

Finishing Well as a Grandparent/Uncle

Men's Bible Study
4/22/26
Speaker: Brad Nelson



Our Family



1978



2000

Our Family – December 2025



Finishing Well as a Grandparent/Uncle/Mentor

- **Grandparent:** Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers. Proverbs 17:6
- **Uncle:** Testimony of a nephew
- **Mentor:** Kids Hope – Children and youth discipleship

Important question: *What will my grandchildren say at my funeral? What do I want them to say?*

Resources used:

Finishing Our Course With Joy, by J.I. Packer

Grandparenting with Grace, by Larry E. McCall

Discipling Your Grandchildren, by Dr. Josh Mulvihill

Legacy Coalition: legacycoalition.com

God's Calling to Finish Well – The Final Sprint

Finishing our Course with Joy, by J.I. Packer

Psalm 92

- v. 12 - *The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*
- v. 14 - *They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green.*
- “And my contention is going to be that, so far as our bodily health allows, we should aim to be found running the last lap of the race of our Christian life, as we would say, flat out. The final sprint, so I urge, should be a sprint indeed.”
- This is a stark contrast to western world culture which communicates – “Retirees are admonished, both explicitly and implicitly, in terms that boil down to this: Relax. Slow down. Take it easy. Amuse yourself. Do only what you enjoy.”

The Things You Have Seen – Make Them Known

Deuteronomy 4:5-9

⁵See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—

- *Only take care, and keep your soul diligently* - How is our personal daily worship, your corporate worship and personal walk with God?
- *Lest you forget the things your eyes have seen* - Your testimony of coming to faith, significant ways God has shown up in your life – healings, financial blessings, truth revealed, desperate times of prayer and God's blessings.
- *And lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life*
- *Make them known to your children and children's children* – Make known to your grandchildren what you have seen, that He is so near, we have Christ in us, and what you see in God's word, the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.

Fear the Lord Your God - Teach Diligently

Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 4-7

¹ “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.

⁴ ”Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Tell and Teach the Coming Generation

Psalm 78:1-4

- ¹Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter **dark sayings** from of old, ³things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children, but **tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might and the wonders that he has done.** ⁵He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which **he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, so that they should set their hope in God** and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁶**that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,**
- Dark sayings “These are called dark sayings, not because they are hard to be understood, but because they are carefully to be looked into. They are sayings of undoubted certainty.” — Mathew Henry
- Tell to the coming generation
 - The glorious deeds of the Lord
 - His might
 - The wonders He as done
- God’s whole plan is generational understanding of Him and His relationship with us
- So that they should set their hope in God (not the world). That they don’t forget His works, but keep his commandments.

Finishing Well

So what does it mean to “finish well” as a grandparent, uncle or mentor?

By God’s grace, use this last lap of our Christian life to faithfully make known what we have seen and the truth of God to our grandchildren and the coming generation, and tell them of His glorious deeds, His might and the wonders He has done and teach them to fear the Lord and to love the Lord with all their heart.

Building a Relationship so that you can “Make Known and Teach and Tell”

“People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.” — Theodore Roosevelt

- **Showing that you care.** Showing a genuine interest in their lives
- **Engage emotionally.** Ask questions, listen well
- How to build emotional and spiritual bonds with grandchildren – Kevin Cavanaugh
 - Focused attention
 - Appropriate affection
 - Speak words of affirmation
- **Having fun with them:** ping pong, golf, family trips, games, treats

Ping Pong and Putting



Golf, Family Trips, Treats, Games and Your Front Yard



Making Known God's Truth - Caught vs. Taught

- “More is caught than taught. You can teach your kids what you know but you reproduce what you are.” – John Maxwell
- “Some things are better felt than told... Those who have [insight] were not taught it; they caught it.” – Charles Swindoll
- “What you are doing is yelling so loud that I can't hear what you are saying.”

What are our grandchildren “catching” from us?

Some Opportunities to “Make Known” God’s Truths

1. Personal devotions
2. Family devotions
3. Discipleship group
4. Your testimony
5. Birthdays
6. Texts

Discipling Your Grandchildren – Dr. Josh Mulvihill

Biblical Methods to Disciple Grandchildren

1. Asking questions
2. Blessing
3. Intentional meals
4. Prayer
5. Communicating wisdom
6. Reading and discussing the Bible
7. Telling God-stories
8. Sharing the Gospel

Discipling Your Grandchildren – Dr. Josh Mulvihill

Practical Ideas for Discipling Your Grandchildren

1. **Gifts, Encouragement and Prayer** (gift of a Bible, or a good book, prayer scriptures)
2. **Intentional Meals** (using mealtime for teaching)
3. **Teaching God's Word and Telling God's Work** (share your faith story, sermon notes)
4. **Reading and Memorizing the Bible** (magnets with verses, memorize books of the Bible)
5. **Sharing the Gospel** (Romans' road, answer hard questions)
6. **Serving Together** (church ministries together, mission trip)
7. **Relationship Building** (build traditions together, celebrate start of school)
8. **For Your Home** (grandparent camp, write notes while visiting)
9. **For Your Church** (launch a grandparent ministry, GrandCamp)
10. **Holidays** (Easter ideas, New Year's ideas)

90+ ideas

Your Relationship with Your Grandchildren's Parents

- Parents are the primary teachers
- How can we support them?
- What if they don't want us actively involved in spiritual discussions?
- How can we best honor them?
- Pray for them

Challenging Situations

Grandparenting with Grace, by Larry E. McCall

Five grandparenting challenges in today's culture:

- Distance
- Divorce
- Accepting grandchildren through remarriage or adoption
- Taking in grandchildren
- Defiant relationships

How might the gospel enable you to reflect God's character and His grace in challenging situations?

Be Intentional

- How can I be more intentional in:
 - My use of time
 - My personal devotions
 - Praying for grandchildren, nieces and nephews
 - Sharing God's truth with grandchildren
 - In discipling grandchildren
- Randy's website: **randypope.org/grandkids**
- Legacy Coalition: Equipping Intentional Grandparenting Study
- Jeff – “Earning is done, effort is not done.”

Our Legacy

What will my grandchildren say at my funeral? What do I hope they say?

I hope they say something like, “He was fun, he really liked me and loved me and he thought I was special. He is in heaven because Jesus paid for his sins and by God’s grace, he put his faith and trust in Christ alone. He read the bible, worshipped God well, he taught me God’s truth, he lived out his faith. Prayer was important to him and his faith inspired and encouraged me and by God’s grace I have come to faith in Jesus. He liked golf, ping pong, and Twizzlers, and I will miss him.”

How can I sprint in this final lap to influence what I hope they say?

“Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Ps. 90:12