

Choose to Embrace Grand Parenthood

Lesson #17

Scripture: Proverbs 22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Introduction:

Erma Bombeck, on the growing-up process: I see children as kites. You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you're both breathless--they crash--they hit the rooftop--you patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly. Finally they are airborne: they need more string and you keep letting it out. But with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with joy. The kite becomes more distant, and you know it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you together and will soar as it is meant to soar, free and alone. Only then do you know that you did your job. --Reader's Digest

Transitional Statement:

Life's transitions are meant to glorify God.

Lesson:

I. Necessary steps toward Grand Parenthood

A. First, we should make sure to properly ready and equip our children

1. Have we helped them understand responsibility
2. Have we taught them about respect
3. Have we helped them stand on their own by transition from authority to accepted counselor
4. Have we gradually given more responsibilities and choices to child
5. As time goes by have we given more space and privacy for child
6. Have we given them full instruction in the Lord
7. We should acknowledge and come to terms with any parenting mistakes we may have made.
 - a. By doing this we can better know how to be grandparents.
 - b. Just think of the grand abilities of a wise older parent, who continually hones their abilities, learning from life experiences and mistakes.

-What an awesome resource

8. The way we parent often becomes the model for our children's parenting.
 - a. And if we have cultivated the right relationship with our children we can help them parent as well.

B. When our children eventually leave home and make lives for themselves

1. Our relationships change
2. We become support centers
3. We help with further instruction Titus 2:2

II. Guidelines of grand parenting

- A. Your child's choice of a spouse, the timing or circumstances should never be visited upon the grandchild.
- B. We should not push our time table of life upon our children's family
- C. We shouldn't push our methods of parenting
- D. We shouldn't create strife between other grandparents
- E. We must understand that we are not front and center in our grandchildren's life.

II. Biblical Examples of Grandparents

A. Laban

Genesis 31:43 *"Then Laban replied to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, and the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?"*

B. Jacob

Genesis 46:7 *"his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt."*

Genesis 48:11 *"Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face, and behold, God has let me see your children as well."*

C. Joseph

Genesis 50:23 *"Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees."*

D. David

Psalms 103:17 *“But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,”*

Psalms 109:9 *“Let his children be fatherless And his wife a widow.”*

Psalms 128:6 *“Indeed, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!”*

E. Solomon

Proverbs 13:22 *“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.”*

Proverbs 16:6 *“By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.”*

F. Ezekiel

Ezekiel 37:25 *“They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever.”*

G. Lois

2 Timothy 1:5 *“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”*

2 Timothy 3:15 *“and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

III. Good Grand parenting is knowing what to pass on

Proverbs 13:22 *“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.”*

A. Honesty (verse 23)

B. Diligent Discipline (verse 24)

C. Simply living (verse 25)

D. The conclusion of all this is to simply fear God and keep His commandments
Ecc 12:13

IV. Knowing how to deal with defeat

- A. One must learn how to win and how to loose
- B. Have a continued belief in God
- C. Banking on Romans 8:28
- D. Ephesians 6:11-18

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

V. Knowing how to enjoy grandchildren

- A. Try to get into their world.
- B. Help them expand on what is important to them
- C. Allow your children to do the parenting
 - 1. Fill in as needed.
- D. Be a friend to your grandchild

Conclusion:

Parents never die. They never stop parenting, but their methods change as time goes by. But one things remains, and that is the grand impact they make on this world.