

## GOING FURTHER

### RESOURCES

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***Extreme Grandparenting*** by Ted Kimmel and Darcy Kimmel

Offers timeless and tested principles for grandparenting in the twenty-first century.

***It Starts at Home*** by Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroope

Gives grandparents practical suggestions for influencing the faith of their grandchildren.

***Power of a Praying Grandparent*** by Stormie Omartian

Offers powerful suggestions for prayer covering your grandchildren, yourself and your grandchildren's parents.

***Romancing Your Child's Heart*** by Monte Swan

\*While we do believe all of these resources have tremendous value, not all theology presented therein reflects the beliefs of the leadership of Mandarin Church of Christ\*

## GOING FURTHER

### MANDARIN CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORT

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#### **Mandarin Children's Ministry**

Mandarin Church of Christ has a wonderful Children's Ministry. Along with Bible Classes for all ages Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, the ministry does other events throughout the year to engage children and their parents.

#### **Home Garden Center**

Check out the Home Garden Center in the Mandarin Church of Christ foyer or on our website. There you can find Idea Cards and other Pointer Books to equip you cultivating a Christ-centered home.

#### **The Mandarin Family**

The Mandarin family is full of faithful members who have raised their own faithful children and influenced their own grandchildren. Develop a relationship with someone who can come along side you to assist in your endeavors to intentionally raise your children with spiritual values.

#### **Pastoral and Ministerial Consulting**

Our Ministers and Shepherds are always willing to sit with everyone to discuss, assist, and equip you for whatever stage of life in which you and/or your family may be.

*Influencing*

**GRANDCHILDREN**

HOME  GARDEN

# INFLUENCING GRANDCHILDREN

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**You are not called grandparent because you have been retired from the parenting process. You are called grand because you have been promoted! Those blessed with the gift of grandchildren are called to inspire and nurture the faith of the next generation as life's greatest privilege and priority.**

Grandparents in the 21st century face a mix of new opportunities and challenges. Extended life expectancy has dramatically changed the length and look of the empty nest years. Many grandparents now have greater opportunities for work and travel. Tight-knit family relationships have increasingly given way to family members spread over wide geographic distances. Some grandparents face the challenge of getting time with grandchildren because of divorce. A growing number of grandparents have watched circumstances drive them to take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren.

In this context, it's become less clear what role grandparents can best play. They are not just a good source for gifts and free babysitting.

**What's the most important thing  
a grandparent can do?**

## STEP ONE

### Be There for Them

A grandparent's first priority is to "be there" one way or another. For the active grandparents whom the *Wall Street Journal* has described as having a full slate of work and travel, it means stopping to remember how much you depended on grandparents when you were younger - and knowing how critical your presence is. For others, "being there" means taking on the challenge posed by miles or strained relationships that might be keeping you from your grandchildren. Technology solutions such as video chatting have helped some grandparents close the gap.

Being there gives you the opportunity to show the kind of unconditional love that even parents can struggle to maintain on a consistent basis. It gives you a chance to tell the family story - the people, places and plot twists that have made your family distinct. Being there also allows you to teach things that parents may not have found time for - how to skip a rock, how to build and fly a kite, how to make fudge, and other priceless lessons.

## STEP TWO

### Nurture Their Faith

Most importantly, being there and making memories with your grandchildren gives you the opportunity to impress your faith on them. Psalm 78:5-7 presents a concept of extended spiritual heritage:

*He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.*

Nothing you can give as a grandparent is more valuable than your spiritual legacy. Your gifts, time, games, food and other contributions find their primary value when they are offered in the context of a spiritual heritage. So be very intentional about creating opportunities to nurture faith during the years your grandchildren are receptive to your influence.