

Rock Solid

Why Should a Church Have a Grandparenting Ministry?

Psalm 78:5-8

Psalm 78 suggests six realities a purposeful (intentional and rock-solid) grandparent must assert ... or ... why should our church have a grandparenting ministry?

1. God's WORD must be respected and affirmed by our grandchildren (II Timothy 3:16, 17).
 - "All Scripture is inspired by God" ...
2. Our *grandchildren* must be taught the wisdom of Christian FRIENDS (I Corinthians 15:33; Psalm 119:63).
 - "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
3. God holds grandparents responsible for children YET TO COME (Psalm 78:5, 6).
 - John Phillips: "The past is the great interpreter of the present and the great safeguard of the future" – Exploring Psalms, Volume I, p. 644
 - "A RIGHTEOUS man lives for the next generation" – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 - "...choose for yourselves today whom you will serve" ... "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).
4. Our grandchildren will put their eternal ASSURANCE in something and someone (7a).
 - ... "they should put their confidence in God" ...
5. Children and grandchildren FORGET (7b).
 - ... "and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" ...
6. Forgetful children and grandchildren become OBSTINATE and eventually FAITHLESS adults (8a).
 - ... "a stubborn and rebellious generation" ... "not faithful to God"

Conclusions:

- PRAY
- Ask QUESTIONS
- Look for TEACHABLE moments to speak God's Word
- CREATE teachable moments
- SEEK a child you do not know, introduce yourself and pray a blessing on them.

Auburn Grace Community Church – September 11th, 2022

Life Group Discussion Questions – September 11, 2022

Psalm 78:5-7 For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they were to teach them to their children, so that the generation to come would know, the children yet to be born, that they would arise and tell them to their children, so that they would put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but comply with His commandments.

DISCOVER

1. When we complain about the younger generation, what does that say about our generation? When we complain, what is typically the result? How is intentional grandparenting a major contrast to grumbling? What should intentional grandparenting look like?
2. If you do not have grandchildren or children then what can you do to point the next generation toward the Kingdom of God?
3. What work is left for the family ministry after children leave the nest? How might you use your financial resources, if available, to bless the next generation? Give some examples that are specific to children which you directly influence. What are some examples that influence those you may never meet?

EXPLORE

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How should we teach children that God's word must be respected and affirmed? What might go wrong if they do not see us living by God's commands?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:33 and Proverbs 13:20. John said the character of our children and grandchildren will become like the character of their friends. Was this ever a problem in your life? What safeguards can be erected to protect children from going off-course? What responsibility do you have in guarding children from evil teaching that is common on social media?
3. Read Joshua 24:15. How does good parenting and grandparenting intersect with righteous living? How can grandparents continue to serve the Lord despite wearing down physically?

EXPERIENCE

1. Why is it not sufficient to pass off Bible teaching and ethics to the church or to schools? What people can you point children to that are good examples of living the truth? What is it about your examples that make them worthy? If you missed the mark in parenting, then what steps can you take to set a better course going forward?
2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "A righteous man lives for the next generation." What steps do you envision taking on behalf of the next generation?
3. Despite great efforts by many, children may still wander into dangerous territory. How can parents or grandparents relate and give hope if children have strayed?

PRAY

Pray...God, we want to love our children and grandchildren as you love us. Please forgive us when we fall short and provide a path forward that is pleasing to you. We need your power to do what is right and your never-ending grace when we miss the mark. Thank you for being our perfect father.
Action...Write a blessing that you can give to your children and grandchildren. Share it with them as part of influencing their choice of following God.