

First National Christian Grandparents Conference

Milton Keynes, 3rd October, 2026

God's Design for Grandparenting

Session 1- Setting the Vision and Facing the Challenges

1. The Vision and the Reality

The conference begins by establishing a **biblical vision for grandparenting**, while recognising that family life rarely matches the ideal. Grandparents may dream of close relationships with their children and grandchildren, but reality can include:

- Family disagreements.
- Geographical distance.
- Different beliefs.
- Adult children who do not follow Christ.
- Uncertainty about the grandparents' role.
- Difficult or broken family relationships.

The message is therefore both **realistic and hopeful**: we need to see the challenges honestly while holding on to God's purposes for grandparents.

THE BIBLICAL VISION

2. Grandparenting Is More Than Spoiling Grandchildren

The world's view can reduce grandparenting to loving grandchildren, spoiling them and providing childcare. While loving grandchildren is clearly biblical, God's purpose is much greater.

Grandparents can be:

- Spiritual role models.
- Teachers.
- Storytellers.
- Prayer warriors.
- Blessers.
- Encouragers.
- Carriers of faith between generations.

Their influence can extend far beyond their own lifetime.

3. Passing Faith to Future Generations

Deuteronomy 4:9 provides a key principle:

"Teach them to your children and their children after them."

Grandparents have a biblical responsibility and opportunity to help pass faith to succeeding generations. This includes sharing:

- Scripture.
- Personal testimony.
- Stories of God's faithfulness.
- Family history.
- Lessons learned through difficult experiences.
- Examples of how God has answered prayer.

The aim is to help grandchildren understand:

“This is where we have come from, this is what God has done, and this is the faith that has been entrusted to us.”

4. Create a Spiritual Legacy

A financial inheritance may be valuable, but a **spiritual inheritance is potentially far more significant**. Grandparents can establish a legacy of faith that continues through children, grandchildren and future generations.

The question is: **What spiritual legacy am I creating for those who come after me?**

Our faithful lives today may influence people whom we will never meet.

5. Bless Your Grandchildren

Blessing is another important part of the biblical vision. Jesus welcomed and blessed children, while Jacob deliberately blessed his grandchildren, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Grandparents can therefore intentionally:

- Pray God's blessing over grandchildren.
- Speak encouragement and hope.
- Affirm their identity and value.
- Pray for God's purposes in their lives.

Blessing is not merely saying, “Have a nice day.” It is an intentional expression of God's love, favour and purposes.

6. Never Give Up Hope

One of the strongest messages is: **A season is not a life sentence.**

A child or grandchild may be distant from God for many years. That does not mean their story is finished. The example of Manasseh and his grandson Josiah illustrates that God can intervene across generations, even when circumstances appear hopeless.

It is never too late for God to work.

THE REALITY OF CHRISTIAN GRANDPARENTING

7. Many Grandparents Feel Uncertain

Research among Christian grandparents revealed that grandparents are experiencing very different levels of confidence. Some are highly intentional about passing on faith.

Others feel:

- Unsure whether they are allowed to talk about faith.
- Uncertain about family boundaries.
- Afraid of causing offence.
- Lacking confidence.
- Unsure what they should actually do.
- Ill-equipped to explain or teach Christianity.

A particularly important finding was that **many grandparents had never actually had a conversation with their adult children about whether it was acceptable to discuss faith with their grandchildren.**

8. Churches Often Don't Talk Enough About Grandparents

Research into church and denominational resources showed a striking imbalance. There is considerable material about **parents passing faith to children**, but relatively little about **grandparents passing faith to grandchildren**. This may contribute to grandparents feeling:

"Is this actually something I'm supposed to be doing?"

Yet churches generally recognise that grandparents are valuable because they are:

- "Walking history."
- Experienced role models.
- Sources of wisdom.
- Carriers of family stories.
- People with a lifetime of experience to share.

The challenge is to move from recognising that grandparents are valuable to **actively equipping and supporting them.**

9. A Significant Lack of Church Support

Research cited from Scripture Union found that **49% of grandparents said they received no support from their church in passing faith on to their grandchildren**. This represents a significant opportunity. Churches could do much more to:

- Talk about spiritual grandparenting.
- Provide resources.
- Encourage grandparents.
- Create opportunities for prayer.
- Help grandparents understand appropriate boundaries.
- Equip them to share faith naturally.

The conference itself is part of an attempt to address this gap.

SIGNS OF HOPE

10. Grandparents Are Already Passing on Faith

Despite the challenges, research also revealed encouraging evidence of what grandparents are already doing.

Grandparents reported:

- Praying for their grandchildren.
- Taking them to church.
- Discussing faith openly.
- Reading Bible stories.
- Praying with them.
- Sharing faith in other ways.

