

# BECOMING AN INTENTIONAL GRANDMOTHER

*Proverbs 17:6 "Children's children are a crown to the aged and parents are the pride of their children."*

*2 Timothy 1:5 "I have been 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."*

As a grandmother, you have a very special place in the life of your grandchildren! You have the privilege of being able to love and nurture your grandchildren without the frazzled stress that parents often face. You can spend time with your grandchildren in an unhurried way, and patiently show interest in what interests them. Here are some tips from several wonderful grandmothers at Fellowship Bible Church:

1. **Submit to God.** As in all of life and every relationship, we first need to seek God and His will. God is writing our grandchildren's story. Pray that He will use you to influence them to seek, know and trust God, and to know their worth in His eyes. Share the story of how God has worked in your life.
2. **Pray, pray, pray** for your grandchildren. Pray for them while they're still in the womb, while they are in the growing up years, in school and in college. Pray for sexual purity. Pray for their future spouses.
3. **Pray with your grandchildren** whenever the opportunity presents itself, not just at meals. Pray when they lose something, when they are sick, or when a friend or family member has a need. If you pass an emergency vehicle, pray out loud for those involved, and pray that God would show mercy and grace so those hurt might hear the Gospel and come to know Him. When grandkids spend the night, tuck them in and pray with them, thanking God for specific things He has done and is doing in their lives.
4. **Spend time with your grandchildren** as often as you can. Learn their likes and dislikes and their personalities. Determine their 'bent' or giftedness and encourage that. Seek to do things they are interested in such as baking, drawing, coloring, sewing, organizing, playing with Legos, dolls, matchbox cars, etc. Make prop boxes with items for role play. Keep a craft box with paper, crayons, gel pens, markers and stickers so they can use their creative

- imaginations to make cards and gifts. Look for opportunities to bring God into everyday conversation while engaging with them.
5. **Read the Bible with them.** Put them in your lap and read when they are small. Use your voice and facial expressions to add interest. Stop and take time to answer questions. Other recommended books are The Jesus Storybook Bible, and Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing.
  6. **Listen well.** Get down on your grandchildren's level and look them in the eye when they share a story. Ask questions so they know you are interested in their life. As they get older, ask open ended questions. Write letters, and text back and forth to stay in touch.
  7. **Celebrate important milestones.** Birthdays, baptisms, and achievements at school are worth celebrating.
  8. **Submit to Parents.** God's first line of authority in their lives is their parents. Affirm and support the parent's goals and desires in all things, except sin. Offer correction respectfully and sensitively, only over sin issues, not preferences, and never in front of the grandchildren.
  9. **Start a tradition!** Bake and decorate sugar cookies at major holidays, or put a special puzzle together.
  10. **Host Grandma Camp** or have sleepovers with the cousins. You may be able to help grandchildren from far away get to know those who live closer. Consider having 3-4 at a time that are of similar ages and same sex, and do activities with them, some at home and some around the community. From tea parties, to water gun fights, aim to please God and love these precious souls. When they spend the night, make bedtime devotionals fun and engaging. When there is an argument among grandchildren, do not be quick to suppose what happened. Dig in and help them determine what occurred and why. Teach them to confess the sin when they apologize ("I'm sorry I ...") and to ask the offended party for forgiveness. This is a great time to teach them that when they choose to forgive, they should not bring up the offense again for later use.
  11. **Never show partiality.** This is hard when some grandchildren live close by and others are far away. Make every visit count with those you see less often. Let each one know how special they are!
  12. **Have fun!!** This is the easy part of grand-parenting. Enjoy your grandchildren's company and love them unconditionally.

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## GOING FURTHER - Resources

### **Recommended Books:**

*(Available from the Home Center or Library for check out)*

**Biblical GrandParenting** (by Josh Mulvihill) This book provides a biblical overview of the role of grandparents.

**Couragagous Grandparenting – Unshakable Faith in a Broken World** (by Cavin Harper) A call for grandparents to rise about the conventional view of grandparenting to embrace intentionality.

**Extreme Grandparenting** (by Tim Kimmel and Darcy Kimmel). Are you ready to take grandparenting to the next level? This book offers timeless and tested principles for grandparenting in the twenty-first century.

**Grandparenting With a Purpose – Effective Ways to Pray for Your Grandchildren** (by Lillian Ann Penner)

**Great Lessons and Grand Blessings** (by Elmer and Ruth Towns) Discover how Grandparens can inspire and transform their grandchildren

**It Starts At Home** (by Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroope) gives grandparents practical suggestions for influencing the faith of their grandchildren.

**Legacy Grandparenting – How to Influence Your Grandchildren for Christ** DVD Group Study (by the Legacy Coalition)

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Print Date: 2-10-18



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