

Going Further

@Home

- **Family Faith Plan**—The Family Faith Plan equips parents with a strategy to pass on the Christian faith to their Children. Visit bellevue.org/FamilyFaithPlan for simple activities to get your family started on a faith journey.
- **Extreme Grandparenting** (by Tim Kimmel and Darcy Kimmel)—Are you ready to take grandparenting to the next level? This book offers timeless and tested principles for grandparenting in the twenty-first century.
- **It Starts at Home**—Bruner & Stroop help parents understand the process of faith formation at home and provide a practical plan for becoming more intentional.
- **The Blessing**—Trent explains a process for creating a strong relationship with and security in our children.

@Church

- **Life Group**—Adults and children are invited to connect with others in your stage of life. Classes are offered at 8:00, 9:20, and 11:00 a.m. Visit bellevue.org for a current list of classes where you will experience biblical teaching, encouraging relationships, and fellowship opportunities.
- **Home Point Resource Centers**—Stop by and pick up free resources to help you build faith at home—individually or as a family. Visit bellevue.org/homepoint for downloadable resources and for next steps.
- **Home Point Classes**—Offered periodically on Wednesday evenings to equip and encourage you in your parenting journey.
Individual and Family Plan—Assess your level of intentionality over the last 90 days in a variety of areas—your walk with the Lord, your home and church life, your relationships, etc. This personal tool will assist you in planning specific next steps.

The Intentional Grandfather



HomePoint

Pointers

You've Been Promoted!

Adapted from pastoral insights from Steve Stroope

Grandfathers hold a unique and exalted position when it comes to the process of spiritual formation in the next generation. Other than mom or dad, no one else carries the stature or inherent authority in the lives of children, as grandparents. In fact, not even mom or dad can fill the role we fill. That's why I find it troubling that so many modern grandfathers squander their opportunity by thinking, "I've finished the parenting task."

We are not called "grandparents" because we've retired from the parenting process. We are "grand" because we've been promoted! Our task is to do everything possible to help our family achieve success in their most important assignment of passing on our Christian beliefs and faith to the next generation. Regardless of our vocational business, our "family business" as grandparents is to inspire and nurture the faith of the next generation.

The scriptures command moms, dads, and grandparents to give the next generation a framework for living rooted in their knowledge of and relationship with God. It is our job to support and reinforce the role of parents as they fulfill the command of Deuteronomy 6...

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up..." Deuteronomy 6:6-8

It seems this generation of grandfathers mentally checks-out or skims past this vital passage of scripture assuming that it only applies to mom and dad. When did that change? Grandparents should actively and intentionally maximize every opportunity to spiritually invest in our grandchildren's lives.

Prior generations understood this mandate to target grandfathers as the patriarchs of faith in their extended families. We need to seize the day if we are going to fulfill our God-ordained role in the generational faith formation process.

How, when, and where do you start? Kids spell "love" T-I-M-E. Below are a few creative ways to establish regularly scheduled opportunities with your grandkids.

- Put a weekly "touching base" call or text message reminder on your planner to prompt "spontaneous" encouragement or conversation.
- Plan once-a-month, twice-a-month, or once-a-week sleepovers.
- Host a once-a-year entire week or more with grandchildren. Some families title the week "Camp Grand".
- Create Grandfather/Grandson events or dates.
- Establish a birthday breakfast tradition, for example.
- Help grandchildren select, make, or purchase Christmas gifts for their parents.
- Create a Fall Festival, Easter, or other holiday celebration.
- Observe annual celebrations of their salvation.

The most balanced way to spiritually influence children is through a three-fold approach (pick up a Family Faith Plan for details):

- Faith Talks
- Capture God Moments
- Guide Toward Milestones

Having fun together is an important first step. Creativity and laughter opens many doors to plant spiritual seeds in their fertile hearts. You, as grandfathers, can have a "grand" impact for generations to come.