An especially encouraging point is that **prayer remains possible even when direct conversations about faith are difficult**. Where geographical distance or family boundaries prevent other forms of involvement, grandparents can still pray.

11. The Grandparent–Grandchild Relationship Matters

Research consistently recognises the special value of the grandparent–grandchild relationship.

Grandparents can provide:

- Stability.
- Wisdom.
- Attention.
- Acceptance.
- Time.
- A sense of family history.
- A different perspective from parents.

This makes the grandparent relationship potentially very significant in a child's development and spiritual journey.

NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES

12. Respect the Parents' Role

Grandparents do not have ultimate control over their adult children or grandchildren. Their children have established their own families, and grandparents must respect that. Therefore, spiritual grandparenting requires **wisdom as well as boldness**. Sometimes the right response is to speak; sometimes it is to remain silent. The goal is not to win an argument but to preserve a relationship through which influence can continue.

13. Have the Attitude of Christ

Philippians 2:5 provides a challenging principle:

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ."

This means choosing:

- Humility rather than control.
- Service rather than demands.
- Patience rather than criticism.
- Love rather than frustration.

Sometimes the most powerful thing a grandparent can do is **remain quiet, pray and continue to love**.

14. Watch and Pray

Colossians 4:2 gives a helpful grandparenting principle:

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Grandparents may see things they disagree with but cannot control the situation. Their response can be:

Watch. Pray. Wait. Trust God.

Prayer allows grandparents to remain spiritually involved even when they cannot be practically involved.

15. Geography and Family Differences Are Real Barriers

The research identified several practical obstacles, including:

- Living a long distance from grandchildren.
- Different beliefs between generations.
- Family reluctance to discuss Christianity.
- Lack of confidence.
- Unclear boundaries.
- Fear of causing offence.
- Safeguarding concerns, particularly within church settings.

These challenges should not be minimised. But neither should they be allowed to convince grandparents that they have **nothing to contribute**.

ENJOYING GRANDPARENTING

16. Grandchildren Are Also a Blessing

The biblical vision is not simply about responsibility. Grandchildren are a gift and a source of joy.

Proverbs 17:6 says: “Children’s children are a crown to the aged.”

Grandparents can simply enjoy their grandchildren:

- Play with them.
- Listen to their stories.
- Spend time together.
- Explore things together.
- Show interest in their world.
- Give them a safe and loving relationship.

The relationship is **two-way**: grandparents bless grandchildren, and grandchildren bless grandparents.

THE CHALLENGE TO CHURCHES AND GRANDPARENTS

17. Start the Conversation

One of the most practical challenges from Sarah’s research is simply:

Talk about spiritual grandparenting.

Ask:

- What role should grandparents have?
- What support do grandparents need?
- How can churches equip them?
- How can families discuss boundaries?
- How can grandparents share faith appropriately?
- How can grandparents pray more intentionally?

Often the first step is simply to make the subject visible.

18. We Are Not Alone

Many grandparents assume that their family difficulties are unique. The conference challenges that perception. There are many grandparents experiencing:

- Estrangement.
- Atheism within the family.
- Blended families.
- Difficult relationships.
- Distance.
- Uncertainty.
- Fear of saying the wrong thing.

Recognising that we are **not alone** allows grandparents to encourage and support one another.

OVERALL MESSAGE

The session brings together two realities:

The Vision

God has given grandparents a significant role in passing faith, wisdom, blessing and spiritual heritage from one generation to another.

The Reality

Family life can be complicated, relationships can be painful, boundaries can be unclear, and many grandparents feel unsupported or ill-equipped.

The Hope

God is not limited by those difficulties.

Grandparents can still:

Teach. ^[L]_[SEP] Share their stories. ^[L]_[SEP] Bless. ^[L]_[SEP] Pray. ^[L]_[SEP] Serve. ^[L]_[SEP] Encourage. ^[L]_[SEP] Enjoy. ^[L]_[SEP] Persevere.

And perhaps the central message of the whole session is:

We cannot control the spiritual choices of our children or grandchildren, but we can faithfully play our part and trust God with the outcome.

The ultimate goal is not simply to become “better grandparents”, but to become **faithful spiritual grandparents who leave a legacy of faith that reaches beyond their own generation.**

And whatever the current family situation:

It is never too late for God to work.

Session 2- Revealing God’s Love: Practical Grandparenting

Session Two moves from the vision of spiritual grandparenting to the practical question: How can I actually share my faith with my grandchildren? The central message is reassuring: grandparents do not need to have all the answers, be Bible experts or force Christianity on their grandchildren. The starting point is to build a loving relationship, live out faith naturally and pray boldly.

