filled Christianity that draws them closer to Jesus.

Being rooted in Christ is not just for our benefit—it is the starting point of a spiritual legacy. Grandparenting matters because faith passed down is faith that can grow deep and stand strong.

Let us commit to being deeply rooted in Christ, so our grandchildren may also take root in Him and flourish in their own walk of faith.

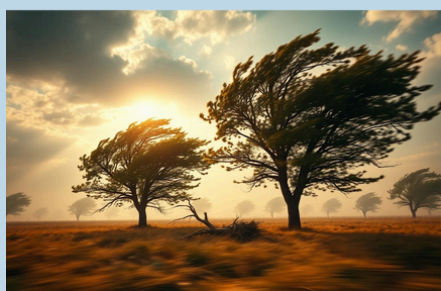


Joke!

The little boy asked his granddad “Grandad, why did you name your dog Five Miles? That’s a funny name!” Grandad smiled and replies, “Well, this way I can tell everyone that I walk Five Miles every day!”

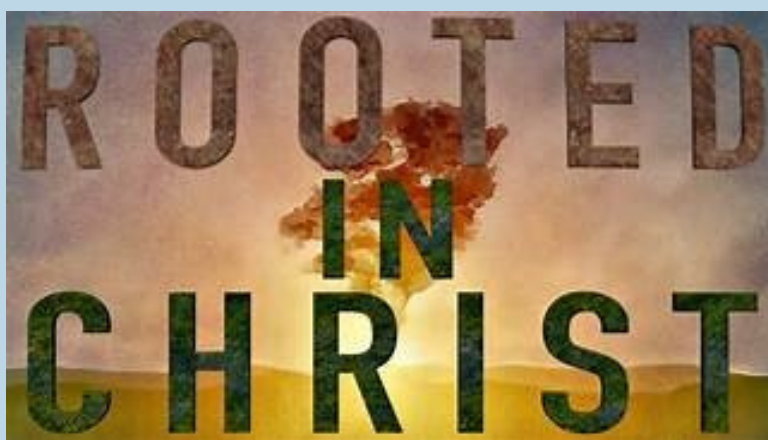


Reflect on these pictures



What do they say to you about being rooted in Christ?
How might that apply to you as a Grandparent and to your grandchildren?

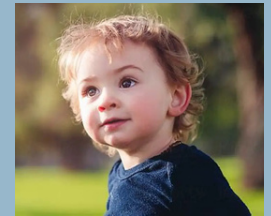
A Song for You



Why not look up this great song on YouTube called ‘Rooted in Christ’ by Trinity Klein. The song encourages us to grow strong spiritually, like a tree with roots deeply planted in Christ. It emphasizes living out Jesus’ teachings in everyday life—being kind, truthful, and loving. Gratitude and praise flow naturally from a life that’s grounded in God’s love and grace. There’s a sense of confidence and joy in knowing Jesus is the anchor through all seasons. Have fun sharing it with your grandchildren!



ROOTING OUR GRANDTOTS IN CHRIST



Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me.'

Julia Alexander, wife of our Vicar at Moulton led a really helpful session on 'Rooting our Grandtots in Christ.' Julia has three married, grownup children and six grandchildren under six. Julia has also run toddler groups for over 30 years in a variety of settings, mainly in churches but also a secular group in a Cambridgeshire village.

SO WHO ARE OUR GRANDTOTS?

'Grandtots' are our preschool grandchildren who go from being bundles of energy one moment to being fast asleep the next; from being a little bit naughty to 'butter wouldn't melt,' adorable beings, in a flash. They are noisy yet love cuddling up for a story. They can be very sad one moment but then enjoy a fun game of peek a boo the next. They don't want to sit still for teeth brushing every night yet love to play the same silly game over, and over again. They wear us out but we wouldn't miss an opportunity to spend time with them. They can have a full-blown temper tantrum in a shop when they don't get to eat some chocolate, yet show the greatest of unconditional love by wanting to snuggle on your lap, even when you have been rather grumpy. They have no boundaries and no understanding of dangers but will trust you and learn from you.

Our grandtots are very ME focused. There is no need to teach them how to 'take', 'hit', 'bite', 'run off.' They have sinful hearts, yet they are loved by God very much and he really wants them to know him and grow in faith.

Grandparents can play a very important part in helping these roots to start to grow. God can use our prayers, our love and our teaching to change, shape and grow their hearts from the moment they are born. As we lovingly and gracefully teach them, again and again, to say sorry, to share, to stay, to be kind, to love...they will respond.

HOW TO HELP OUR GRANDTOTS GROW

The recent grandparenting conference emphasised that ministering to our grandchildren starts with being rooted in Christ ourselves. Do look out for the upcoming 'Grandparenting Matters' Newsletter for more on that.

