**Faith Building Tool Kit for Grandparents**

**Psalm 78**

**4We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the LORD,
about his power and his mighty wonders.**

**6 so the next generation might know them—
even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.
7 So each generation should set its hope anew on God,**

“It’s time for grandparents everywhere to wake up, get up and live up to our role as Christian grandparents and do something for the sake of our children and grandchildren! God is looking for grandparents who will authentically and compassionately represent Christ to the next generations. Will you be one of them and join the cause?” Cavin Harper, Executive Director of the Christian Grandparenting Network

**Faith Building Activities**

*Adapt for visiting grandchildren*

1. **Family Faith Conversations**

Engage in **intentional faith-shaping conversations** with your grandchildren. Listen to them and sensitively, capitalize on teachable-moments.

1. **Family Devotions and Prayer**

Simple but structured **teaching needs to be part of everyday life within the home**, but this can also be done when visiting grandparents!

* Consider reading the Bible or an age-appropriate Bible story book with your grandchildren
* Choose a verse or passage of scripture to memorize with them (The Lord’s Prayer, The Ten Commandments, The Apostle’s Creed, etc.)
* Pray together

1. **Family Service**

**Grandparents can participate in service projects together with their grandchildren.** This is a kind of **discipleship internship** for children. Faith and values come together through these experiences. Ideas:

* Helping a neighbor together
* Working at the Food Bank
* Giving Christmas gifts to the needy each year
* Going on missions trip together

######  **Family Rituals and Traditions**

###### Faith-building rituals and traditions **tell the family story of faith and trust in God**. Families need to consciously and meaningfully participate in them. **Consider what you can do around special occasions when your grandchildren come to visit.**

###### Attend Sunday Worship together

* Use an Advent Wreath at Christmas in your home
* Give them Birthday Blessings
* Provide Christian books, CD’s and DVD’s as gifts
* View a good video together and discuss it

###### **The Family Meal**

The benefits of eating meals together are **significant for the moral and spiritual development of our children.**  Poor lifestyle choices are reduced and better relationships are developed when we eat together. **Make mealtimes with grandchildren special and filled with rich conversation.**



**Praying with Grandchildren**

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###### Teaching our grandchildren to pray **helps to form them spiritually**. Prayer involves a number of “Spiritual Disciplines”: i.e., self-examination, waiting on God, fixed hour praying (meals, bedtime), intercessory prayer, practising the presence of Christ, worship and praying scripture. These disciplines shape what we become.

###### **Mealtime Prayers**

###### The practice of saying grace is important. If nothing else, it preserves the form of asking God’s blessing. Try some rote prayers when your grandchildren are young. Later you may encourage them to pray extemporaneously.

**God is great, God is good.
Let us thank God for our food.
By God's hands we all are fed.
Give us Lord our daily bread.**

**Amen.**

###### **Bedtime Prayers**

By praying at bedtime with our children, we place life in the perspective of God’s divine sovereignty.

**I will lie down in peace and sleep,**

**For you alone, O Lord,**

**will keep me safe. (Psalm 4:8 NIV)**

**Bible Reading with Grandchildren**

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**Develop a habit of obedience**

**When you read to your grandchildren - get into the habit of helping them interpret and apply God’s Word to their life.**

**Why?**

**The habit of obedience will serve the disciple throughout life as new challenges and applications for Christ’s commands are revealed within scripture.**

**As your child is able, ask questions about the story you have read such as:**

* **What do you like about this story?**
* **What don’t you like or understand?**
* **What does this story tell us about God?**
* **What does it tell us about mankind?**
* **What should I do with this information?**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9-13 NIV*

As children get older, it is important to ***teach them the Lord’s Prayer.*** Jesus taught this to his disciples as a pattern of praying. This is an important tool that grand parents can use to teach their grandchildren the **format and content of the prayer that God desires from us.**



###### **Our Father in heaven,    hallowed be your name,  your kingdom come,    your will be done       on earth as it is in heaven.**

###### **Give us today our daily bread.  Forgive us our debts,       as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

###### **And lead us not into temptation,    but deliver us from the evil one**

###### **for yours is the kingdom**

###### **and the power and the glory**

###### **forever.**

**AMEN**

***Praying for Missionaries with our Grand Kids***

##### *When grandchildren visit, include them in your prayer time for missions. To make it more interesting, use a world map, pictures and read portions of letters with prayer requests.*

**The list below provides a focus for prayer by the day of the week.**

**Monday SALVATION** Pray that people will come to know Jesus as their Saviour where this missionary is working.

**Tuesday MONEY** Pray that people will give support to missionary work and that the needs of this missionary will be met.

