

# Grandparenting Matters



## Hello Grandparents

Welcome to the third edition of "Grandparenting Matters"! This newsletter is crafted just for you, filled with love and encouragement as we navigate this incredible journey together.

As grandparents, we hold a unique and special role in the lives of our precious grandchildren. Our influence can profoundly shape their faith and future.

Let's embrace this wonderful journey with joy, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of purpose. Your impact is invaluable, and we are here to support and inspire you every step of the way.

### Inside this Issue

Following on from our last Christian Grandparenting Event, we're taking a further look at how as Grandparents we can 'Light the Way' for our grandchildren.

## STOP PRESS!!

Don't forget our next  
Grandparenting event!

### 'Be Connected'

Saturday 12th October 2024

10am-12.30pm

at Moulton Parish Church

Do please join with us!



# Light the Way across the Generations

At our recent event “Light the Way”, we gathered together with grandparents from nine other churches across the county. Together we explored God’s amazing plan for us as revealed in the Bible, looking at God’s design for grandparents:

## To Light the Way and Pass on Faith

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 emphasises passing down God's commandments to our children, making our faith an active, living example:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

## To be Spiritual influencers

2 Timothy 1:5 shows the powerful impact of inter-generational faith, highlighting the legacy of sincere belief passed from grandmother to grandson. Our prayers and faith can shape our grandchildren’s spiritual journeys profoundly.

"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."

## To be Encouragers

Psalms 78:4-7 encourages us to share God’s mighty deeds with the younger generation.



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By recounting His faithfulness, we plant seeds of faith that can grow and thrive.

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.”

For deeper insights into the God’s design for grandparents, check out Josh Mulvihill’s book called “Biblical Grandparenting”.

### **A Prayer:**

“Lord, thank You for the role of grandparents. Help us light the way of faith for future generations, shaping hearts for Your glory. Amen.”



### **Logic Puzzle! (Have fun with your grandchildren!)**

Jim took his three grandsons (Max, Niall and Louis) to the zoo. His grandsons were so excited to see their favourite animals that each left something behind in the zoo. The boy who left his coat in the bat cave liked the tiger the best. Max’s favourite animal was the lion, but he did not lose his rucksack. One of Jim’s grandsons was most excited to see the elephant, but this was not Niall. Fortunately Jim was able to collect their hat, coat and rucksack from lost property before they went home.

1. Who liked the tiger the best?
2. Who liked the elephant the best?
3. Who left his rucksack behind?
4. Who left his hat in the cafe?

(Answers at the bottom of the last page)



## Light the Way through a Changing Culture

It's not easy being a child in today's world. They are bombarded with voices telling them how to view themselves and how best to live, often leading them away from God. Today, our grandchildren grow up in a society that increasingly disregards God's teachings. They face confusing messages about self-identity, gender, and the importance of external validation.



Messages like "just follow your heart" emphasize self-esteem and personal happiness above all else. Social media amplifies these messages and makes children believe their worth is simply tied to their appearance and the opinions of others. This culture, which prioritizes individualism and self-satisfaction, is pervasive.

The Bible warns us about the dangers of such influences. 1 John 2:16 reminds us that the 'cravings of sinful people, the lust of their eyes, and their boasting come from the world, not from the Father'. Without the grounding truth of the gospel, our grandchildren are susceptible to being swept away by these secular narratives.

This cultural shift has tangible impacts.

Many children struggle with stress and mental health issues. The ideologies of individualism undermine the security of God's design for strong, united families.

As Ephesians 4:18 states, they are 'darkened in their understanding', separated from God due to the 'hardening of their hearts'.

As grandparents, our role is clear: to light the way for our grandchildren. Darkness causes them to stumble and become disoriented, but Jesus assures us in John 11:9-10 that those who walk by day will not stumble. Our role is to illuminate their path with the light of Christ.



**'Whoever follows  
Me will never walk  
in darkness, but  
will have the light  
of life'  
John 8:12**



We light the way through our actions, behaviour, and words. Let our countenance reflect the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May our behaviour, with God's help, be characterized by the teachings of Jesus, shining brightly in a dark world. As Matthew 5:16 encourages, 'let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

Our words need to be filled with light. Psalm 119:105 says,  
"Your word is a lamp to  
my feet and a light for my path."