1. Start with Relationship

The foundation of spiritual grandparenting is being connected.

This means being connected in two directions:

- Connected to God, relying on his strength, wisdom and Holy Spirit.
- Connected to grandchildren, developing a genuine, loving relationship with them.

The relationship with adult children is also crucial. When parents know that grandparents:

- Love their children.
- Respect their parenting role.
- Are not trying to take control.
- Respect family boundaries.

they are often more willing to give grandparents freedom to exercise a positive Christian influence.

Key principle: Relationship comes before religious instruction.

2. Love Deeply

John 3:16 provides the foundation: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...”

Christian grandparents should seek to reflect God’s deep, unconditional love towards their grandchildren.

The aim is for grandchildren to discover that:

- They are loved.
- They are valuable.
- They have a purpose.
- They are children of God.
- They can find peace and security in Christ.

3. Presence Is Powerful

One of the simplest ways to communicate love is through presence and time.

This can mean:

- Being physically present.
- Listening attentively.
- Attending school events, sports and clubs.
- Sharing hobbies.
- Helping with homework.
- Playing together.
- Going to the park.
- Having an ice cream.
- Reading stories.
- Spending one-to-one time with each grandchild.

It is not necessarily about doing something impressive.

Sometimes simply being there communicates: “You matter to me. I have time for you.”

4. Be a Safe Place

Grandparents can provide a unique sense of security. A grandchild can know: “Grandma and Grandad are there for me.” That safe, peaceful relationship can reflect something of God’s own character.

Even when grandchildren live far away, presence can sometimes be maintained through:

- Phone calls.
- Video calls.
- Messages.
- Letters.
- Small gifts.
- Online contact.

The important thing is to find ways of maintaining connection.

5. Look for the “One More Step”

One of the most practical ideas from the session is: Take one more step.

Everyday life provides opportunities to introduce faith naturally.

For example:

- Fishing → talk about Jesus calling fishermen.
- A question about giants → explore David and Goliath.
- Lego → build a Bible scene.
- Science → explore God’s creation.
- Football → notice Christian behaviour or testimony among players.
- Christmas baking → talk about the Nativity.
- An Advent calendar → discuss the names and character of Jesus.
- Making a Christingle → talk about Christ as the light of the world.
- A board game → build a game around a Bible story.

The point is not to manipulate situations into religious lessons.

Instead: **Notice what is already happening and take one natural step towards God.**

6. Use Ordinary Moments to Create “God Moments”

One example involved a four-year-old grandson playing with a stick and string as though fishing.

This naturally led to watching a video about Jesus helping fishermen catch fish, followed by a clip from *The Chosen*. Something ordinary became an opportunity to introduce the child to Jesus.

Another example involved grandchildren asking how tall a giant was. Measuring nine feet nine inches provided a natural opportunity to explore the story of David and Goliath.

These experiences can become memorable “God moments” without feeling forced.

7. Encourage and Bless

Children respond strongly to encouragement.

Grandparents can deliberately speak words that affirm:

- Character.
- Kindness.
- Courage.
- Compassion.
- Honesty.
- Perseverance.
- Qualities that reflect God’s character.

Where appropriate, Scripture can be used to bless them. And where direct Christian conversation is difficult, grandparents can still give genuine words of encouragement.

Practical challenge:

Think of something specific you would like to say to each grandchild to bless, affirm or encourage them.

8. Give Individual Attention

One-to-one time with grandchildren is particularly valuable.

The example of a grandfather taking his grandson to Wembley to watch England play Spain demonstrates that spiritual influence does not require a formal Bible lesson.

The time together created opportunities to:

- Talk about football.
- Discuss school.
- Ask about his interests.
- Share something about Grandad’s own life.
- Talk about Christian grandparenting.

The principle: Shared experiences create opportunities for meaningful conversations.

9. Be a Christian Example

Faith is communicated not only by what grandparents say, but by how they live.

Grandchildren notice:

- How we treat people.
- How we respond when things go wrong.
- How we handle disagreements.
- Whether we pray.
- Whether our faith is genuine.
- Whether we demonstrate kindness and forgiveness.

The aim is to let grandchildren see what following Jesus actually looks like in everyday life.

10. Pray Boldly

The second major theme is: Pray boldly.

James 5:16 says: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Prayer is described as perhaps the greatest gift a grandparent can give.

It has enormous advantages:

- It doesn't depend on geography.
- It doesn't depend on age.
- It doesn't depend on whether grandchildren are interested.
- It doesn't require being in the same room.
- It doesn't require knowing exactly what they are experiencing.

God sees what grandparents cannot see and knows what they do not know.

11. Move Beyond Praying About Circumstances

It is good to pray for everyday needs such as school, friendships, health and safety. But the session encourages grandparents to pray deeper, bigger prayers.

