



Influencing Grandchildren

We are living in challenging times, shaken by the unrest in the world around us. As we listen to the news it seems like our world is sinking further into moral and spiritual depravity. Absolutes are not recognized and authority questioned. As grandparents, we fear for the future of our grandchildren. The media-driven culture is trying to desensitize them and many of their role models are disappointing them. God is being pushed to the perimeter of our culture at the time when we really need Him.

The GRAND magazine statistics show there are over 70 million grandparents in the United States. Not all the grandparents are Christians. However, can you imagine the influence godly grandparents could have? Our grandchildren need godly grandparents to stand in the gap by praying deliberately and modeling godly lives.

When you get discouraged after listening to the daily events on the newscast, have you thought about how you should respond? Do you get discouraged, complain, or worry how it might affect your family?

Grandparents are to be Influencers

We influence our grandchildren whether purposely or unknowingly. The Bible tells us we are to influence others—especially our children and grandchildren—toward God and His purposes. We have a wonderful opportunity to share how God has brought us through the challenges and difficulties in our lives when we trusted Him. Even though our journey in life may be difficult at times, God will walk with us.

God has given us two things we can do to maximize our influence for His glory:

- **Prayer** — God gave prayer as the best weapon against the evil in our world today. Nothing threatens the enemy more than grandparents praying intentionally and regularly for their

grandchildren. When we pray according to God's Word, we are in line with His will; it enables us to pray with direction, power, and wisdom. As we start claiming God's promises and personalizing the scriptures, we will experience more confidence and boldness in our praying.

It is God who works in the lives of our grandchildren; however, we have the opportunity to intercede in their behalf for them to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to their hearts. Our prayers can open the door for God to work in their hearts but they still have to choose to cooperate with Him.

- **Example** — Another powerful tool that God has given us to influence our grandchildren is the example of our own lives. However, He has given us His example of how to live a godly life in His Word. As grandparents, we can be a great influence in how we live our lives.

Is your attitude toward the moral and spiritual depravity of our nation one of acceptance, indicating there is nothing we can do about it? It is just the sign of the times. However, on the other hand, is your attitude one of concern, praying, and trusting the Lord to walk with us during these difficult times? Are you praying that truth will stand and the deceit exposed?

The power of God is the only thing big enough in the world to help us rise above the economic, hostile conditions of our world and the difficult things we face in life. When we invest in our spiritual lives by being in the Word and growing strong in our walk with the Lord, we will have a positive, spiritual influence on our grandchildren.

Are the grandchildren God has placed in your life a priority in your prayers? Do your family members see authenticity in your life and your relationship with God? Will your grandchildren say, "Grandpa and grandma really do believe who God is and that He can do what He says He will do. I want to follow their example in my life."



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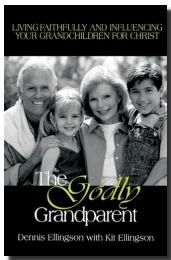
Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old (Psalm 25:4-6).

In everything set them an example by doing what is good... (Titus 2:7).

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:10-11).



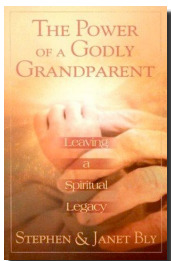
RELATED RESOURCES



The Godly Grandparent: Living Faithfully and Influencing Your Grandchildren for Christ

Dennis and Kit Ellingson
ISBN 978-0975961964

Christian grandparents who long to see their grandchildren walking in the Light will be blessed and encouraged by the authors' inspiring examples from the Bible, their own family, and people they have worked with over the years. As ministers, counselors, and grandparents, Dennis and his wife, Kit, offer valuable insights into the character of a Christian elder, as well as tips for making time with grandchildren eternally rewarding. Grandparents who are fully devoted to God, living lives of inward and outward godliness, can positively influence their grandchildren and the world in which their grandchildren live.



The Power of a Godly Grandparent: Leaving a Spiritual Legacy

Stephen and Janet Bly
ISBN 978-0834120372

You may or may not have material wealth to leave your grandchildren, but you have a rich heritage to pass on. Give your grandchildren the power of unconditional love. Give your grandchildren the power of your own testimony of faith and show them how God will be faithful through the coming generations. Give your grandchildren

the power of your prayers. Give your grandchildren a spiritual legacy. Whether your grandchildren live across the country, down the street, or down the hall, Stephen and Janet Bly will show you how to be a grandparent your grandkids can count on. The Power of a Godly Grandparent will give you:

- A Biblical foundation for being a good grandparent Ideas for passing along a spiritual heritage to your grandchildren.
- Guidance for maintaining a good relationship with the parents of your grandchildren, and tips for special circumstances such as divorce.
- Guidelines for establishing rules for your grandchildren.
- Tips for long-distance grandparenting.
- How to develop a sense of family heritage and history, including how to create a family tree.
- Ideas for passing along their hobbies and special skills to your grandchildren.

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