

Not Just Old People
GRANDPARENT MINISTRY

**Grandparent Ministry
Enhances Church
Ministries**

Grandparenting Ministry – Not Just Old People

Most Senior Adults are grandparents. However, grandparents are NOT Senior Adults. American grandparents today are a young, vital and often wealthy demographic. And they are attending your church. You may, in fact, be one.

Grandparenting Ministry is probably more multigen and intergen than any other ministry in the local church. Here are a few reasons to make this statement.

1. The average age of *first time* grandparents in the U.S. is 47 years.
2. There are grandparents in their late 30's and spanning all ages to the end of life.
3. Grandparents cover almost all adult ages in the church family. Grandparents are deep in the DNA of the local church.
4. There are about 80 million grandparents in the USA. 30 million of these indicate they are Christians.

This is not adding another ministry, or adding something to the Senior Adults ministry. Look at all the different and often competing ministries of the church, and find ways to blend these intergenerationally. What if a true grandparenting ministry could be an enhancement to all ministries in the church – children, teens, adults, small groups, outreach, etc.? What if this vast group could be deliberately and deeply engaged in all discipleship endeavors? The potential is great! The difference it could make is even greater! It is clearly the biblical pattern for everyone to intentionally pass on the legacy of faith to all generations.

How well is the church fulfilling this God-given mandate? How is the church training, equipping, and encouraging an intergenerational legacy of faith?

7 Ways A Grandparenting Ministry Enhances All Church Ministries

1. A grandparenting ministry is designed to encourage, equip and resource grandparents in their God given, biblical mandate to intentionally pass on the faith to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. (Deut. 4:9; 6:1-2, Psalm 78:1-8, Joel 1:2-3 and many others). The phrase “generations to come” appears 37 times in the Bible.
2. A grandparenting ministry is actually reaching, through the grandparents themselves, people from birth to the grave.
3. A true, whole church family ministry with a whole church vision.
4. The richness of each generation's voice being heard as vital, and their contribution being sought-after.
5. The joy of each person interacting together with all generations.
6. Each person feeling like they are valued and can contribute to the whole, regardless of youth or age.
7. Wisdom of each generation shared with the others.
8. Passing the faith on to each generation, and really taking responsibility for this.
9. The sense that we truly are a family, demonstrated every time we gather.

Children's & Student Ministries Leaders – what does this mean for you?

1. Grandparents of all adult ages represent a large base of potential volunteers.
2. Grandparents have a vested interest in your ministry.
3. Gather generations together to pray for one another, and especially to pray for and with children and students.
4. Since many of the children and students have no connection with their own grandparents, why not recruit church grandparents to be “spiritual grandparents”?
5. Plan and conduct intergenerational activities and events. Grandparents of all ages can take the lead.
6. Have a team of grandparents speak a short, Spirit-led blessing over each child as they leave their classes when the parents pick up their children.
7. When conducting Parenting classes, expand them to include grandparents.

“The next step for an intergenerational church is to prioritize *how* the older generations will disciple the younger generations, and then how they will serve together.” Dr. Josh Mulvihill <https://christiangrandparenting.com/>