

## Grandparent's Day | Preparing, Celebrating, Discipling

### I. Preparing

- Put something on your Celebration Wall. As I mentioned, you can put up pictures of yours and your children grandparents. You can ask your students to bring a picture of their grandparents. Kids of all ages will think it's cool having their family's picture up in the wall.
- But you need to include Scripture. Remember, that's so important.
  - Proverbs 17:6 says, "*Grandchildren are the crown of old men, And the glory of sons is their fathers.*"
    - This verse shows both sides of the spectrum. You and your disciples are likely someone's grandchild. You have the opportunity of being their crown and rejoicing. And the second half of the verse doesn't merely refer to your father. That particular Hebrew word was often used of grandfathers. And the word "glory" refers to beauty or adornment.
    - Therefore, this verse sets the expectations for Christ-honoring families — there is to be a mutual benefit, joy, and beauty associated with the relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren.
  - II Timothy 1:5 tells us specifically of Timothy's grandmother and could be used to celebrate the blessing of having a grandparent whose love of God prompted him to pass on to you his faith.
  - If you happen to be a grandparent either in position or by virtue of your age, Titus 2:1-5 beautifully illustrates part of your responsibility to God in regard to how you influence the younger generations.
  - Exodus 20:12 is a familiar verse rarely applied to grandparents. In the English it reads, "*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you,*" but again the word for father can easily refer to a grandparent or even forefather from previous generations.
  - I Peter 5:5 is yet another important reminder of how we should treat our elders: "*You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*"
  - Deuteronomy 4:9 is another challenge to all of us, but parents and grandparents specifically, concerning how we are to speak God's Truth in love to the next generation.

### II. Celebrating

- We would do well to remember that our main goal on every day of the year is to celebrate God. We do that by loving Him and loving others, and it's the second greatest command that teaches us that giving respect and honor to people is part of how we celebrate God . . . never to the exclusion of God, but always as a part of the fulfillment of our celebration of God.
- So, it's defiantly good and right and proper for us to heap honor and presents and love and hugs and the like on people regardless of whether it's a special day or not.
- That's one side of this celebration. We need to make certain that the glory we lay on our grandparents and elders points everyone's gaze to Christ.

- Praise God for using your ancestors to bring you into this world.
- If your grandparents were godly people who laid the foundation for you coming to Christ, praise God for that.
- Thank God for the blessing of being a grandparental figure in other's lives. Whether you're a biological, adopted, foster, or spiritual grandparent, don't allow the significance of your position be lost on you.
- Receive the honor that people will want to bestow on you. It's not wrong to accept the love that is directed your way. You can always redirect that love back to God, but never reject it.
- Look for ways to serve your grandchildren. Yes, it's a day they should want to serve you, but that doesn't mean God doesn't expect you to stop loving Him and loving them. You may likely have many opportunities over the course of the day to selflessly do or speak something that blesses another. Look for those opportunities. Continue (or start today) modeling how a follower of Christ is to act.
- And for the rest of us, we should look for opportunities to be a blessing to our elders — whether they're our biological, adopted, spiritual, or simply community elders. Take them out to eat, bring them food, call them, sit with them, ask them questions, listen to their answers, buy them something they will love and spend time with them as they enjoy it. Perhaps you could do some house or yard work for them.
- How about taking some time to pray with them and talk of the goodness of God.
- And definitely read the verses, speak of God's goodness to give you these people. Lift Him up as you lift them up.
- Just like every other holiday, we should intentionally prepare our hearts, our Walls, and our disciples for success. Meditate on Scripture and put it up so it will draw your mind to God's goodness.
- And when it comes to celebrating God by celebrating a person, don't try to "balance" the celebration between the two . . . instead make the celebrating of the person a part of the celebration of God. Think of it like concentric circles. We're not going to call our grandparents and rake their yard and then focus on God. We're going to call our grandparents and rake their yard because we're intentionally celebrating God. That distinction is vital.

### III. Discipling

- As we've been learning, the best way to disciple the people in your life during Grandparent's Day and any other day is to invite them into your celebration.
- Encourage them to connect with their grandparents. Find an elderly individual who happens to be in both of your lives and do something sweet for them. Talk about how you both can live today and tomorrow and every day thereafter in such a way that will prepare you to be a God-honoring elder and grandparent in the future.
- Sunday would be a great day for a Sunday School class, morning service, or small group lesson about the blessings, roles and responsibilities, and/or honor due grandparents.
- If you're a school teacher, give your students something to do over the weekend that will encourage them to celebrate God with how they relate to the elderly in their lives.
- As always, the opportunities are as endless as the people who attempt it.