**Wednesday TEMPTATION** Pray for these missionaries to be faithful to trust God when they are tempted to sin

**Thursday TIME** Pray that these missionaries have time to relax and spend with their families.

**Friday FAMILY** Pray for the families of these missionaries living back home or in going to school in other countries.

**Saturday STRENGTH** Pray that God will give them strength to serve each day.

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Blessing our Grand Children

**What is a blessing?**

A blessing is “the intentional act of speaking God’s favour and power into someone’s life, often accompanied by a symbolic gesture such as laying hands on the person.”

**When are blessings appropriate?**

* **At bedtime.** This is the easiest place to begin.
	+ **At moments of parting.** Some grandparents give their grandchildren as blessing every time they leave after a visit. These can be direct quotes from scripture, or scripture that you have adapted for your grandchildren.
	+ **At times of significant change.** The beginning of college, baptism, a long trip or marriage offer opportunities for grandparents to bless their grand children.

**Composing a blessing**

1. **Exalt God** – he is the source of all blessing.

2. **Look to the future** – we seek God’s blessing now, but also into the future of the person being blessed.

3. **Give them a vision of the future** – let your grandchildren hear and understand *what you desire* for them spiritually and *how you will support them* in that.

**Hint**: Include scripture passages that are important to you or are relevant to the situation.

**How to deliver a blessing when the grandchild is present**

* + Make eye contact and touch your grandchild – lay your hand on their head or shoulder. If delivering a blessing to a group of your grandchildren all at once, lift your hands up over them.
	+ Speak the words of blessing you have prepared. These can be memorized or read.
	+ End with a hug or words of love.

**Delivering a blessing to an older grandchild who may not be present**

* + Blessings can be written and sent to a grandchild who may not physically be with you. You may choose to couch your blessing in words of love so that they know you would like to see and touch them when delivering your blessing, but that it is not possible this time.

**Be creative! Make this part of your family traditions.**

**Number 6:24-26**

**“The LORD bless you and keep you;
 the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”**

Learning about God’s gift of salvation

Grandparents intent on **building a family of faith** know that each child needs to make a personal commitment to Christ. Here are some key concepts, along with supporting Bible verses that children should understand. Review the ideas, memorize the verses and give your grandchild the information they need to make this commitment.



Creation

The very beginning of the Bible tells us that God created everything. Because God made us, he knows what is best for us. God tells us how to live our lives, in the way he intended, in the Bible.

**Genesis 1:31a (NIrV)**

**God saw everything he had made. And it was very good.**

Other Bible references: Psalm 8:3; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 33:6

SIN



God meant for us to have a wonderful relationship with him, but everyone has chosen to sin. The sin in our lives keeps us away from our holy God.

**Romans 3:23 (NIrV)**

**Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory.**

Other Bible references: James 1:15, Romans 8:6-7, Romans 3:10, Acts 2:38-39.

BLOOD



God the Father loves us very much. He put in place a plan to solve our sin problem by sending His perfect Son Jesus to save us. (Jesus was the only one who could possibly pay the penalty that we owed.) Jesus willingly allowed himself to be killed on a cross. In this way he took the punishment that we deserved for our sin. God is able to forgive our sin because of Jesus' blood sacrifice. This is God’s love gift to us.

**Romans 6:23 (NIrV)**

**When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.**

**Romans 5:8 (NIrV)**

**But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Other Bible references: John 3:16, 1 Peter 2:24, Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:7-8

CLEANSING/PURITY



When we invite Jesus to save us from our sin, the blood of Christ washes us pure and white as snow. Now we are his friend! Our sin doesn’t get in the way anymore.

Once our hearts are cleaned by Jesus, we can have His Holy Spirit living inside us to guide and direct us. He also gives us special gifts that allow us to help others.

