

GRANDPARENTS: AN INVALUABLE ASSET TO YOUR MINISTRY

DENNIS WILBANKS

Practically, families consist of three generations: grandparents (including great-grandparents), parents, children/grandchildren. Recent research and Scripture verifies the significance that grandparents have on the second and particularly the third generation. In this session, we will speak about building within your team a relational experience for those of grandparent age to be faith models. We will discuss intergenerational ministry, transitioning from a traditional senior adult ministry model, developing buy-in for staff, builder/boomer generations, and all others (preschool to adult discipleship). Also, we will share some tools for familial: near and long distance, and non-familial community/church ministries.

Main Points

- First Generation: Those of a grandparent age, empty nest through the end of life, who live and leave a Jesus legacy to their children and grandchildren.
- Challenges: Some of our challenges are getting buy-in from Senior Pastor to ministry teams, etc., and a paradigm shift from a traditional approach to senior adult ministry.
- Grandparents are Faith Models: We become faith models when we live intentionally, become a story teller, and initiate honest conversations.
- Practical Ways to Be Connective Grandparents: There are many ways to connect regardless of proximity. We do this with non-familial “grandchildren” within our churches.

Action Steps

- Smooth transition toward an intergenerational family ministry
- Make being faith-models the emphasis
- Be organic rather than programmatic

Resources

- **The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family** by Dr. Kara E. Powell
- **Baby Boomers and Beyond** by Amy Hanson
- **Join Generations** by Matthew Deprez
- **Leaving A Legacy of Hope** by Mark Gregston
- **Grandparenting Today’s Teens** by Mark Gregston
- **The Blessing** by John Trent and Gary Smalley
- **Family and Faith** by Vern L. Bengtson
- **The Intergenerational Church** by Peter Menconi