However, here are some suggestions as to how we can help our grandtots to start putting down roots.

Setting an Example

Do you remember the game 'follow my leader?' Children love it! Grandtots particularly love copying. They love copying funny faces, copying funny sounds and action songs. But it also means we have to be on our guard because they notice us do things we may wish they didn't. They hear and copy words and actions we hoped they hadn't noticed.

So, what do we want them to copy?

As Christians we believe Jesus is our king. He is our leader. Therefore some questions to ask ourselves are:

- How well are we following Jesus, our leader?
- Are there ways in which we are not following Jesus well at the moment, which we wouldn't want our grandtots to follow?
- When our grandtots look at us, do they see someone who is joyful about their faith? Showing real joy at being a follower of Jesus is infectious.

Other ways we can show them Jesus is our leader can include:

- When we take our grandtots out for walks in the country side, we can point out the beautiful world, the flowers, insects and say how amazing God is rather than rushing along.
- Reacting with patience when things are frustrating or we are tired.

We can pray with your grandtots too. Ask for God's help in the simple moments like: 'Dear God, please help us find our shoes.'

Take care to guard what you watch on TV in their presence. Are you spending more time on your phone than talking and listening?

Our Grandtots notice and copy!

As we root our lives in Jesus, what are our grandtots seeing/experiencing? What fruits are they seeing & copying from us? Perhaps the open arms of Jesus as they run to us? The kind arms of Jesus when they have a bump? Maybe the listening ears of Jesus as they tell us with great enthusiasm what they have found or made? Possibly the mouth of Jesus as we teach them stop/go...yes/no...give /share and speak, words of love and forgiveness. Our grandtots will experience the generous hands and servant hands of Jesus as we peel their banana, or take them to post a get-w

Reading a Children's Bible with them..

I wonder if you know the song: Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so? It contains a wonderful truth that we adults often forget: Jesus loves us so much! Grandtots love songs and stories and learning through them. They are inquisitive and are like sponges. Reading the Bible with our grandtots gives us a wonderful opportunity to share this best of truths with them.

Look at your bookshelf, what stories are there? Maybe a Topsy and Tim, Paddington, they love going and finding their favourite story. Is there a children's Bible there? Today you can buy some fantastic toddler Bible stories, all with bright colours, lift the flaps that teach stories and truths in a simple but faithful. Websites like Good Book Company and '10ofthose' have a great range.

What about your Bible? Does the toddler see it by your bed, next to your chair? Tots love 'special' things but do they know how special your Bible is to you?

Playing Games and Singing Songs

Toddlers love playing. Why not think about how a game links with a Biblical truth. Stacking cups is a great example. As you build them up, you could sing 'the wise man built his house upon the rock'. We can also teach our grandtots songs that show praising God is fun. Why not use some of the action songs that we sing at church.

Singing

Grandtots love signs. Each week we end our toddler group with a signed thank you prayer which parents, grandparents can do with them. (Let me know if you'd like me to demonstrate it to you). Whatever their language ability, the children can join in.

We can often be quick to teach our Tots please and thank you BUT do they hear us say it? Do we say thank you with them for the little things as well as the big? It doesn't have to be a long drawn-out prayer, or formal. We could just get into the habit of getting in the car after a lovely day out and together sign or say thank you God. Or maybe at mealtimes saying thank you for the food; perhaps at night time saying thank you God that He is so big but He also loves us.



I hope you agree with me that it is such a privilege to share big and wonderful truths of our big and wonderful God with our small but wonderfully made Grandtots. I hope you'll give the ideas above a try...and that you'll have great fun as you do.

Resources

·Good book company/ 10of those/Eden...have examples
Podcasts- Faith in Kids/ Tiny Theologians...tips, new skills
All Stars preschoolers songs on Youtube ...great fun
Outside...the world.../painting/cooking/ bath time



A PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTING OUR GRANDTOTS:

Dear God, thank you for our Grandtots. Thank you for the joy they bring us. Thank you that we have the privilege, from the moment they are born, to share big and wonderful truths about you with them. Please help us as we seek to help them grow small roots and begin to bear fruits for you. Amen

CRAFT TREE



Some of those who came to the morning made a beautiful wooden craft tree to take home and help them to remember to pray for each of their grandchildren to be rooted in Christ. Each heart on the tree represented a child and had their name written upon it. Added to the tree was the bookmark from the morning with Colossians 2:6-7



Prayers for Grandparents and Grandchildren



Rooted in Christ's Love

Colossians 2:7 – “Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Heavenly Father, You are the source of all life, and in You, we find our strength. Help us as grandparents to be deeply rooted in Christ, so that our faith may stand firm through our lives. May our roots grow deep into Your love, drawing nourishment from Your truth, bearing fruit for generations to come. We pray for our grandchildren, that they too would be planted in Your grace, growing strong in faith and overflowing with thankfulness. Let our lives reflect Your steadfast love, pointing them always to Jesus. Amen.

