

Grandparenting



Lead, Listen & Legacy

Hand Out #5, Feb. 18, 2018

10. Take Initiative; Don't expect them to ask.

Please forgive our generation for diminishing the value of grandparents. However, please take _____ to reclaim this lost treasure of a powerful discipling force. Most don't know they need to be disciplined, so don't wait for an invitation. Boldly initiate discipling relationships even if they are already busy in life; just like Jesus did (Matt. 4:18, Mark 2:14).

Start talking _____ (toddlers) and often about Spiritual truths. It can be as easy as reading the Bible and listening for responses. The older the kids/grandkids get, the more difficult it will be to transition conversations; but it's never too late! The sooner you _____ spiritual conversations the better.

11. Ask Good Questions & Actively Listen

Learning to ask _____ questions is a powerful key to initiating and growing any discipling relationship. Nobody used questions more effectively than Jesus Christ. Of course, the more important part is learning to actively listen and _____ the responses. Here are a few helpful questions to keep in your back pocket.

1. What was the highlight and lowlight of your week?
2. If you could do anything with your life, what would it be?
3. What do you like to do or talk about with your friends?
4. What do you think about _____? (ex. current news, school, church, family related)
5. What do you mean by _____?
6. How did you come to that conclusion?
7. I'd like to hear about _____? (anything of significance in their life)

12. Dispensers Turned Discerners

In this information age, youth no longer look to older generations for information, they simply _____ it! The need to rightly _____ the barrage of conflicting and erroneous messages has never been greater, but most youth don't understand this. Grandparents need to shift from teaching information to teaching discernment. Ask questions to help youth recognized their need for wise, Biblical discernment. Once they understand the value of discernment, they won't stop asking for your perspective!

13. Joy of Grandparenting

Children and grandchildren are a great blessing (Gen. 22:17-18) and your _____ will be fullest if they are disciplined well (Prov. 10:1, 3 Jn. 4). Conversely, foolish offspring rob your joy (Prov. 17:21). Conclusion: Celebrate over your progeny and wholeheartedly disciple them with joyful anticipation (1 Cor. 15:58).

14. Leave a Lasting Legacy

As an older man (75), God gave our great, great...grandpa Abraham a new _____ for his life, promising a great nation and great land (Gen. 22:17-18). Abraham was a normal person like us, but he chose to respond to God's Word with _____ faith and a willingness to sacrifice all for the call (Heb. 11:17). There was no apparent fruit until he was 100! At death, there was no sign of a great nation, nor any land. Despite the lack of apparent fruit, Abraham believed, and generations later all God's promises came true and WE are beneficiaries of our great, great grandpa's radical faith (Gal. 3:29). Can you think of a greater legacy? Will your legacy one of responding to God's Word with radical faith?

"...turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." Malachi 4:6

God extends similar, incredibly great promises to us today regardless of our _____ (Luke 14:12-14, Matt 19:21-29, Matt. 28:18-20, 2 Tim. 2:1-7). Are we willing to respond with radical, sacrificial faith to make disciples? First in our own family then in others? Even if we don't see much fruit from our labour in our lifetime, have we "landed" on the truth that God works generationally and our _____ today make a difference in eternity? Nobody can go back and make a new start, but anyone can start now and make a new ending. Let's help each other take God at His Word and spend eternity watching what God does with it all.

"It's not what you leave for them, it's what you leave in them." -Anonymous

15. Keep Growing

In any significant endeavor, we always want to be learning and growing, discipleship is no different. Over this grandparenting course, we've touched on 15 discipleship principles and tools. There is much more that we did not have time to cover. Keep learning! Consider using some of the resources we've mentioned, asking for help, studying discipleship in the Bible, and praying. Take joy in the journey, discipleship is a high calling and a high privilege!

If you have comments or questions, or if you would like to discuss a particular situation, feel free to Email: richard@malachiman.com
Enjoy the great privilege of being used by God to impact eternity!

Recommended resource:

- The Jesus Storybook Bible; by Sally Lloyd-Jones (2007) *-Best children's Bible story book we've seen.*
- A Practical Guide to Culture; John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle (2017) *-Helping the next generation navigate today's word.*
- <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/articles/twenty-ideas-for-grandparents>