Pray that grandchildren will:

Know God

"Lord, draw them to yourself."

Develop Christlike character

Pray for:

- Kindness.
- Honesty.
- Courage.
- Compassion.
- Perseverance.
- Wisdom.
- Discernment.

Make wise choices

Pray that when they face pressure to follow everyone else, they will have the courage to do what is right.

Be protected

Pray for physical, emotional and spiritual protection.

Have the right influences

Pray for the people who will shape their lives.

Discover God's purposes

Pray that God will use their gifts, guide their decisions and lead them into the future he has prepared for them.

Come to know Jesus

Above everything else, pray that they will know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

12. Pray Scripture

When we don't know what to pray, Scripture provides the words.

For example, Colossians 2:6–7 says:

“Continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him...”

This can become:

“Lord Jesus, help my grandchildren to become rooted in you and grow strong in their faith.”

Philippians 1:9 can similarly become a prayer that a grandchild's love will grow in knowledge, wisdom and discernment.

Key principle:

Don't always invent your prayers—turn Scripture into prayers for your grandchildren.

13. Pray for Yourself as a Grandparent

Grandparents need prayer too.

Pray:

- “Lord, give me wisdom to know when to speak and when to remain silent.”
- “Help me to encourage rather than criticise.”
- “Help me to model my faith rather than merely talk about it.”
- “Help me to love my grandchildren well.”
- “Help me to reflect your love.”

This connects strongly with Session One's teaching about humility, wisdom and respecting boundaries.

14. Start Small

Grandparents do not need to become great prayer warriors overnight.

The encouragement is simply: Start small, but pray boldly.

Possible approaches include:

- Pray for one grandchild each day.
- Pray with another grandparent.
- Pray over photographs.
- Pray during a quiet cup of coffee.
- Establish a regular time with your spouse.
- Use written prayers.
- Work through the grandchildren by name.

Consistency matters more than complexity.

15. Build a Legacy You May Never See

Faithful grandparents may not see the eventual results of their prayers. Nevertheless, their prayers contribute to a spiritual legacy that may continue through generations. The encouragement is to trust God with the outcome.

We cannot control our grandchildren's response to God, but we can:

Love them deeply. Live faithfully. Take one more step. Pray boldly. Trust God.

Session Two in One Sentence

Spiritual grandparenting begins with a deep relationship of love, looks for ordinary opportunities to take "one more step" towards faith, demonstrates Christianity through everyday life, and brings grandchildren boldly before God in prayer.

The Practical Framework

Principle	What it means
Connect	Build genuine relationships with grandchildren and their parents
Love deeply	Reflect God's unconditional love
Be present	Give time, attention and security
Take one more step	Turn ordinary moments into opportunities to talk about God
Encourage	Bless grandchildren with words of affirmation
Live faithfully	Let them see Christianity in everyday life
Pray boldly	Pray deeply for character, faith, protection and God's purposes
Pray Scripture	Use God's Word to shape your prayers
Start small	Develop a regular, sustainable prayer habit

Principle	What it means
Trust God	Leave the outcome in God's hands

The key progression from Sessions One and Two

Vision → Relationship → Love → Example → Opportunity → Prayer → Legacy

This gives a very practical expression to the central message of the conference: **grandparents cannot control the spiritual journey of their grandchildren, but they can faithfully influence, bless and pray for them while trusting God to do what only God can do.**

Session 3 — Reasons to Hope: Revealing Jesus Through Relationship

Session 3 builds on Sessions 1 and 2 by addressing one of the biggest concerns grandparents have: “Am I really relevant, and can I make a difference in my grandchildren’s faith?”

The answer throughout this session is a strong yes — but you do not have to do it all yourself.

1. Grandparents are more relevant than they realise

A recurring fear among grandparents is that they are:

- Out of touch with modern culture.
- Unfamiliar with the things young people watch or enjoy.
- Too old to influence teenagers.
- Unsure how to talk about faith.

The session challenges this strongly. The relationship between grandparent and grandchild is itself a powerful influence. Grandparents don’t need to know everything about modern culture. Their value comes from:

- Love and acceptance.
- Life experience and wisdom.
- Their personal story of faith.
- Prayer.
- Being a consistent presence.
- Showing what it means to trust God.

2. A powerful example: a faithful grandfather

The speaker shared memories of her grandfather, whose own childhood had been extremely difficult. He may have felt that he had little to offer, but he:

- Kept his Bible nearby.
- Read it regularly.
- Talked about God’s faithfulness.
- Told his grandchildren that God had never let him down.
- Prayed for them.
- Shared something of his relationship with God through ordinary conversation.

