



5

REASONS TO START A

Grandparenting Ministry

IN YOUR CHURCH.

1

It will give your ministry to senior adults new energy and mission.

For the most part, those nearing their “senior years” aren’t attracted to hymn sings, potlucks, and field trips—and a new approach for ministry dedicated to them is needed. The fact is, nearly all of the over-50 crowd are or will be grandparents, (96% of those age over 65 are already grandparents). They deeply love their grandchildren and are very concerned about their future; therefore, a focus on that relationship gives new purpose and direction.

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One survey found that less than one percent of Christian grandparents could recall ever receiving instruction on their role and responsibilities as a grandparent. As a result, the vast majority have never thought much about their potential to impact their grandchildren spiritually. When your church helps them see that potential, it results in the older half of your congregation receiving a new passion, a great purpose, and invigorating direction.

2

It will help older generations see young people with new eyes.

Every pastor wants to reach young people, but sometimes efforts to unite a congregation around that purpose marginalizes those who are older. On the other hand, children’s and youth leaders often express frustration with the older half of the congregation who respond with, *“I’ve done my time—let the younger people do it!”* when asked to volunteer. That response reveals a relational issue: older adults don’t know the children and youth in the church well enough to have a heart for them.

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But those same older adults **do** know and love their grandkids! Leveraging the grandparent/grandchild relationship to first get older adults involved with the young people in their family is an effective strategy to build intergenerational bonds within your church. As grandparents learn how to build purposeful relationships with their grandchildren, they come to understand the struggles of young people in general. As a result, they often feel more concerned, envisioned, and equipped to minister to the young people within the church.

After all, a grandparenting ministry is ALL about the younger generations. It is—in actuality—a children’s/ youth ministry, just with a different set of workers!

3

It will reconnect separated generations.

Inter-generational ministry is a good objective for churches, but often the practical struggle is how to engage the older people. For example, pastors have tried, with limited success, to get senior adults to connect with the youth.

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But there is a more effective approach, and it starts with redefining what we mean by “family.” Family ministry almost always focuses on parents, youth, and children. Including grandparents under that ministry umbrella recognizes intergenerational connections within the family, and leverages family relationships in such a way that discipleship takes place more effectively.

A grandparenting ministry, done correctly, will create a partnership between parents and grandparents where a common faith is present. Though different family members frequently attend different churches, they can still work together to disciple the children and youth in their family.

4

It affirms the primacy of faith development at home.

Grandparent involvement in the discipleship of their grandchildren is simply biblical. From the commands given by Moses to the example of Timothy’s family, we see two generations devoted to the faith nurture of children is scriptural.

Parents, who have the primary responsibility to disciple their children, will be encouraged to know that grandparents are there to supplement their efforts. And in situations where parents are not actively discipling them, children will still be blessed because someone who loves them deeply is spiritually investing in them.

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In the Biblical ideal, God envisioned that every child would have six adults devoted to their salvation and discipleship—two parents and four grandparents. When churches equip grandparents and utilize them as part of their family ministries, it unleashes an even greater spiritual impact in the family.

5

It re-energizes older adults toward ministry.

Grandparents are generally discouraged by the rapid change of culture, the decline of society and the racial and political divides. But rather than feeling defeated and powerless, they are finding they can do something—within their own family.

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The 30 million-plus Christian grandparents in America can have a gigantic impact on the youngest generations – if they fulfill their part. The average grandparent will have six grandchildren, which means that all together we have the potential to impact the spiritual direction of tens of millions of young Americans. There is a national movement that is taking place: as grandparents realize their potential and their spiritual responsibility, they are making a difference – one family at a time.

As you equip your grandparents for their Biblical role in their families, your church will be joining this national movement.

Would you like to take a step toward re-energizing older adults in your congregation?

Here are some steps:

1 Host a Grandparenting Matters seminar in your church.

Grandparents in your congregation will:

- Learn how to be intentional about passing down their faith to future generations
- Get practical ideas to strengthen relationships with their adult children.
- Connect with other grandparents who share similar challenges in their season of life.

The seminar can be held either live at your church, live online, or we offer the content via DVD or digital download.

Learn more at LegacyCoalition.com/seminars

2 Reach out to one of Legacy Coalition's Ambassadors or staff members.

We'd love to start a conversation with you!

Send us a note at info@legacycoalition.com



Intentional Christian Grandparenting

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