

Fathers' Studies: Father/Child Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 39 OF 52

GRANDPARENTS

LESSON AIM: To show the place that the elderly have in the lives of the young.

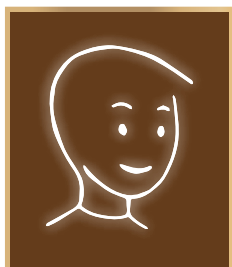
KEY VERSE:

1. **LEVITICUS 19:32** The Israelites were told to _____ the old people.
2. **TITUS 2:2** Older men should set a good example. They should be:

3. **EXODUS 10:2** God told Moses to pass on to his _____ and his _____ the story of His powerful work in Egypt.
4. **2 KINGS 17:41** These people feared God, but they also worshiped false gods. Their _____ and _____ did the same.
5. **2 TIMOTHY 1:5** Timothy's faith was strongly influenced by his mother and his _____.

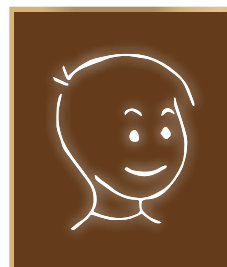
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



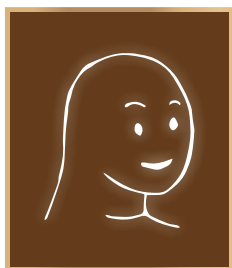
By Yourself

Examine your feelings towards your parents. Do your children gain respect for their grandparents by your attitudes?



With Your Children

Plan ways for your children and their grandparents to do things together. Write letters and use the phone/video chat if they cannot be there in person. Tell your children stories about their grandparents which show good qualities about the grandparents.



With Your Wife

Plan together to have both your parents visit your home and to visit them sometime.

Grandfathers and grandmothers are very important to your family. They could be called “God’s gift to healthy family life”.

Grandparents have lived a long time. They have made many mistakes, but they have also done many things right. From these experiences they have learned much about life and about how God works with people. They can encourage and instruct their grandchildren by telling them stories from their own lives. If grandchildren learn from their grandparents, they do not need to make so many mistakes of their own. In this way grandparents can be a source of strength from the past.

Here are some ways in which you can plan for your parents to be “God’s gift” to your children.

AS COUNSELLORS Grandparents can say, “From our experience we think you should...”

AS HELPERS Grandmother can help her little grandchildren learn to walk. Grandfather can help them with their chores. It builds a good relationship.

AS TEACHERS By using “show and tell,” grandparents can teach skills that they learned when they were young. They can also teach by conversation.

AS STORYTELLERS Children love stories. From grandparents’ stories they can learn how life was in the old days.

AS ENCOURAGERS Young people get discouraged sometimes, especially in their spiritual lives. Grandparents, in their kind and gentle way, can help them not to give up.

AS FRIENDS A friend is someone to talk to and do enjoyable things with. Grandparents can sometimes do this when the parents do not have time.

AS HISTORIANS When children know their roots, or where they have come from, it builds a sense of knowing who they are and where they belong. This strengthens family ties. Grandparents can provide much of this information.

AS HEROES AND EXAMPLES Children learn by observation. Grandparents can teach much by their example without even speaking.

**...BUT TEACH THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN AND TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN.
(DEUTERONOMY 4:9)**

**Grandparents—
a gift from God to
families.**

**Grandparents
are a source of
strength from
the past.**

**Grandparents
can:**

- counsel from experience
- teach by showing
- entertain with stories
- be a friend
- establish family roots
- be examples

WINDOW TO LIFE

Alex King wants his children to learn all they can from their grandfather. Alex grew up in an isolated community. Now he has a good job in town. But he does not want his children to forget the good things that their grandfather can teach them.

Alex’s father and two of his brothers live in the same town as Alex. Quite often Alex will get his father and brothers together at his home. They will all have a good meal together. Then Alex will bring his father into the living room. All the children will sit on the floor with their grandfather in the middle. The parents also sit around and listen.

Grandfather will tell stories of when he was young. He will tell of many things he has learned. He will tell of mistakes he made and how God has taught him the right way. He wants his children and grandchildren to keep from making the same mistakes.