**I John 1:7-9 (NIrV)**

**But suppose we walk in the light, just as he is in the light. Then we share life with one another. And the blood of Jesus, his Son, makes us pure from all sin. Suppose we claim we are without sin. Then we are fooling ourselves. The truth is not in us. But God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure.**

Other Bible references: Romans 8:12, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Acts 2:38, John 1:12



If you would like to accept God’s gift of salvation, here is a simple prayer you can use:

“God, I know that I have sinned against you, and I deserve to be punished. But I believe that Jesus Christ took the punishment I deserve; by believing in him I am forgiven. With your help, I place my trust in you for my salvation. Thank you for this free gift of salvation and eternal life! Amen.”

WATER BAPTISM



Baptism is an outward sign of our faith. It is a picture of how our sin nature is buried with Christ and how we are made alive to God. When we are saved we become like-new in Christ Jesus.

**Acts 2:38-39 (NIrV)**

**Peter replied, “All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized**

**in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will**

**receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children. It is also for all who are far away. It is for all whom the Lord our God will choose.”**

Other Bible references: Romans 10:9-13, Romans 6:3-11, Titus 3:5-7,

Growth



Our faith grows, like a ***plant grows from a seed*** , as we pray and read the Bible. As we grow we learn how to fight in God's power against temptation, endure persecution, and add moral excellence. We also develop in humility and love. This is a journey of becoming more like Jesus!!

**I Peter 2:1** **(NIrV)**

**So get rid of every kind of evil. Stop telling lies. Don’t pretend to be something you are not. Stop wanting what others have. Don’t speak against each other. Like babies that were just born, you should long for the pure milk of God’s word. It will help you grow up as believers.**

Other Bible references: 2 Peter 3:18, Colossians 1:28-29, 2 Peter 1:3-11, Philippians 2:5-16



Eternity

When we think of what will happen after we die, we can be happy. We know that we will spend eternity with the God. We are His “forever-friends”!

**Titus 3:7** (NIrV)

**His grace made us right with God. So now we have received the hope of eternal life as God’s children.**

Other Bible references: 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Revelation 21:1-3, Romans 6:23, Revelation 21:18-21



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**Other Resources for Grandparents**

**Christian Grandparenting Network**  [**www.christiangrandparenting.net**](http://www.christiangrandparenting.net)

Vision statement: To promote, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, effectual Christian grand-parenting that is intentional about strengthening the family as designed by God, and leading our grandchildren to authentic, wholehearted faith in Christ.

**The Legacy Journal Project** [**http://www.legacyjournal.org**](http://www.legacyjournal.org)

Order and journal and complete it for your grandchildren.



# The ABCs of Christian Grand Parenting

By [Robert G., Jr. Bruce](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Dntt_athr_dp_sr_1?_encoding=UTF8&sort=relevancerank&search-alias=books&ie=UTF8&field-author=Robert%20G.%2C%20Jr.%20Bruce) and [Debra Fulghum Bruce](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Dntt_athr_dp_sr_2?_encoding=UTF8&sort=relevancerank&search-alias=books&ie=UTF8&field-author=Debra%20Fulghum%20Bruce)

 Concordia Publishing House (February 1999)

[**The Christian Grandma's Idea Book: Hundreds of Ideas, Tips, and Activities to Help You Be a Good Grandma**](http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?event=AFF&p=1133955&item_no=349467)
By Ellen Banks Elwell / Crossway Books & Bibles





**The Gift of Grandparenting: Building a Meaningful Relationship with Your Grandchildren**

By Eric Wiggin / Tyndale House



[**How to Really Love Your Grandchild**](http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?event=AFF&p=1133955&item_no=746668)
By D. Ross Campbell & Rob Suggs / Regal Books

[**www.supernanny.com**](http://www.supernanny.com)**.**

Has a good section on how to avoid being an interfering grandparent.

[**www.cyberparent.com**](http://www.cyberparent.com)**.**

Includes articles on topics such as how to discipline a grandchild without raising your voice.

[**www.seniorjournal.com**](http://www.seniorjournal.com)**.**

Offers articles on numerous grandparenting issues**.**