

# Grandparenting Practicum

## *Passing Faith Across Generations*

### **Introduction: Why Grandparenting Matters for Revival**

Every sustained revival in history had one thing in common: mature believers ("spiritual grandparents") actively passing truth to the next generation.

Every collapsed revival lacked this: young enthusiasm without elder wisdom, experience without doctrine, emotion without stability.

This week focuses on the practical how of generational faith transmission—what Psalm 78 commands and what successful revivals demonstrate.

## Part 1: Understanding Spiritual Grandparenting

### What Is a "Spiritual Grandparent"?

A spiritual grandparent is a mature believer who:

- Has walked with God long enough to have tested truth through trials
- Remembers what worked and what did not in past seasons
- Can interpret current experiences through biblical wisdom
- Invests in younger believers, passing faith forward
- Provides stability when emotions run high

**Key Point:** You don't have to be old to be a spiritual grandparent. You just need to be further along in faith than those you're mentoring.

### Biblical Foundation

**Psalm 78:1-8** - The entire psalm is about generational transmission:

*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done... 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."*

**2 Timothy 2:2** - Paul's four-generation vision

**Titus 2:3-5** - Older teaching younger

**1 John 2:12-14** - Three stages of spiritual maturity

### The Three Roles in Spiritual Family

Role	Characteristics	Primary Need	Primary Gift
Children	New believers, spiritually young	Teaching, protection, basics	Enthusiasm, fresh perspective
Young Adults	Growing believers, tested some	Mission, challenge, purpose	Energy, courage, action
Parents/Grandparents	Mature believers, tested much	Investment opportunity	Wisdom, stability, perspective

**The Problem in Modern Church:** We often have lots of spiritual children, some young adults, but very few grandparents actively mentoring. Result? Each generation reinvents the wheel, repeats old mistakes, and lacks stability.

## Part 2: What Spiritual Grandparents Do

### Function #1: Preserve Gospel Memory

**The Task:** Keep the next generation connected to what God has done.

#### *Practical Ways to Do This:*

##### **A. Tell Your Own Story Repeatedly**

- Not just your conversion story, but your journey with God
- Include failures and how God restored you
- Show how God's faithfulness over decades builds trust

**Example:** "I've been following Jesus for 30 years. Let me tell you about the season when I doubted everything, and how God met me..."

##### **B. Connect Current Events to Biblical Patterns**

- When younger believers face something "new," show them it's not
- "This is like when Israel faced..."
- "Scripture addresses this in..."

**Example:** Young believer struggles with doubt. You share: "Peter denied Jesus three times and Jesus still restored him. Doubt isn't the end—it's often the path to deeper faith."

##### **C. Teach Theology Through Stories**

- Don't just quote doctrine; show how it sustained you
- "When my daughter died, the doctrine of God's sovereignty wasn't just theory—it's what kept me breathing"

### Function #2: Interpret Experiences Biblically

**The Task:** Help younger believers understand what's happening to them spiritually.

#### *Practical Ways to Do This:*

##### **A. Distinguish True Spirit-Work from Emotionalism**

Young believers often can't tell the difference. You can.

##### **Questions to Ask Them:**

- "Is this making you love Jesus more, or just feel excited?"
- "What fruit is this producing in your life?"
- "Does this align with Scripture, or contradict it?"

### Function #3: Model Faithful Endurance

**The Task:** Show them what decades of walking with God looks like.

*Practical Ways to Do This:*

**A. Let Them See Your Consistency**

- Regular Bible reading, even when you don't "feel" it
- Prayer as conversation with God, not just crisis hotline
- Church involvement in both good times and hard times
- Marriage faithfulness, parenting faithfulness, work integrity

**Function #4: Provide Relational Stability**

**The Task:** Be the steady presence when everything else feels unstable.

*Practical Ways to Do This:*

**A. Be Consistently Available**

- Regular coffee/meal times
- "My door is always open" and mean it
- Respond to texts/calls within reasonable time
- Show up in their lives, especially in hard times

**B. Create Safe Space for Honesty**

Young believers need someone they can tell anything to without fear of: judgment, gossip, overreaction, or being "fixed" immediately.

**Function #5: Connect Them to Larger Church**

**The Task:** Show them they're part of 2,000 years of God's faithfulness, not just their local youth group.

## Part 3: Practical Mentoring Structures

### Model #1: One-on-One Discipleship

#### What It Looks Like:

- Weekly or bi-weekly meeting (coffee, meal, walk)
- Informal but intentional
- Relationship-driven, Scripture-centered

#### Sample Structure (60-90 minutes):

- Life update (15 min) - What's happening in their life?
- Scripture study (30 min) - Read Bible passage together, discuss, apply
- Prayer (15 min) - Pray for each other's specific needs
- Accountability (15 min) - How are you doing with specific growth areas?

### Model #2: Small Group Mentoring

#### What It Looks Like:

- 3-5 younger believers meet with 1-2 mature believers
- Can be gender-specific or mixed (couples)
- More dynamic, less intensive than one-on-one

### Model #3: Life-on-Life Mentoring

#### What It Looks Like:

- Not formal meetings, but inviting younger believers into your life
- They see how you live, not just what you teach
- Most natural, most time-intensive

### Model #4: Ministry Apprenticeship

#### What It Looks Like:

- Training someone to do specific ministry by doing it with them
- "I do, you watch" → "We do together" → "You do, I watch" → "You do, I'm available"

## **Part 4: What to Pass Down (Content Matters)**

### **Core Theological Content Every Believer Needs**

#### **1. Gospel Clarity**

- What Jesus did (His life, death, resurrection)
- Why it matters (substitutionary atonement, justification)
- How we receive it (faith alone, not works)

