

IGNITE
PARENTING



A Grandparent's Guide to

Intergenerational *Discipleship*

A Special Message from *Our Teams*

Dear Grandparents,

By picking up this booklet, you are taking the first step in learning how to better disciple your grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Thank you for intentionally investing in the next generation!

We want to support you with ideas and resources to help you effectively pass down your faith and values, leaving a spiritual legacy for your family for generations to come. We commend you on taking an active role in this cross-generational discipleship model. The impact you can have on the lives of your grandchildren is one that is unique to grandparents and should be stewarded well.

The following pages will provide some insights, ideas, and practical tips for developing or enhancing your spiritual influence as a grandparent.

We pray that this resource blesses you and helps you in your role as a spiritual leader. Please continue to follow the Ignite Parenting and Senior Adult Ministries websites for even more materials coming soon!

Assemblies of God Ignite Parenting and Senior Adult Ministries Teams

Helping Your Grandchildren *Hear from God*

By Josh Wellborn, National Director of Young Adult Ministries

Why Hearing from God Matters *More Than Ever*

If you're a grandparent, you probably already know the joys and sorrows of watching your grandchildren navigating current trends and forces in today's culture. You've probably seen them attempt to navigate an environment that is often loud, confusing, and anything but godly.

And while the path God has for each of His children is different, there is one thing that remains the same: He wants them to hear from Him. Not secondhand, not filtered through a podcast or a viral social media post, but clearly, personally, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe every man, woman, and child has the potential to live a Spirit-empowered life. This means more than just going to church and avoiding sin—it means walking daily in a relationship with Jesus and being filled with the Holy Spirit. That's the pattern we see in Scripture.

Young people like Samuel, Esther, Mary, and Timothy heard God's voice clearly and courageously obeyed—not because they were perfect, but because they were obedient.

Hearing from God isn't just for prophets or preachers. It's foundational for every believer. Yet hearing the voice of God takes intentionality and the ability to tune in to His frequency through spiritual mentoring and consistent spiritual role models who encourage them in their pursuit.



Helping Your Grandchild *Hear from God*

So, how do you help your grandchild tune into God's voice?

Start by having honest conversations. Ask them:

“What is one thing
I can pray with
you about?”

“What is one verse
or Bible story you've
read lately?”

“How does it
feel when God
speaks to you?”

Be a safe place for questions. Not every trending cultural issue needs a “correct” answer immediately. Sometimes, what younger generations need most is to wrestle through their own thoughts, their own interpretations of Scripture, and their own faith foundations.

Here are four practical tips to help encourage your grandchild to clearly and personally hear from God:

1 Model your own relationship with God.

Let your grandchildren see you praying, studying, and seeking His voice.

2 Pray daily.

Pray that . . .

your grandchildren
would recognize
God's voice
(John 10:27)

they would
respond
in obedience
(James 1:22)

they would be baptized in the
Holy Spirit, filled with power,
and guided into all truth
(Acts 1:8; John 16:13)

3 Talk to them about the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Many children and youth have never been invited into this Spirit-filled experience, although we know God desires to pour His Spirit on those of all ages and generations. If you don't feel confident talking about it, reach out to your pastor or church's youth or children's ministry leader for advice. If you have never received Holy Spirit baptism, begin your journey towards seeking more from God.

4 Encourage regular engagement with Scripture.

The Bible Engagement Project app has excellent reading plans and devotional content for all ages.

Just because you are a grandparent doesn't mean that your spiritual responsibility to the next generation is finished. God is still speaking—and your grandchildren can learn to hear God's voice. Let's partner with Him to help them listen.

Connecting with your Grandchildren

By Bob Cook, National Director of Senior Adult Ministries

Nearly 67 million adults in the United States are grandparents, a number that has increased in recent years and now represents 20% of the population. While many grandparents live close to their grandchildren, others live states, or even countries away. Yet regardless of physical proximity, grandparents play an important role in the lives of their grandchildren.

Research has shown that grandparents are a valuable part of a child's life. They offer support, stability, and a positive role model that benefits children emotionally and mentally. This unique bond also allows grandparents to speak directly into their grandchild's life on topics regarding spirituality. *The spiritual impact a grandparent can have on the life of their grandchild is one that carries significant weight.*

While busy schedules, distance, or other circumstances may be barriers for time between grandparents and grandchildren, here are some simple ways for grandparents to stay connected with and positively influence their grandchildren.