Years after his death, those memories remained powerful. His influence was not based on being impressive or knowledgeable. It was based on faithfully showing what God meant to him.

SONG — God's Faithfulness

The speaker specifically refers to a song about God's faithfulness, saying that it particularly reminded her of her grandfather and the way he repeatedly spoke about God's faithfulness.

3. Never underestimate the small things

Grandparents may think that putting a Bible on the table, having a cross displayed, praying regularly, or talking naturally about God is insignificant. It isn't.

One story described grandparents whose grandchildren had little interest in faith when they were young. But the grandparents:

- Displayed Bible verses.
- Kept a Bible visible.
- Had a cross in their home.
- Prayed for their grandchildren.

When the grandchildren became teenagers, they began asking: "Could you pray for this?"

They also began asking questions about faith and difficult issues. Seeds planted years earlier may only become visible much later.

4. Influence continues through the teenage years

The session particularly challenges the assumption that grandparents lose influence once grandchildren become teenagers. Grandparents can remain important throughout childhood and adolescence. The key is to adapt to the child's stage of life rather than assuming that the same approach will work at every age.

The speaker emphasises that there are resources to help grandparents think about:

- Under-fives.
- Primary-aged children.
- Teenagers.
- Different ways of talking about faith at different stages.

5. Reasons to hope — it is not all down to you

This is one of the most important messages of Session 3. Grandparents can sometimes feel an enormous burden:

"If I don't teach them about Jesus, nobody else will."

The speaker uses the experience of her own mother to illustrate this. One set of grandchildren lived nearby and had faith woven naturally into everyday life. Another set lived much further away, in a family where faith was more difficult and sometimes met with hostility. Her mother felt she wasn't doing enough. But the speaker says that the truth is:

It isn't all down to the grandparent.

6. The watercolour painting — “God is painting on the canvas”

The central illustration of the session is a watercolour painting of poppies.

At first, the picture looked like random splashes of colour. Gradually, the splashes came together to create a beautiful, complete picture. The speaker felt God was showing her:

“Discipleship is like that.”

We may only see the tiny contribution we are making, but God sees the whole picture.

A grandparent might contribute:

- A prayer.
- A Bible story.
- A conversation.
- A visit to church.
- An example of forgiveness.
- A kind word.
- A Christian song.
- A memory of God’s faithfulness.

Each may seem insignificant on its own. But these are splashes of colour on the canvas.

7. Jesus modelled this approach

The speaker connects this with Jesus’ relationship with his disciples.

Jesus said: “Follow me.”

He then spent approximately three years doing ordinary life with them.

They watched Him:

- Pray.
- Serve.
- Show compassion.
- Deal with difficult situations.
- Become tired.
- Respond to people.
- Withdraw to spend time with His Father.
- Live out His relationship with God.

Jesus didn’t simply lecture them about faith. They learned by being with Him.

This provides an important model for grandparents: **faith is often caught as much as it is taught.**

8. Passion is caught through relationship

The session asks participants to think about something they are passionate about and who helped them develop that passion.

Usually, passion grows because:

1. We see someone else doing something.
2. Their enthusiasm attracts us.
3. They talk to us about it.
4. They patiently show us how.
5. We experience it alongside them.
6. Gradually, it becomes our own.

The same can happen with faith.

Grandchildren need to see Christianity lived, not simply hear Christianity explained.

9. Don't try to paint the whole picture yourself

This is perhaps the most liberating message for grandparents.

You cannot control:

- What your grandchildren believe.
- What their parents believe.
- What happens at school.
- What they see online.
- Who influences them.
- What choices they eventually make.

But you can add your own faithful splashes of colour.

God is also working through:

- Parents.
- Teachers.
- Friends.
- Churches.
- Youth leaders.
- Books.
- Media.
- Unexpected conversations.
- Experiences and circumstances.

And, most importantly: **God Himself is at work.**

10. Catherine's story — God may be working invisibly

The session tells the story of Catherine, who walked away from Christianity at about 16 and remained distant from faith for around 30 years. Her family could have concluded that nothing had happened. Then, after 30 years, Catherine announced that she had started attending church, had become a Christian and wanted to be baptised. Looking back, they discovered that God had been working throughout those years.

There had been:

- A childhood Bible she couldn't quite let go of.
- Christian radio she unexpectedly encountered.
- Questions about life and faith that wouldn't disappear.
- Things God had quietly placed on her heart.

The family couldn't see the painting — but God had never stopped painting.

11. The burden is lifted: trust God

The conclusion is particularly encouraging for grandparents who are worried about grandchildren who appear far from faith. You cannot paint the entire canvas. You may only be able to put down a few small marks. That is enough.

God loves your grandchildren even more than you do, and He is at work even when you cannot see what He is doing.

