

# **Grandparenting Ministry**

**LifeBridge Christian Church, Longmont, CO.**

## **Mission Statement:**

***"To empower grandparents to be a lasting influence in grandchildren's spiritual lives."***

## **Ministry Plan**

Grandparents are an important part of any and all family units. They provide history, wisdom and a connection to the past as well as the ability to share the successes and lessons learned with current and future generations.

Christian grandparents also possess a legacy of faith. Ensuring faith is central in future generations far exceeds the importance of any other trait that can be passed on to children and grandchildren. Therefore, it's essential that grandparents develop knowledge, skills and abilities enabling them to pass their life experience forward; a legacy of faith.

We envision the church to be a multigenerational, all ages included, family of believers. Grandparents are a crucial part of that family. The notion that grandparents must be older adults is not accurate. We recognize that people become grandparents as early as in their thirties, the average age of first-time grandparents in the United States being 47.

The Grandparenting Ministry is committed to help achieve these goals. As Grandparents ourselves, we have already embarked on the journey to provide resources and guidance to others as grandchildren enter their lives and they become more and more involved in the oversight of and sometimes direct rearing of grandchildren.

It is our sincere desire to partner with all LifeBridge ministries to have a positive and lasting impact on families, especially from the standpoint of grandparents. By linking arms in ministry with all ages, using an intergenerational approach, we believe grandparents form a vital role in a successful, holistic church family. We envision establishing self-help and educational resources as well as continued learning opportunities for grandparents and grandparents to-be. While this is not an exhaustive list, we offer it as an explanation of our mission statement; "To empower grandparents to be a lasting influence in grandchildren's spiritual lives", as the ministry grows and develops.

### **I. Initial Goals**

- a. Provide resource and educational materials for grandparents
- b. Establish learning opportunities, teaching and reinforcing specific knowledge, skills and abilities focusing on areas of influence in families such as;
  - Long distance grandparenting
  - Difficult situations
  - Grandparents as primary caregivers - Live-in grandchildren

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- c. Blend parents and grandparents together in learning environments and activities.
- d. Establish and staff short-term (1-4 weeks) breakout sessions such as;
  - Divorces; grandparents and grandchildren
  - Differences between parents and grandparents
  - Faith-building for grandchildren
- e. Organize and host an Annual or Semi-Annual grandparenting conference, utilizing local teaching resources and their curriculum.

## **II. Future Growth and Activities**

- a. Based on previous successes and need realized from Initial Goals, organize ongoing classes for integration into existing church curriculum. This could be accomplished in the form of stand-alone classes or supplemental courses, lasting approximately one quarter per-year offered during current or then existing class schedules. The schedule design would be flexible to ensure necessary space is available without negative impact on already existing classes. Such learning could be marketed throughout the congregation as present classes and activities are, or by drawing class participants from current bible classes
- b. Organize and host an Annual Conference utilizing outside speaker/facilitator
- c. Expand grandparenting to include families that do not have access to immediate family grandparents or grandparents who do not have immediate family to serve.
  - i. Neighbors
  - ii. Nieces and Nephews
  - iii. Step-grandchildren
  - iv. Foster children