#### **Key Verses to Memorize Together:**

- Romans 3:23-24
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- John 3:16

#### **2. Authority of Scripture**

- Bible is God's Word, fully true and sufficient
- How to read and interpret it
- Why we trust it

#### **3. Nature of God**

- Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- God's attributes (holy, loving, just, merciful, sovereign)
- How God relates to us

#### **4. Christian Life Basics**

- Prayer (how to talk with God)
- Church (why we gather, serve, give)
- Holiness (pursuing godliness, fighting sin)
- Mission (sharing Jesus with others)

## Part 5: Common Obstacles and How to Overcome Them

### Obstacle #1: "I'm Not Qualified to Mentor"

**The Lie:** You have to be perfect, have all answers, be a super-Christian.

**The Truth:** You just need to be further along than they are, and willing to share honestly.

**Action Step:** Start by sharing your story with one younger believer. That's it. You don't need a curriculum or training—just honesty about your journey.

### Obstacle #2: "I Don't Have Time"

**The Lie:** Mentoring requires adding massive new commitments to your schedule.

**The Truth:** Most effective mentoring happens in life-on-life, not formal meetings.

**Action Step:** Identify one regular activity in your week. Invite a younger believer to join you.

### Obstacle #3: "Young People Today Don't Want to Be Mentored"

**The Lie:** This generation is too distracted/arrogant/different.

**The Truth:** Young people are desperate for genuine mentors.

#### What They're Hungry For:

- Authenticity (real struggles, real faith)
- Availability (actual time and attention)
- Wisdom (perspective from someone who's lived it)

### Obstacle #4: "What If I Mess Them Up?"

**The Lie:** One mistake will destroy their faith.

**The Truth:** God is sovereign over their spiritual growth. You're not their Savior—Jesus is.

### Obstacle #5: "What If They Don't Respond or Change?"

**The Lie:** Effective mentoring always produces visible results quickly.

**The Truth:** You're planting seeds. God gives the growth (1 Cor 3:6-7). Your job is faithfulness, not results.

## Part 6: Practical Action Steps for This Week

### For Potential Spiritual Grandparents (Mature Believers)

#### Step 1: Identify One Person to Invest In

- Pray and ask God to bring someone to mind
- Look for someone spiritually younger (new believer, younger Christian, someone seeking)
- Don't overcomplicate—just one person

#### Step 2: Make First Contact

Simple invitation: "Hey, I've been praying about investing in younger believers. Would you be interested in grabbing coffee and talking about faith stuff? No pressure, just exploring if this would be helpful."

#### Step 3: Start Simple

First meeting:

- Share your story (15-20 min)
- Ask about their story (20-30 min)
- Discuss: "What's one area you want to grow in spiritually?"
- End with prayer
- If it goes well: "Want to do this regularly?"

### For Those Seeking Spiritual Grandparents (Younger Believers)

#### Step 1: Identify Potential Mentors

Look for believers who have walked with God longer than you, show fruit of the Spirit consistently, are available and approachable, and you respect and want to learn from.

#### Step 2: Ask Directly

Don't drop hints—just ask: "I'm looking for someone to help me grow spiritually. Would you be willing to meet with me regularly? Even once a month would be helpful."

## Part 7: Sample Mentoring Curriculum (12 Weeks)

This can guide your first three months of meeting together:

### Month 1: Foundation (Gospel and Scripture)

- Week 1: Share testimonies (your story, their story)
- Week 2: Gospel clarity - What did Jesus do and why does it matter?
- Week 3: How to read the Bible (observation, interpretation, application)
- Week 4: Prayer 101 (how to pray, what to pray)

### Month 2: Christian Life Basics

- Week 5: Church - Why we gather, how to engage
- Week 6: Fighting sin - Recognizing patterns, strategies for holiness
- Week 7: Spiritual disciplines (Bible reading, prayer, fasting, solitude, etc.)
- Week 8: Sharing your faith - How to tell others about Jesus

### Month 3: Living Faithfully

- Week 9: Relationships - Friendships, dating, marriage God's way
- Week 10: Work and calling - How faith impacts Monday morning
- Week 11: Handling suffering - Where is God when life is hard?
- Week 12: Next steps - How do you keep growing?

## Conclusion: The Grandparenting Vision

**The Problem:** Modern church has many spiritual orphans—believers with no parents/grandparents to guide them.

**The Solution:** Mature believers step up to invest in the next generation.

### The Result:

- Stronger individual believers
- Healthier churches
- Sustained revival (not just emotional spikes)
- Gospel faithfulness preserved for your grandchildren

### Paul's Vision (2 Timothy 2:2):

- Paul mentored Timothy (generation 1→2)
- Timothy would mentor faithful people (generation 2→3)
- Who would teach others (generation 3→4)

Four generations of faith transmission in one verse.

That's the vision. That's what sustained the East African Revival for 40 years. That's what built the Reformation to last 500+ years.

## **Your role: Be a faithful link in that chain.**

You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to be a seminary graduate.

You just have to be willing to say: "I've been following Jesus for [X years]. Let me share what I've learned. Walk with me."

That's spiritual grandparenting.

## **That's how revival lasts.**

### **Discussion Questions**

- Who were the "spiritual grandparents" in your life? What did they teach you?
- What obstacles keep you from mentoring someone younger in the faith?
- If you're a younger believer: Who could you ask to mentor you?
- What's one practical step you can take this week toward generational discipleship?
- How does this "grandparenting" vision change how you think about revival?

## **Final Challenge: Don't Just Study This. Do It.**

**Identify one person. Make contact this week. Start the conversation.**

Revival doesn't last through programs. It lasts through relationships—mature believers passing truth to the next generation, who pass it to the next.

**Be that link. Start this week.**