¹ <https://www.luriechildrens.org/globalassets/fchip/grandparents-dayreport2023-09823.pdf>

² <https://foreverfamilies.byu.edu/importance-of-grandparents-to-their-grandchildren>, (6/26/2025)



1 Intentionally Communicate

Even if grandparents can't spend in-person time with their grandchildren due to geographical distance, regular intentional communication is important. Grandparents should also be mindful of the way that younger generations communicate and try to learn how to send texts or social media messages in addition to occasional phone calls.

2 Pray

Grandparents should let their grandchildren know that they are praying for them every day. Grandchildren need to know that their grandparents care enough to pray for them on a daily basis, even if they seem resistant or don't respond to messages.

3 Be Present and Affirm Often

There is power in presence, a hug, and a gracious word. When grandparents are simply there to cheer on their grandchildren at ball games, dance recitals, or musical concerts, their grandchildren feel supported and loved. Sometimes these simple gestures are all that grandchildren need to know how special they are to their grandparents.

4 Listen

Sometimes the most powerful thing a grandparent can do for their grandchild is to listen. Grandparents may have to resist the temptation to give advice or talk over their grandchild, but listening is a powerful tool with younger generations.

5 Share Testimonies

Grandchildren should know about their spiritual legacy, and it is often up to grandparents to pass that legacy down. Making sure grandchildren know their grandparents' life stories, especially their testimonies and tests of faith, builds strength and a firm foundation on which grandchildren can continue to build their spiritual life. When oral tradition isn't possible, grandparents should consider using creative means, such as written journals, letters, or video recordings to capture the stories of God's faithfulness to their family and share spiritual legacies with the next generation and generations to come.

Grand Discipleship: An Interview with *Steve and Sherri Harris*

Steve and Sherri Harris have been married for 52 years, have three children, and eight grandchildren. Ignite Parenting interviewed Steve and Sherri, asking them to share their journey as grandparents who are intentional about passing down their faith to their grandchildren.

Ignite Parenting: Thank you for spending some time with us today. Could you start by telling us a little bit about your journey into grandparenting?

Steve and Sherri: We became grandparents quickly. When our three children became adults and got married, they decided to wait to have children until all of the siblings were ready; they wanted to raise their kids together. So, within four years, we became grandparents to eight beautiful babies, seven boys and one girl. *We're blessed* to have them all live within a few hours of us.

Ignite Parenting: That's incredible! Tell us how you stepped into the role of grandma and grandpa.

Steve and Sherri: One thing we did early on was to really try to define what each of our kids wanted from us as grandparents. That was really important to us. You know, in different parts of the country, there are certain subcultures that define a grandparent's role, and we wanted to be sure *we understood* what each of our kids wanted from us as grandma and grandpa and wanted to commit to living that out.

Ignite Parenting: What a great way to open up communication! How have you seen that benefit your relationship, not only with your grandkids, but with your kids?

Steve and Sherri: Someone once told us that once your adult children get married, it's no longer your party and you want to make sure you don't find yourself uninvited. We've kind of used this saying to guide our role as grandparents. *We've chosen to love each of them where they are at* and live our lives in such a way that, even when we aren't verbally speaking about Jesus, we are showing His love. We want our grandkids to see Jesus in our lives and desire to have a relationship with Him because they've seen our relationship with Him.

Ignite Parenting: Would you share a few of the things you've done to intentionally instill your faith and values into the lives of your grandkids?

Steve and Sherri: We try to find things throughout the year that we can do with our grandkids to *spend time with them and have their full attention* so we can help point them to Jesus. One of the things we attend is called Grand Camp, which is a week in the mountains for grandparents and their grandchildren. It is faith based, led by an intergenerational ministry coalition, and hosted by our church. We also do Grand Day Out, which our church helps facilitate as well, where grandparents spend the day with their grandchild doing fun activities. Our church provides these events for us, and we're so blessed to be able to attend them with our grandchildren.

Ignite Parenting: What a blessing to have such a strong intergenerational ministry at your church! If other churches wanted to start being more intentional about bringing together different generations for discipleship opportunities, where would be some entry points?

