

# GODLY GRANDPARENTING

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“Keep centered on Christ and look for those opportunities to spend time loving the children entrusted to your care.”

Godly grandparenting...the idea might drum up a picture of a grandparent telling his/her grandchild about God, but it is so much more than this. I am not yet a grandparent, but I am able to see firsthand on a regular basis my parents with my children and my nieces and nephew.

Picture this...a grandmother quietly carrying a mug of hot coffee and a Bible out to the backyard for some quiet time. Her quiet time is quickly interrupted by her two lovely yet, noisy young granddaughters. The grandmother invites the two girls to join her outside while they read Scripture and answer questions together. That grandmother is acting intentionally—seizing the opportunity to share God’s love with her granddaughters. Godly grandparenting involves being intentional, or opportunities will be missed.

Picture this...a grandfather babysitting. The kids could watch a movie or play in their rooms by themselves. Instead, the grandfather creates some fun, new games for all of them to play together both indoor and out. Godly grandparenting involves both time and energy.

Picture this...a grandmother is busy doing something. Her grandson runs to her with arms outstretched, just wanting to be held. The grandmother puts aside whatever it is she is doing. She spends the next twenty minutes holding and singing to her grandson, forgetting about what she had been doing. Godly grandparenting involves sacrifice and nurture.

Picture this...a grandfather and grandmother get an urgent call that their granddaughter has just broken her arm and has to have surgery. They meet her at the hospital, pray with her and show her with their words and actions that God is a God we can trust. Godly grandparenting involves trusting in a good God.

Picture this...a grandmother has just come over after having a very long day. Her grandchild takes her face in his hands, seemingly having something important to say. She looks at him, listening intently, giving her full attention to him. Godly grandparenting involves focus.

Picture this...a grandmother and grandfather take their grandkids for a walk. They walk at the kids pace, pointing out our Creator’s handiwork, sharing stories from their childhood, gently reminding their precious grandchildren about our Father’s faithfulness. Godly grandparenting involves being centered on Christ.

Certainly, parents are called to impress God’s law upon their children. As Moses said, “Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (cf. Deut. 6:7-9 NIV). Godly grandparenting includes this — and much more.

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