

## GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

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***Extreme Grandparenting*** by Ted Kimmel and Darcy Kimmel  
Offers timeless and tested principles for grandparenting  
in the twenty-first century.

***It Starts at Home*** by Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroope  
Gives grandparents practical suggestions  
for influencing the faith of their grandchildren.

***Power of a Praying Grandparent*** by Stormie Omartian  
Offers powerful suggestions for prayer covering your grandchildren,  
yourself and your grandchildren's parents.

## GOING FURTHER CHERRY STREET BAPTIST SUPPORT

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### **Sunday School**

The Sunday school ministry of CSBC offers direction to individuals in every season of life by helping them move toward maturity through the systematic study of God's Word. Sunday school allows for a small group setting where questions can be asked, relationships can be built, and encouragement can take place. Please contact the CSBC office at 417.889.1999 for questions regarding placement in one of our Sunday school classes.

### **Faith Path**

Grandparents should encourage their children to use the free age-appropriate Faith Path kits which are available for parents to guide a child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Stop by the *Faith@Home Center* or access [www.mycsbc.com/faith-at-home](http://www.mycsbc.com/faith-at-home) to receive the appropriate kit for your child.



## INFLUENCING GRANDCHILDREN

# Faith@Home



# INFLUENCING GRANDCHILDREN

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**You are not called grandparent because  
you have been retired from the parenting process.  
You are called grand because you have been promoted!  
Those blessed with the gift of grandchildren are called  
to inspire and nurture the faith of the next generation  
as life's greatest privilege and priority.**

Grandparents in the 21st century face a mix of new opportunities and challenges. Extended life expectancy has dramatically changed the length and look of the empty nest years. Many grandparents now have greater opportunities for work and travel. Tight-knit family relationships have increasingly given way to family members spread over wide geographic distances. Some grandparents face the challenge of getting time with grandchildren because of divorce. A growing number of grandparents have watched circumstances drive them to take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren.

In this context, it's become less clear what role grandparents can best play. They are not just a good source for gifts and free babysitting.

**What's the most important thing a grandparent can do?**

## STEP ONE

### Be There for Them

A grandparent's priority is to "be there" one way or another. For the active grandparents whom the *Wall Street Journal* has described as having a full slate of work and travel, it means stopping to remember how much you depended on grandparents when you were younger - and knowing how critical your presence is. For others, "being there" means taking on the challenge posed by miles or strained relationships that might be keeping you from your grandchildren. Technology solutions such as video chatting have helped some grandparents close the gap.

Being there gives you the opportunity to show the kind of unconditional love that even parents can struggle to maintain on a consistent basis. It gives you a chance to tell the family story - the people, places, and plot twists that have made your family distinct. Being there also allows you to teach things that parents may not have found time for - how to skip a rock, how to build and fly a kite, how to make fudge, and other priceless lessons.

## STEP TWO

### Nurture Their Faith

Most importantly, being there and making memories with your grandchildren gives you the opportunity to impress your faith on them. Psalm 78:5-7 presents a concept of extended spiritual heritage.

*For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our fathers,  
that they should make them known to their children:  
That the generation to come might know them,  
even the children which should be born;  
who should arise and declare them to their children:  
That they might set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:*

Nothing you can give as a grandparent is more valuable than your spiritual legacy. Your gifts, time, games, food, and other contributions find their primary value when they are offered in the context of a spiritual heritage. Be very intentional about creating opportunities to nurture faith during the years your grandchildren are receptive to your influence.