Growing Strong Through Every Season

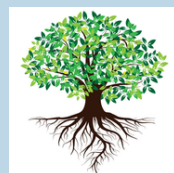
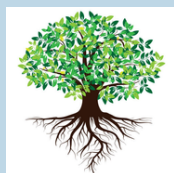
Jeremiah 17:7-8 – “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.”

Lord God, You have called us to be like trees planted by streams of living water. Strengthen us to trust in You through every stage of life. When the winds of culture blow, let our roots hold fast in Your Word. When challenges come, may we stand firm in faith, drawing from Your endless wisdom. May our grandchildren, grow in resilience, deeply rooted in the truth of Your love, so they will not be shaken. Use us, Lord, to guide them, encourage them, and lead them to know You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Passing on a Legacy of Faith

Psalms 78:4 – “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done.”

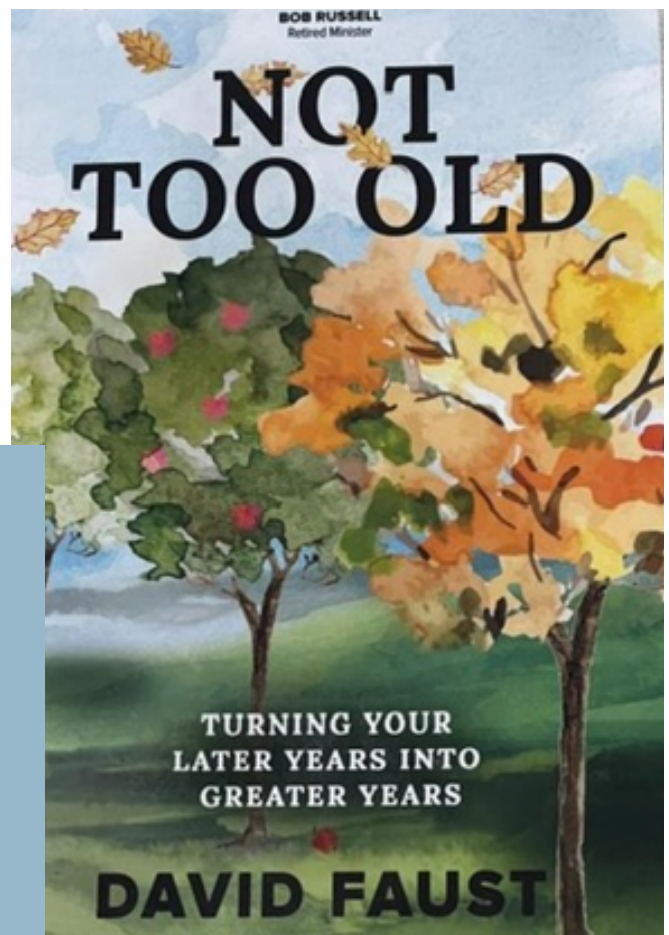
Father of all generations, we thank You for the privilege of being grandparents, entrusted with the call to pass on a legacy of faith. Give us wisdom and courage to speak of Your goodness, sharing stories of Your faithfulness with our grandchildren. May our lives be a testimony of Your grace, our words full of encouragement, and our prayers a shield around them. We ask that You draw their hearts to You, so that they may walk in Your ways and find joy in knowing You. May their roots sink deep into the rich soil of Your truth, bearing fruit for generations to come. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Strength in the Storms

Ephesians 3:17 – “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love...”

Lord Jesus, You are our firm foundation, our shelter in the storm. As we grow older, may our faith grow even deeper, rooted and established in Your unchanging love. When trials come, help us to trust You completely. When we feel weary, strengthen us to keep praying, believing, and standing firm. We lift up our grandchildren to You—may they find their security in You, knowing that no storm of life can uproot them from Your love. Let them see in us a faith that is unwavering, a love that is steadfast, and a hope that never fades. We trust You with the next generation, Lord. Keep them strong in You. Amen.



Can my later years be greater years?

‘Not too Old’ is a must read for those of us in this later season of life. It is an easy read full of great advice, humour and biblical promises that really help us turn our later years into greater years. It includes some invaluable chapters about our relationship with our grandchildren.

A great book if someone asks what you would like for your birthday or Christmas!