By sharing our personal stories and experience of faith and speaking truth, we guide our grandchildren toward a life that can be rooted in Christ.

In today's challenging culture, our influence as grandparents is more crucial than ever. Let's be intentional and proactive in lighting the path for our grandchildren, ensuring they grow up with the guidance and love of God in their hearts.



### **The Prayer Warrior Grandmother**

'Margaret was known in her family and church as a dedicated prayer warrior. She spent countless hours praying for each of her grandchildren by name, asking God to guide them and protect them. One of her grandsons, Jake, struggled during his teenage years, getting involved with the wrong crowd and making poor choices. Margaret never gave up on him and continued to lift him up in prayer daily. One night, Jake had a profound experience where he felt God calling him to turn his life around.

He credits his grandmother's unwavering prayers as a major influence in his spiritual awakening and eventual decision to follow Christ.'

## **3 Truths Grandparents Need to Know Based on Becky Sedgewick's 'Grandparenting for Faith'**

### **God knows what families need**

That's why he invented grandparents – yes, that means you and me! We are part of God's design for our family and are an important part of the web of support that our children and their children need around them in order to flourish. Whilst we are far from perfect in every respect, we do bring a unique connection to the family that gives them insight and we can bring life experiences, wisdom and love. God made us to be a special gift to our families. Research shows that the spiritual influence that we bring runs much deeper and lasts much longer than we might expect.

"I saw the way my grandmother's behaviour and approach to life was in accordance with the faith she professed. I wanted to be like that."

### **Building a growing connection with grandchildren is the key**

The closer you are to them, the better position you will be in to share with them all the good things you have, including meeting and knowing the God you love.

"I felt completely loved by Grandma and Grandad, so I trusted what they told me about God and how important he was to them".

Whatever your situation, to develop this close sense of connection we need regular contact with our grandchildren to help them grow that sense of emotional closeness. To do that, let's be willing to welcome them into our world as well as hang out in theirs.

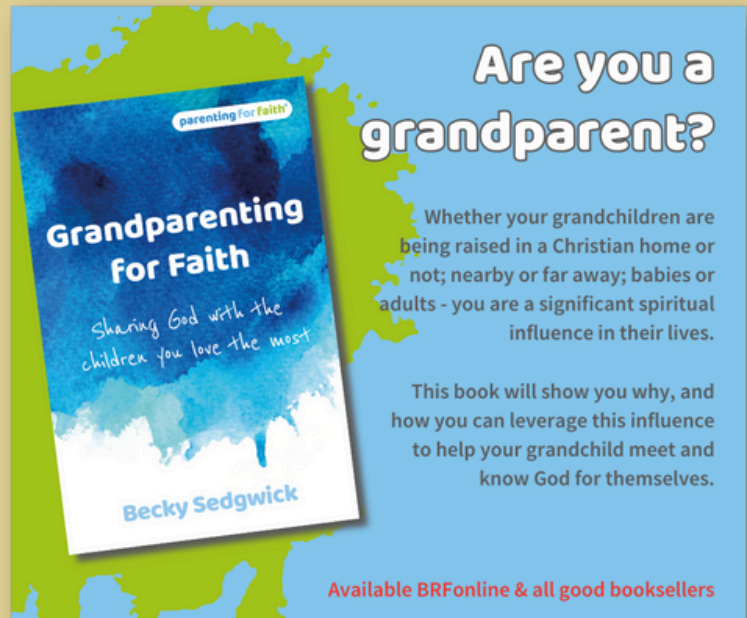


### **No one said it would be easy**

When your children don't share your faith, when you're not allowed to talk about faith, when contact is hard, when your family is in pain or when you are struggling, grandparenting can be hard. But God knows and understands this and is with you in it. However as Christian grandparents, prayer is our secret weapon! 1 Peter 5 :7 says "Cast all your anxieties upon him because he cares for you". Let's choose to be a prayer warrior rather than a worrier for our children and grandchildren. Whatever your circumstances, be encouraged as God will never stop loving and reaching out to your family

## Grandparenting for Faith

This new book published in February 2024 is one of the first in the UK on Christian grandparenting and we highly recommend it to you.



