

“Grandparents”

Week 5 - 5 Questions on helping the Home Sphere thrive - “Are we done yet?”

God's Plan for family:

- To be the building blocks of society. Genesis 1:28, Gen 2:24.
- To be a relational environment for learning and discipleship.
- To model and impress the love of God on the hearts of our children.
- To use parents and grandparents to lead their children to an obedient life of faith.
- To equip our children to fulfill the Great Commission.

So often God's plans get lost in the busyness and chaos of life. We can become a hostage to hurry and forget what is fruitful and important.

The warning in scripture:

Deuteronomy 4:9-10 (NIV) Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. 10 Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.”

- Our story and spiritual markers are to be handed down - stones from the river. (Joshua 4:9)
- Diligently watch, don't forget, teach our kids.

The distraction:

Luke 12:16-20 (NIV) “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ 18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ 20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

- The question “Are we there yet?” is meant to challenge us that when we retire, God isn't done with us yet.
- We have different priorities in life from those God has laid out for us. (‘The American dream’)
- We can choose to invest in our kids/grandkids.
- Don't fall into the trap that it's easier to let someone else equip our kids and grandchildren.

The historical fail:

Judges 2:10 (NIV) After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.

- Joshua's generation did not pass their faith on to their children.
- Learn from history! There are plenty of examples.
- Legacy is important. What are we leaving for our kids and grandkids?

Proverbs 13:22 (NIV) A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

- Inheritance in the Jewish culture was a big deal and was tied to the covenant that God had given through their land. In our context spiritually, it's a life knowing the author of the New Covenant.

The opportunity:

Psalm 78:3-7 (NIV) things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

- The opportunity is for our life's story to have Kingdom impact for the next generation.

What does this mean for a Grandparent? Be a multigenerational influencer and spiritual encourager. Take an active role in your grandkids' lives.

- Grandparents, be on a spiritual mission, helping youth grow, discipling, developing and helping them mature both spiritually and practically.
- As Grandparents, we can be a real blessing and help for our kids and grandchildren.
- If you are not a Grandparent - You have much to offer through your generational faith - seek out someone younger to invest in, or if you are younger, seek out someone older in the faith.

Small Group Questions:

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 4:9-10, Deuteronomy 6:4-12, Joshua 4:1-7

- What distractions do you battle that interfere with intentional parenting and grandparenting?
- How will your priorities change to align with God's plans and priorities regarding family?
- What are some spiritual markers you can hand down to your children and grandchildren?
- How will you capitalize on opportunities you have with your kids or supporting families with kids?



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



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