

Christian Grandparenting UK

Starting a Christian Grandparenting Group

Thank you for your interest in starting a Christian Grandparenting Group either in your church or local community.

As Grandparents we have a unique opportunity to encourage, support, pray for, and share our faith with the younger generations. In today's rapidly changing culture, Christian grandparents like us can play a significant role in passing on faith and strengthening family life.

This guide is designed to help you establish a purposeful, Christ-centred Christian Grandparenting Group, even if it is just meeting with a fellow grandparents to pray for your grandchildren.

Our prayer is that many across the UK will develop Christian grandparenting groups that encourage grandparents to leave a lasting spiritual legacy.

The Purpose of a Christian Grandparenting Group

The purpose of a Christian Grandparenting Group is:

- To encourage grandparents to share their Christian faith with their grandchildren
- To help grandparents pray intentionally for younger generations
- To equip grandparents to pass on faith naturally and wisely
- To encourage intergenerational discipleship
- To strengthen the spiritual life of the church and community

Five Simple Steps to Starting a Grandparenting Group

STEP 1: Pray, Clarify the Vision and Seek Support

Begin with prayer. Ask God to guide the way forward, bring together the right people and open opportunities to encourage grandparents and bless younger generations.

Take time to clarify the purpose of the group. Will it be based in a church, or will it be a group of Christian grandparents meeting within the local community? If the group is connected to a church, talk with church leaders about your vision and seek their support. If it is an independent community group, share the vision with trusted Christian friends and seek their encouragement and prayer.

STEP 2: Gather a Small Core Team

Start simply. Many groups begin with just 2–6 grandparents who share a passion to pray for their grandchildren and help pass on faith to the next generation.

This core group can help pray for the ministry, plan meetings, invite others, share ideas and take on practical responsibilities. You do not need expert speakers or a large team to get started.

STEP 3: Invite Other Grandparents

Begin by inviting grandparents you know personally. If the group is church-based, you may wish to introduce the vision through church notices, personal invitations, newsletters, testimonies, a launch event or a special Sunday focus. If the group is community-based, encourage members to invite Christian friends, neighbours and grandparents from other local churches.

Helpful Bible passages include Psalm 78:1–7, Psalm 145:4, Deuteronomy 4:9, 2 Timothy 1:5 and Proverbs 17:6. Encourage grandparents to recognise their continuing spiritual influence and opportunity.

STEP 4: Establish a Regular Meeting Pattern

Decide how often you wish to meet. Most groups work well meeting approximately once per school term, and meetings normally last around two hours.

A typical meeting might include refreshments, a devotional or Bible reflection, discussion around a grandparenting theme, prayer together, and the sharing of encouragement, experiences and practical ideas. The format can be adapted to suit the size and style of your group.

STEP 5: Grow Slowly and Sustainably

As the group develops, encourage shared leadership and responsibilities. If the group is church-based, maintain good communication with church leaders. Continue to develop prayer support, consider occasional larger events, build relationships with other Christian grandparents and keep the focus on supporting one another and helping younger generations discover God's love.

Remember that success is not measured by numbers but by faithfulness, encouragement and the impact grandparents can have in the lives of their families.

Suggested Meeting Themes

Here are a few possible topics for your meetings:

- Praying for grandchildren
- Building strong family relationships
- Grandparenting teenagers
- Supporting parents wisely
- Grandparenting at a distance
- Faith conversations naturally
- Helping grandchildren engage with church
- Christian values in modern culture
- Grandparenting through difficult family situations
- Leaving a spiritual legacy
- Encouraging resilience and hope in children
- Sharing Bible stories naturally

- Blessing grandchildren through prayer

Core Values for Grandparenting Groups

- Christ centred: Jesus Christ remains central.
- Prayerful: Prayer is foundational.
- Biblical: Meetings should include Scripture and spiritual encouragement.
- Encouraging: Groups should offer hope, support, and wisdom.
- Intentional: Grandparents are encouraged to pass on faith thoughtfully, respectfully and naturally.
- Intergenerational: The focus is not only grandparents themselves but grandchildren, their grandchildren's parents, and future generations.

Guidelines for Leaders

Leaders should aim to create meetings that are warm, where grandparents feel safe to share honestly without gatherings becoming dominated by negativity or complaints. Personal family situations discussed within the group should always be treated confidentially and with sensitivity. Grandparents come from many different family circumstances, so encouragement should be gentle, realistic, and free from pressure or guilt. Some may be closely involved in the daily lives of their grandchildren, while others may see them only occasionally or live at a distance, or be going through a period of estrangement, but all should feel equally welcomed, valued, and supported. Above all, groups should remain rooted in God's grace, focusing on encouragement, prayer, faithfulness, and trust in God's ongoing work within families and across generations.