Grandparenting for Faith Course

The session also introduced the Grandparenting for Faith course.

It is designed for:

- Grandparents.
- Grandparent figures.
- Aunts and uncles.
- Godparents.
- Family friends.
- Anyone who has a significant relationship with a child or young person.

The course is designed to provide practical tools, skills and approaches for sharing faith in different family situations. It consists of six sessions, is video-based, and can be used individually or in a small-group/church setting.

Overall message of Session 3

You are relevant. You are influential. You do not have to do it all.

Your role is not to control the spiritual outcome. Your role is to love deeply, live faithfully, pray consistently and add your splashes of colour to the canvas.

And while you are doing that, God is painting too.

The three-session progression so far

Session 1 — SET THE VISION

Understand God's purpose for grandparenting: Teach • Share • Bless • Pray • Serve • Enjoy • Persevere

Session 2 — REVEAL GOD'S LOVE

Build relationships and create opportunities for faith: Connect • Love deeply • Be present • Take one more step • Encourage • Live faithfully • Pray boldly

Session 3 — GIVE REASONS TO HOPE

Release the burden of having to do everything: Plant seeds • Live the faith • Pray • Trust God • Wait • Hope

Key thought to take away

You may not see the whole picture, but you can trust the Artist. God is already painting on your grandchildren's canvas — and your prayers, your example, your words, your love and your presence may be some of the very colours He chooses to use.

Session 4 — Living Faithfully: Sharing Your Life Story and Leaving a Legacy

Session 4 develops the theme from the earlier sessions: loving deeply, praying boldly and living faithfully. Its central message is that grandparents can reveal God's love not only through what they say, but through the life they live, the stories they tell, the prayers they pray and the legacy they leave.

1. Let your life story reveal God's faithfulness

Deuteronomy calls God's people to love the Lord with all their heart, soul and strength and to talk about Him in everyday life.

For grandparents, this can mean sharing their own experience of God:

- How God has helped them through difficult circumstances.
- Times when God has answered prayer.
- Times when God has provided or blessed them.
- How God has brought peace, guidance or hope.
- How their faith has shaped their lives.

These don't need to be long testimonies or formal conversations.

The speaker describes them as "bite-sized glimpses of God" — short, natural stories that arise from ordinary life.

2. Share the experience, not simply the story

When telling a story from our past, the emphasis should not be:

"Look what happened to me."

but:

"This is what God did for me."

That distinction is important because it helps grandchildren connect the story with what God might do in their own lives.

The most powerful stories may be those where we have experienced:

- Failure and forgiveness.
- Difficult decisions.
- Financial challenges.
- Relationships.
- Illness.
- Bereavement.
- Peer pressure.

- Uncertainty.
- God's guidance.

Our experiences can become opportunities to show how God has been faithful.

3. Prepare your “God moments”

A particularly practical suggestion is to create a timeline of your life. Think back over the years and identify:

“Where have I particularly seen God at work?”

Write down those significant moments. Then consider:

- What happened?
- What did God do?
- What did I learn?
- How could I explain it simply?
- How might I share it with a grandchild of a particular age?
- Could this story help them with something they are facing?

This means that when an opportunity arises, we don't have to search for the right words.

We already have our stories ready to share naturally.

4. A powerful example of prayer and guidance

The speaker describes an occasion when their eldest grandson was facing a difficult decision.

Rather than trying to solve the problem for him, they:

1. Listened to his dilemma.
2. Recognised that it was too late at night to make the decision.
3. Prayed with him.
4. Asked God to make the right course clear.
5. Trusted God with the outcome.

The following morning the grandson woke with a strong sense of peace and said that he knew what he needed to do. The experience became something he could remember and draw upon later. Prayer became something he had personally experienced, rather than simply something his grandparents talked about.

5. What if you cannot talk openly about faith?

This is an important section because not every grandparent has freedom to discuss Christianity with their grandchildren.

Family circumstances may mean that grandparents:

- Have limited contact.
- Are asked not to discuss faith.
- Have grandchildren who live far away.
- Have children who are hostile to Christianity.
- Are worried about overstepping parental boundaries.

The answer is not discouragement. Living faithfully still speaks.

Grandchildren can observe:

- That faith matters to us.
- That we pray.
- That we read the Bible.
- That church is important.
- How we treat other people.
- Whether we forgive.
- Whether we show unconditional love.
- Whether we have peace when life is difficult.
- Whether our faith gives us hope and purpose.

Sometimes our life is the testimony.

6. Grandchildren are watching who we are

The session emphasises that grandchildren will notice our character.

