

What does the Bible say about grandparents?

The Bible speaks about grandparents not only generally, but also provides specific examples of grandparents and their interactions with their grandchildren.

[Proverbs 17:6](#) says, "*Grandchildren are the crown of the aged*" and [Psalm 127:3](#) refers to "the fruit of the womb" as "a reward." So obviously, being a grandparent is meant to be a blessing. It is an honor to have raised a child who brings forth another generation of children and to have lived long enough to witness it.

With this blessing, however, come responsibilities. [Proverbs 13:22](#) claims, "*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.*" While this verse applies to material wealth, it is actually more important to leave a heritage of faith. In [Exodus 10:2](#), God commands the Israelites to share "in the hearing of your son and of your grandson ... what signs I have done ... that you may know that I am the LORD." Grandparents have a responsibility to share with their grandchildren their knowledge of God and bear witness to what He has done in their own lives.

Even in the New Testament we see Paul crediting Timothy's grandmother for playing a vital role in Timothy's faith. He says, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well" ([2 Timothy 1:5](#)). Timothy's grandmother cultivated a faith first in her own daughter, but then continued by cultivating that faith in her grandson as well.

We also see grandparents in the Bible showering their grandchildren with love. When Laban's grandchildren were moving away from where he lived, he asked, "What can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have

borne?" ([Genesis 31:43](#)). *"Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them"* ([Genesis 31:55](#)). Laban showed his affection not just for his daughters, but for his grandchildren as well.

There is another example of affection in the story of Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. Naomi's son (Ruth's husband) died and Ruth married another relative and gave birth to a son. "Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse" ([Ruth 4:16](#)). Even though this baby was not genetically her grandson, Naomi adopted him as such and became his caregiver. Grandparenting can come in many forms and should not be limited to those who are related biologically. In this day and age of broken families and blended families, there are numerous opportunities for older generations to develop affectionate, care-giving relationships with children who need that.

And yet another example telling us not to be complacent found in Psalm 92:14. *They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green.*

It's important for grandparents not to grow complacent, but instead, flourish under the mighty hand of God. After all, it was Sarah, in the Old Testament, who laughed when she heard she would bear a son in her old age.

For grandmothers, in particular, this passage [Titus 2:1-5](#) points out the importance of living an upstanding life as an example to younger women. After all, the next generation needs guidance and mentorship. They haven't experienced what you've experienced. Younger women need older women to teach them and encourage them through the various stages of life.

Resist feelings of unimportance and rise up to the call of being a strong example. Your wisdom and life experience is much needed!

Despite God's promise, she believed she was past her prime and would remain a barren woman. However, the Lord had other plans—plans that would make Sarah the matriarch of the lineage of Israel.

Grandparents don't let old age stop you from bearing fruit for God! By the power of the Holy Spirit, remain open to the mighty works of the Lord. Your grandchildren need what you have to offer!

And then there is Psalms 145:4. *One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.*

Back in the day, when our family would get together at my husband's grandparent's house, his grandpa would sit at the head of the table and randomly burst into song. I can still picture him singing, "Victory in Jesus, my Savior forever," as he invited everyone at the table to join in. It's an image of him I'll never forget.

As one generation commends the mighty works of the Lord to another, the messages of faith, hope, and love are passed on. I can't think of a more impactful way for grandparents to leave their imprint on their extended families.

Let's be so inspired by the wonderful works of the Lord, we cannot help but declare them!

Of course, grandchildren also have responsibilities in their relationship with grandparents. [First Peter 5:5](#) says, *"Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" Here we see that all people should honor and respect older generations.*

However, the Bible calls for more than just respect; it calls for seeing to the physical needs of the elderly as well. Paul exhorts, "But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household... But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" ([1 Timothy 5:4, 8](#)). Just as it is a grandparent's responsibility to impart their faith and show affection to their grandchildren, so too it is the grandchild's job to show respect and care for the physical needs of the grandparent.

God designed the grandparent/grandchild relationship to be a reciprocal one of love and care flowing from each side to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each person. God has given us His Word that we might learn to live out His beautiful design.

Last but not least Isaiah 46:4 *Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*

Gray hairs may not be welcome to every grandparent, (certainly not to me), but God's sustaining grace is. The encouragement, in [Isaiah 46:4](#), is that God does not grow old with us. He does not wear out. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow ([Hebrews 13:8](#)).

No matter what age and stage they're in, grandparents are important to God. He carries them through every season of life. He sustains them and continues to be their refuge. What a beautiful affirmation for grandparents everywhere!

Heavenly Father,

I pray for every grandparent who is reading this, that they would not feel left behind or unimportant in any way. I ask that You continue to sustain them through every season. I pray that You

cover them with Your love and help them to know just how important they are—not only to You, but to their families as well.

I pray that each and every grandparent would be able to see their grandchildren as crowns of joy. I also ask that every child would be able to see their grandparents as people they can look up to. Thank you, Lord, for the beautiful legacies they leave behind,.

Thank You for the responsibility of leaving a legacy of faith. I pray that this divine calling will not cause us fear or anxiety, but eagerness and anticipation of what You will do through us. Please raise us up to be the example of faith that is needed in the next generation,

Please help us not to grow weary in bearing fruit for Your name. Strengthen us, and work through us, that we might remain full of vitality for Your purpose. Help us to remember that You have a mighty plan to fulfill in us,

Please help us to live our lives in such a way, that we are pleasing to You and helpful to the next generation. Show us how to be leaders in our spheres of influence. Please strengthen us to be the examples You've called us to be. In Jesus' name I pray,

Thank You for blessing my life so that I can bless my children and grandchildren. You are Jehovah-Jireh, my Provider. Help me to make wise decisions regarding the inheritance I leave behind. Let it be useful to them as well as fruitful for Your kingdom,

Gracious God, How marvelous are Your works on our behalf. We praise You today. Thank You for motivating us to declare Your mighty acts to our family members. There is no doubt, Father, that You love and value us as grandparents. Help our families to recognize our importance as well. In Jesus' precious name, amen.

Soli Deo gloria – Glory to YHVH Alone