What You Told Us About Christian Grandparenting

At our most recent Christian Grandparenting Event – Rooted, almost 50 grandparents gathered to explore how we can be more deeply "rooted in Christ" and pass on that legacy of faith to our grandchildren. At the end of the event, we invited attendees to complete a short questionnaire about their experience of the grandparenting events and how these gatherings have shaped their journey. We're so grateful to everyone who took the time to respond. Here's a snapshot of what you told us—and what we're learning as a result.

- 57% had been to 4 or more of the 5 events
- 22% were attending for the first time
- 95% had not heard a talk or sermon on Christian grandparenting before attending one of these events
- 95% had been helped 'a lot' to share Gods love with their grandchildren
- 95% had been helped 'a lot' to pray for their grandchildren
- 45% did not find it difficult to share their Christian beliefs in the family, but 55% often did.
- 97% had been inspired and encouraged by attending the events.

A snapshot of the comments about the events included :

- I have been helped by the Praying for Grandchildren booklet
- The events helpfully influence my thinking from a biblical perspective
- I am now so grateful, encouraged and hopeful
- Its helpful to look at what the bible teaches and to discuss with other grandparents
- I feel I can pray for them each day even though I see them rarely
- I love the seminars, craft sessions and networking
- Biblical teaching is great
- These events work really well. Love the interactive nature.



Your Growing Commitment

A significant number of you have been journeying with us from the very beginning. Over half of the respondents had attended at least four of the five events so far. But we were equally delighted to welcome many first-timers, some of whom shared that this was their first time engaging with the idea of Christian grandparenting in any organised way.

A Gap in Teaching—Now Being Filled

One of the most striking results came in response to Question 2. Before attending these events, 95% of respondents said they had never heard a sermon or talk specifically about Christian grandparenting. That figure speaks volumes—and underlines just how vital these events have become in filling that gap. Several commented that they had "always just tried to do their best" but were now realising they had a specific, God-given role as grandparents—and that they weren't alone.

Inspired and Equipped

Your feedback on how the events have impacted your thinking and practice was deeply encouraging. More than 95% of participants said the events had helped them "a lot" in thinking about how to share God's love with their grandchildren and in becoming more intentional in their relationships. One grandparent wrote, "I used to feel like I was just on the edge of my grandchildren's lives. Now I realise I can be a quiet but steady spiritual presence."

In fact, across the board, most responses leaned heavily toward "A lot" rather than "A little" on questions about being inspired, encouraged, equipped, and even living more faithfully as Christians. This gives us a wonderful sense of momentum and purpose as we plan ahead.

Not Without Challenges

Interestingly, about a half of respondents said they occasionally found it difficult to hold on to their Christian beliefs in family contexts. A few mentioned tensions with adult children over faith, or a sense of being sidelined in spiritual conversations. One person put it poignantly: "I sometimes feel like my faith is tolerated but not welcomed in family life. These events give me courage to keep being a light, gently and sensitively."

Favourite Moments and Future Ideas

Among the most appreciated aspects of the events were the Bible teaching, small group discussions, and times of prayer. Many also valued the creativity of the craft sessions and the warmth of informal conversations. Networking with other grandparents was seen not only as enjoyable but deeply affirming.

For the future, several people asked for sessions on how to grandparent when families live far apart, how to navigate faith conversations with unchurched family members, and how to build stronger spiritual routines with grandchildren of different ages. All great ideas!

Making a Difference

Perhaps most moving were the responses to Question 8: Has attending made a difference to how you live your life as a grandparent? Over 75% answered with a heartfelt “A lot.” Stories included praying more regularly for grandchildren by name, initiating faith conversations during sleepovers, and even starting a new Bible story bedtime routine over FaceTime!

As one grandparent summed it up: “I feel like I’ve stepped into a God-given calling I didn’t know I had. These events haven’t just changed my Sundays—they’ve changed everyday.”

Thank you for helping this community of faith-filled grandparents take root and grow. Your feedback is shaping the journey, and we can’t wait to walk the next steps together.





Windows

Sharing Gods Love - Shaping a Legacy

Inspire Series - Christian Grandparenting

An inspirational and encouraging event for Christian grandparents

Saturday 11th October 2025
10am -12.30pm (coffee from 9.45am)
Moulton Parish Church, NN3 7SW

Please register in advance by emailing:
christiangrandparents@btinternet.com or phone 07986 042553

This newsletter was produced by the Grandparenting Ministry Team at
Moulton Parish Church, Northamptonshire, NN3 7SW

You can find more information on our Grandparenting Ministry on our
website,

<https://www.moultonchurch.co.uk>

Or contact Martyn and Angela Thompson by:

email: Christiangrandparents@btinternet.com

phone: 07986 042553

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