They may see whether we:

- Love unconditionally.
- Forgive.
- Act wisely.
- Show genuine joy.
- Have peace during difficulties.
- Possess hope.
- Know what we believe.
- Remain steady when culture and circumstances change.
- Treat other people with kindness and respect.

We may not be giving them a Bible lesson, but they are nevertheless learning something about God from watching us.

7. Respecting parents remains essential

The session reinforces an important principle from earlier sessions: Respect the role and wishes of the parents.

Even when grandparents desperately want their grandchildren to know Jesus, they should not damage the relationship by forcing conversations or deliberately undermining parents.

Instead:

- Pray.
- Wait.
- Live faithfully.
- Look for opportunities.
- Keep the relationship alive.
- Trust God to open doors.

And sometimes those doors open unexpectedly.

8. Prepare for the door to open

A particularly encouraging message is: A door that is closed today may not remain closed forever.

Grandparents can prepare now for a future opportunity.

If direct conversations aren't possible, they can:

- Write birthday cards.
- Prepare Christmas messages.
- Write personal letters.
- Keep encouraging words.
- Record memories.
- Write down their faith story.
- Save meaningful Scripture.
- Keep special messages for grandchildren.

These can be given when circumstances change.

9. Leave something behind

One of the most moving ideas is that a grandparent's faith testimony can sometimes reach grandchildren after the grandparent has died.

Letters, cards, journals, photographs, written prayers or a personal account of faith can become a spiritual legacy. Even if a grandparent never sees the result, their words may one day cause a grandchild to look back and think:

"This is what mattered to my grandparent. This is what they believed. This is what God meant to them."

The legacy may continue long after the grandparent has gone.

10. Don't carry the whole burden

Session 3 introduced the picture of God painting on the canvas.

Session 4 develops that idea.

We are only responsible for our part of the picture.

We put down our small "dashes" through:

- Prayer.
- Example.
- Conversations.
- Love.
- Scripture.
- Encouragement.
- Faithfulness.

But God is the one who sees and completes the whole picture.

The speaker stresses:

Prayer is powerful. Scripture is powerful. But, above all, God is powerful. Therefore, grandparents can release the burden of feeling that everything depends on them.

11. Stay connected to God

The foundation of effective Christian grandparenting is not learning clever techniques. It is staying connected to God.

The closer we grow to Him:

- The deeper our faith becomes.
- The more naturally His love flows through us.
- The better we understand when to speak and when to remain silent.
- The more faithfully we model Christ.
- The more effectively we can love our grandchildren.

So the progression remains:

Stay connected to God → love deeply → pray boldly → live faithfully → reveal God's love.

SONG — "I'm Your Grandchild"

The session closes with a gentle song written from the perspective of a grandchild to a grandparent.

Its message is that the grandparent:

- Held the child's hand.
- Answered when they called.
- Taught them to praise God.
- Shared God's Word.
- Lived their faith.
- Prayed for them.
- Showed them how to walk God's way.
- Loved the Lord and loved them.

The central refrain is essentially: **"I see Him because of you."**

The song provides a beautiful picture of the kind of spiritual legacy the conference is encouraging grandparents to leave.

The key message of Session 4

You don't have to force faith into your grandchildren's lives. Let them see the difference God makes in yours.

Tell them your stories when you can.

Live faithfully when you cannot.

Pray continually.

Prepare for opportunities.

Respect their parents.

Leave a legacy.

And above all, trust God with the canvas.

Four-session progression

Session	Main emphasis
1. Set the Vision	Understand God's purpose for grandparenting
2. Reveal God's Love	Love deeply • Pray boldly • Live faithfully
3. Reasons to Hope	You don't have to do it all — God is painting the canvas
4. Living Faithfully	Share your God-stories, live your faith and leave a legacy

One sentence to remember

Our responsibility is to faithfully add our part to the picture; God's responsibility is to paint the whole picture.

Session 5 — Faith, Hope and Love: Trusting God With the Next Generations

Session 5 brings the conference to a conclusion by returning to **1 Corinthians 13:13**:

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

The three words become the framework for the final challenge to grandparents.

1. LOVE — Let God's love flow through you

Grandparents often have enormous love for their grandchildren — sometimes so much that it hurts, particularly when family circumstances are difficult. But the speaker challenges grandparents to think beyond loving their grandchildren:

We are also called to love our adult children well.

That can be easy when relationships are good, but incredibly difficult when there has been:

- Conflict.
- Estrangement.
- Hurt.
- Abuse.
- Difficult family circumstances.

The important point is that our capacity to love does not depend entirely on how much love we feel we have left.

“It's not so much about what's in you; it's all about who's flowing through you.”

Because **God is love**, we can ask Him to enable us to love when we feel exhausted, hurt or unable to love in our own strength.