Ideas for Future Development

No rush but as the ministry grows, you may wish to consider:

- Prayer breakfasts
- Grandparenting on line events
- Church family events
- Grandparents' Sunday
- Prayer resources for grandchildren
- Recommended book lists
- Partnership with children's and youth ministry
- Intergenerational activities
- Supporting grandparents facing difficult family situations

Frequently Asked Questions

Do grandparents need to have grandchildren nearby?

No. Many grandparents pray for and support grandchildren from a distance.

Can those who are not grandparents attend?

Yes. While the primary focus of the group is to encourage and support Christian grandparents, others who fulfil a significant grandparenting or supportive family role are also welcome. This may include step-grandparents, foster grandparents, older mentors, or others with a heart for praying for and encouraging younger generations.

Occasionally, non-Christian grandparents may also wish to attend. They should be warmly welcomed and included with sensitivity and kindness. However, the group should remain clearly rooted in Christian faith, prayer, biblical encouragement, and the vision of helping pass faith on to future generations.

Does the group need an experienced leader?

No. Many groups begin simply with ordinary grandparents willing to pray and encourage one another.

Is this only for older grandparents?

No. Christian grandparents of all ages can benefit.

Affiliation with Christian Grandparenting UK

Christian Grandparenting UK exists to encourage, equip, and connect grandparents just like you who long to see younger generations come to know and follow Jesus Christ.

We warmly invite local church grandparenting groups to affiliate with Christian Grandparenting UK without charge and become part of a growing network of prayerful, Christ centred ministries across the nation.

Affiliation is a shared commitment to supporting grandparents spiritually, encouraging prayer for younger generations, and helping pass on faith with wisdom, grace, and love.

We hope, in time, to develop a UK-wide network of recognised groups that can encourage one another, share ideas and resources, and inspire more churches to establish Christian grandparenting ministries.

Recognised groups should seek to reflect the following values and priorities:

1. Christ Centred

Groups should clearly affirm the Christian faith and seek to honour Jesus Christ through their teaching, prayer, relationships, and ministry. The Christian Grandparenting UK has adopted the Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith.

2. Supported by Christian Community

Groups may be established through a local church or by Christian grandparents gathering independently within their local community. In either case, groups should seek the support, encouragement and prayer of other Christians and operate in a way that reflects biblical values and Christian unity.

3. Prayer Focused

Prayer should be a central and intentional part of gatherings, including prayer for grandchildren & grandparents, parents and family life, schools and young people, children's and youth ministry and opportunities to share faith naturally and lovingly

Above all, groups should encourage grandparents to become faithful prayer warriors for the next generation.

4. Rooted in Scripture and Christian Encouragement

Meetings should include biblical reflection, devotional input, discussion, or teaching related to faith, family life, and Christian grandparenting.

5. Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Faith Sharing

Groups should help grandparents grow spiritually, pray intentionally, encourage younger generations wisely and lovingly, pass on faith naturally, support Christian family life with grace and understanding

6. Meeting Regularly

Groups should gather consistently in a sustainable pattern during the year that enables relationships and encouragement to grow.

7. Providing a Safe, Caring, and Respectful Environment

Groups should foster confidentiality, grace filled discussion, supportive friendships, respectful listening, and sensitivity around family circumstances and challenges. Grandparents should feel encouraged rather than judged.

8. Maintaining a Clear Spiritual Purpose

Friendship, refreshments, and social connection are important and valuable parts of group life. However, affiliated groups should be more than simply social gatherings or coffee mornings.

The primary purpose should remain as prayer, spiritual encouragement, biblical support and helping grandparents play a positive role in passing faith to future generations.

What are the Benefits of Affiliating with Christian Grandparenting UK?

- become part of a growing national movement that offers support and training
- promote your own Group on the website
- connect with other Christian grandparents
- receive encouragement and future resources
- inspire churches to value grandparenting ministry
- strengthen the spiritual impact of grandparents within family and church life

Even small groups meeting faithfully can make a lasting difference for generations to come.

We 'd love to hear from you

If you feel the Lord may be prompting you to explore starting a Christian Grandparenting Group in your church or community, we would love to hear from you. Whether you are simply beginning to think and pray about the possibility, or have already started a group and would like to affiliate with Christian Grandparenting UK, please do get in touch.

We would be delighted to chat about your ideas for a Group and support you from our own experience. Our hope is to encourage grandparents across the UK who have a heart to pray for and pass on faith to younger generations.

Please contact Martyn & Angela Thompson at: christiangrandparents@btinternet.com