## Word Search Puzzle! Enjoy with your grandchildren!:

Find the following words related to grandparenting in the grid:

- GRANDPARENT
- LOVE
- HUGS
- TREAT
- WISDOM
- STORIES
- NANA
- GRANDPA
- FUN
- MEMORIES



W	I	H	L	W	I	S	D	O	M	P
G	R	A	N	D	P	A	R	E	N	T
L	E	N	A	N	I	T	L	O	S	Y
O	V	E	H	U	G	S	O	T	U	A
V	N	A	N	A	I	O	S	M	R	M
E	N	M	E	M	O	R	I	E	S	E
L	E	T	S	T	O	R	I	E	S	S
H	J	G	R	A	N	D	P	A	J	T
G	H	K	F	U	N	T	R	E	A	T



Hi Grandparents, here's a commitment below that we used at the last event and which you might find helpful. As we seek to help and guide our grandchildren's future and faith let us pray regularly, be present, share our faith, model Christ-like behaviour, and offer encouragement.

Let's light the path for the next generation together!



## MY GRANDCHILD

For my grandchild, I commit to:



**G**raciously share God's love and the truth of his Word with them.

**R**emember to share with them, all that God has done for me

**A**ccept that God is sovereign, understands and cares for my family

**N**avigate difficult situations with Gods guidance and wisdom

**D**edicate myself to pray for, affirm and bless them

**C**herish each of my grandchildren

**H**elp them to see Gods goodness as I see, savour and share it

**I**nvest time in them, through the changing scenes of life

**L**ove their parents unconditionally with all my heart

**D**elight in Gods grace for us, as I seek to light the way for my family.

## **We would love to hear from you!**

If you have any stories about how you've seen God help you in your grandparenting that would encourage us, we would love to hear from you.

Let's look for opportunities to encourage one another on our journey, especially when we've been through difficult times and God has helped us.

If you are able to share with us, please email it to:

[christiangrandparents@btinternet.com](mailto:christiangrandparents@btinternet.com)

Thank you!





## Heavenly Father,

I come before You with a heart full of gratitude for the blessing of being a grandparent. Thank You for the precious gift of my grandchildren, and for the joy they bring into my life. I pray for Your guidance and wisdom as I nurture and support them.

Lord, grant me the strength and health to be an active part of their lives. Help me to be a source of love, encouragement, and wisdom. May my words and actions reflect Your grace and compassion, inspiring them to walk in Your ways.



Jesus, protect my grandchildren and keep them safe from harm. Surround them with Your angels and fill their hearts with Your love. Guide them as they grow, helping them to develop strong values and a deep faith in You

Holy Spirit, fill our home with Your presence. Let it be a place of peace, joy, and spiritual growth. Help me to be patient and understanding, always ready to listen and offer support. May my prayers for my grandchildren be fervent and my love for them be unconditional.

Lord, I pray that the legacy of faith in our family will continue through the generations. Let my grandchildren see Your light in me and be inspired to follow You. Help me to nurture their spiritual journey, teaching them to trust in Your goodness and grace.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

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:  
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phone: 07986 042553

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**We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 12th October!**

**10.00am-12.30pm**

Please feel free to invite other Christian Grandparents you know from other churches near and far as we join together in this growing community of Christian grandparents!

**See you there!**

Grandparenting Matters!

# BE CONNECTED



Inspire Series - Christian Grandparenting

**Saturday 12th October 2024**

**10 am-12.30 pm**

**Moulton Parish Church, NN3 7SW**

*Come and be encouraged and inspired  
as Christian grandparents*

**For more information  
or to register please email  
[christiangrandparents@btinternet.com](mailto:christiangrandparents@btinternet.com)  
or contact on 07986 042553**

Answers to Logic Puzzle: 1.Niall 2. Louis. 3. Louis 4. Max