Practical challenge

Allow God's love to flow through you to both your children and grandchildren — especially when relationships are difficult.

2. HOPE — See the situation from God's perspective

The second word is **hope**.

The speaker hopes that everyone leaves the conference with **more hope than when they arrived**. But this isn't merely optimistic thinking.

Christian hope comes from beginning to see circumstances **from God's perspective**.

Elisha's servant — 2 Kings 6:17

Elisha and his servant were surrounded by an enemy army.

The servant saw only danger and asked: "What shall we do?"

Elisha prayed: "**Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.**"

The servant's circumstances hadn't immediately changed, but his **perspective changed**. He suddenly saw that God's heavenly army was present.

Application to grandparenting

We may look at:

- A grandchild who has rejected faith.
- An adult child who is distant from God.
- A broken family relationship.
- A situation where we cannot speak about Christianity.
- Years apparently passing without change.

We see the problem.

God sees the whole picture.

That gives us hope.

3. FAITH — Believe God is working even when you cannot see it

The third word is **faith**.

Faith enables hope to become more than wishful thinking.

Hebrews 11:1 says:

"Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

We may not know:

- **How** God will work.
- **When** He will work.
- **What** the eventual outcome will be.

But we can trust **who God is**.

The speaker gives the example of continuing to pray persistently for someone going through a difficult season. There is a determination to say, in effect:

“I will not let go. I will continue bringing this person before God.”

This is the bold prayer encouraged throughout the conference.

4. The watering-can illustration — “God gives the growth”

The final illustration is a watering can.

The speaker connects it with **1 Corinthians 3:6**:

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”

This provides an excellent picture of Christian grandparenting.

Different people contribute different things:

- Parents may plant.
- Churches may plant and water.
- Teachers may influence.
- Friends may influence.
- Grandparents may water.
- A grandparent’s contribution may sometimes seem very small.

But: **“God gives the growth.”**

We don’t need to know exactly how everything will develop.

Our responsibility is simply to **keep watering**.

5. God’s got this

This becomes one of the strongest conclusions of the conference:

God has your children. God has your grandchildren. God sees the bigger picture.

We don’t have all the details. We cannot predict how everything will work out. But we can trust God. This connects directly with Session 3’s picture of **God painting the canvas**.

Our contribution may be only a few small strokes, but God sees the entire picture.

The final challenge

Keep watering the faith. Keep looking at things through God’s eyes. Keep allowing God’s love to flow through you.

SONG — “The Blessing”

The conference closes with “**The Blessing**”, based on **Numbers 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.”

The song became particularly well known during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The conference uses it as a **prayer of blessing over families and future generations**.

The participants are encouraged to pray the blessing over:

- Their children.
- Their grandchildren.
- Their great-grandchildren.
- Future generations.
- The families represented at the conference.

The emphasis is on leaving a **spiritual legacy that reaches beyond our own lifetime**.

Generational blessing

The prayer draws attention to the words: “**a thousand generations**”

The challenge is to think beyond the grandchildren we personally know.

We are making a spiritual mark in our family history:

“My family belongs to the Lord. My legacy is in His hands.”

The Five-Session Journey

The five sessions now form a very clear progression:

Session 1 — SET THE VISION

God's design for grandparenting

Grandparents have a God-given opportunity to influence future generations.

Teach • Share • Bless • Pray • Serve • Enjoy • Persevere

Session 2 — REVEAL GOD'S LOVE

Practical spiritual grandparenting

Love deeply • Pray boldly • Live faithfully

Session 3 — GIVE REASONS TO HOPE

You don't have to do it all

God is painting the canvas. Our small contributions matter, but the whole picture belongs to God.

Session 4 — LIVE FAITHFULLY

Share your God-stories and leave a legacy

Tell your stories when you can. Live your faith when you cannot speak. Prepare for future opportunities.

Session 5 — TRUST GOD

Faith • Hope • Love

Love your children and grandchildren.
Hope because God sees what we cannot see.
Have faith that God is working even when we cannot see how.

Overall message of the conference

The conference began by asking:

“What does God want grandparenting to look like?”

It ends with a simple answer:

Love deeply. Pray boldly. Live faithfully. Keep watering. Trust God with the growth.

We cannot control the spiritual choices of our children or grandchildren.

We cannot paint the whole canvas.

We cannot see the future.

But we **can** pray.

We **can** love.

We **can** model Christ.

We **can** share our stories.

We **can** encourage.

We **can** leave a legacy.

And we **can** trust the God who loves our grandchildren even more than we do.

The three words to take home

FAITH — God is working even when I cannot see it.

HOPE — God sees the bigger picture.

LOVE — God’s love can flow through me, even when my own strength is not enough.

And the greatest of these is love.