Steve and Sherri: I think if all churches could get on board with stuff like that it would be great. *Helping to facilitate things between grandparents and grandkids is a huge need right now.* We are the first generation where there is a switch to adult children wanting to have grandparents involved on a deep level in their kids' lives. This has opened doors for discipleship that haven't been as open in previous generations. Thankfully, technology has provided a resource for this when distance is an issue.

Ignite Parenting: I'm so thankful we are shifting toward incorporating this model of discipleship in our homes and in our churches. As we wrap up, what are three things that you think are most important for grandparents to know about how to successfully disciple their grandkids?

Steve and Sherri: First of all, show up. Go to the games, be at the recitals, and be present. But even more than physical presence, provide emotional presence. One of the best ways to do that is to write letters or send texts. Be a source of encouragement, foster a sense of community among your grandkids by sharing and celebrating their accomplishments, and *love them for who they are, not who you think they should be.* Secondly, get to know them and make sure they get to know you. Ask them questions and invite them to ask you questions. Share memories, funny stories, and hard lessons you've learned. But also do as much listening as you do talking. Ask them about their day, what's going on in their world, and learn about who they are as people. Finally, live by example. We have always tried to live a lifestyle of evangelism. We want to be a godly example to our grandchildren, not only in the words we say, but in the things we do.

Leaving a Legacy: Becoming a *Spiritual Grandparent*

By Jimmy White, Adult Discipleship Director

Not every grandparent has the joy of watching their grandchildren grow up nearby. In today's transient world, family is often scattered by miles. But for Pentecostal believers, the call of spiritual legacy isn't limited by geography. Even if your grandkids are far away—or you never had any at all—you can still step into one of the most powerful, redemptive roles in the church: *that of a spiritual grandparent.*

A spiritual grandparent doesn't merely see the present condition of someone's life—they catch a glimpse of God's calling on it. They ask, "Where does God want this person to go, and how can I help them get there?" It's not about being nosy or controlling, but discerning and faithful. You see more than you can say. You speak with caution, not out of fear, but out of reverence for the impact your words could have on a budding soul.

Like any grandparent, your protective instincts kick in—not just for the person, but for the *anointing* on their life. You know the dangers ahead—sex, money, power—the same old temptations in fresh packaging. And while you can't confront every issue head-on, you can gently guide and challenge them toward holiness, spiritual maturity, and purpose.

But you also need spiritual wisdom in knowing your limits. You're not called to be everyone's spiritual grandparent. Not every mentee is a spiritual grandchild. Sometimes, God just places people in your path for a mentoring moment—a seed planted, not a tree tended. Spiritual grandparenting happens best when the connection is organic, God-ordained—a divine intersection.

When stepping into this role, consider four essential development areas:

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| 1 SPIRITUAL
their connection with God | 2 KNOWLEDGE
what they're learning |
| 3 OUTREACH
how they're evangelizing others | 4 RELATIONAL
how they love and live in community |
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Wherever one of these is lagging, that's where you'll find their area of immaturity. And that's where your gentle, Spirit-led guidance can make all the difference.

Prayer becomes your secret weapon. As you intercede, you're asking God to reveal His urgency, His timing, and His direction for their life. A healthy spiritual grandparent relationship has a divine mutuality—you're not just giving, you're listening, discerning, and obeying God's call for your life, too. The questions always echo back to you:

Who is God calling you to be?	What is He calling you to do?	Where is your next level of sacrifice?
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As spiritual grandparents, we move in a sacred cycle:



Growth comes when we discern how to move through this cycle with grace and timing. Each phase requires a different posture.

And remember—this role has nothing to do with your age. What draws others to you isn't gray hair or years in church, but the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the authority of a life shaped by fire and faithfulness.

Spiritual grandparents don't obsess over what their spiritual grandkids are doing, but who they are becoming. They lead with the goal of discipleship through relationship. And when your spiritual grandkids begin leaning in for deeper discipleship, that's your cue to begin discipleship as Jesus modeled: Take them with you, show them the work of the ministry, let them bear witness to the ups and downs of living a life fully surrendered to Christ.

Remember, the legacy of a spiritual grandparent is not only who you raised, but what they'll build on *the foundation you left for them.*





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