

Opening Illustration:

Making a decision at Camp Clearwaters to read my Bible every day for the rest of my life for at least 5 minutes...

- Camp was an amazing experience (the food, the games, the fellowship, the preaching)
- The decision lasted for about three months!
- But about 1 month into my decision (for a lifetime), it started to become a drudgery instead of a delight (I had too much to do and not enough time to read my Bible. It was a difficult book to understand. I started reading out of obligation instead of relationship.)

Transition to the experience faced by the pilgrims as they embarked one of three annual festivals in Jerusalem: Passover, Pentecost, and Booths – the Psalms of Ascent (120-134).

The Setting:

A pattern discovered (Psalms of Ascent:120-134)¹

- Difficulty – a situation of difficulty
- Deliverance – focuses on God's power to keep
- Delight – the security in Zion and its God

Psalm 120-122 –

- 120 – Difficulty: the unkind words of ungodly people
- 121 – Deliverance from the Lord (I looked to the hills...)
- 122 – Security in Zion (Let us go to the house of the Lord...)

Psalm 123-125 –

- 123 – Difficulty: the ill and unjust treatment of people (contempt through scorn and pride) (3-4)
- 124 – Deliverance from the Lord
- 125 – Security in Zion (1)

Psalm 126-128 –

- 126 – Difficulty: I AM EXPERIENCING SPIRITUAL APATHY! (4)
- 127 – Deliverance from the Lord (He builds the house.)
- 128 – Security in Zion (5)

Focus on Zion: Psalm 126 (vs. 1), Psalm 127 (vs. 1 – the city), Psalm 128 (vs. 5)

Deliverance from Exile

¹ *Psalms by the Day: A New Devotional Translation* by Alec Motyer

- **Reminiscing about the past (1-3)**
- **Reflecting on the present (4-5)**
- **Rejoicing in the future (6)**

I. Reminiscing about the past (1-3)

- **¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion...**

A. The joy of deliverance after 70 years of captivity!

Jer. 29:10 - ¹⁰“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

2 Chron. 36:20-21 - ²⁰He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

- **Ezra 3:8-10 – the foundation of the second temple was laid**
- **Nehemiah 8:13-14 – the law was read in front of the people**

B. We were like those who dream... (2-3)

- Enjoying laughter among God’s people (2a)
- Experiencing shouts of joy among the nations (2b)
- Expressing gladness among God’s people (3)

II. Reflecting on the present (4)

A. The struggle for prosperity continues.

- **⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!**
- **The struggle seen in comparison of verse 1 from verse 4 (captivity and apathy... initial salvation and present salvation)**

- **Practice Biblical Sanctification**
 - Know (Romans 6:6-10)
 - Consider (Romans 6:11)
 - Yield (Romans 6:12-14)

B. The solution remains the same.

- **⁵ Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**
- **Practice godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10-11)**
- ¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.
- **God ordained the harvest.**
 - **Genesis 8:22**
 - **Galatians 6:7-8**
- **The harvest requires hard work.**
 - **Proverbs 10:5**
 - **Proverbs 20:4**
- **The harvest requires patience.**
 - **James 5:7**
 - **Galatians 6:9**
- **The harvest involves a process. (Hosea 10:12)**
 - **Breaking ground**
 - **Sowing seed**
 - **Hoping for rain**
 - **Reaping the fruit**

- I. Reminiscing about the past (1-3)**
- II. Reflecting on the present (4)**

- III. Rejoicing in the future (5-6)**

- **Nothing good comes easy.**
 - ⁶He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

FINAL SALVATION (I Thess. 1:10)

Example of Israel (Ps. 137; Gen. 3:15; Mark 11:1-10; Rev 7:9-12)

Example of the Woman at the Well (John 4:28a; 28b; 29; 30)

Example of the Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:25-30; 31; 32; 33-34)

Example for you (Acts 17:30; Luke 8:4-15; 3 John 1:4; John 4:35-38)

Illustration of the global opportunity!!!

Application:

- **Does your salvation from the captivity of sin propel your witness among the nations?**
 - **Psalm 126:1-3**
- **Does your current struggle with the power of sin increase your dependence on God?**
 - **Psalm 126:4-5**
- **Does your confidence in the removal sin's presence increase your expectation for heaven?**
 - **Psalm 126:6**

A Picture of Security

- Trust in the Lord (1-3)
 - Note the transition between verses 3 and 4.
- Cry out to the Lord (4-5)

READ PSALM 125

I. Trust in the Lord. (1-3)

A. For stability... (Titus 1:2 – a picture of God the Father)

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

- A song about people who choose to trust in the LORD

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

- A PICTURE OF STABILITY
 - A city on a hill
 - A nation located in the center of the globe
 - A nation surrounded by enemies
 - 22 Islamic Nations
 - 640 times in size
 - 60 times in population

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

- Isaiah 60:1-22
- Zechariah 8:20-23
- Revelation 21:9-27

Grandparenting 1 of 2

10/20/19

Introduction

Concerned that some in America have misunderstood that Luke 12:19 is not a road map for the later years of our life:

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

You and I need to take a more aggressive stance toward pouring over the Scripture because God has given us everything we need for a holy life in them – conclusions which you and I cannot come to on our own:

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Another thought to help us understand how our culture has impacted us, research that Dr. Josh Mulvihill did showed that only 1 in 4 Christian grandparents have presented the gospel to their grandchildren.

Biblical Grandparenting: Exploring God's Design for Disciple-Making and Passing Faith to Future Generations

Dr. Josh Mulvihill

Bethany House 2018

Grandparents have a critical role in God's kingdom. God has a plan and purpose for grandparents that we cannot ignore without consequence.

I. The role of the grandparent is a leadership role

Godly leadership is about influencing others to be and do what God wants them to be and do

Grandparenting = Grandshepherding

II. It is foundational with any leadership role to understand the power and authority God or other leaders have assigned to the position or role

What role is God calling grandparents to?

What authority does God give to grandparents?

What authority does He not give to grandparents?

What are the consequences of taking on more authority than God has given?
What are the consequences of not using the authority you have been given when you should?
(study what Bible says about Tamar)

Will say that leadership is best when the leader accomplishes the mission using the least amount of power and authority

To say this point another way, each role needs to understand exactly what level of accountability God will hold them to

- See this dynamic when Christ was talking with Pilate in John 19:11

John 19:11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

Being given more power and authority in a role is equal to having more accountability

Deut. 4:9 -- note that it gives a command to pass Truth to your children and grandchildren

Eph. 6:1 commands children to obey their parents – because parents are given a level of authority over their children

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- children grow up and leave the authority of their home to start a new home
- honor is to continue, care is to continue, but the authority structure changes
- Pastor Steve Viars always called this the TPT principle
 - Aspects of your relationship with your parents is temporary
 - Your relationship with your spouse is permanent
 - Aspects of your relationship with your children is temporary

All that to make the point that God authorizes parents to raise their children for Him and tells the grandparent to teach the grandchildren

1st a grandparent needs to recognize their children's God given authority to raise their grandchildren

2nd grandparent needs to recognize that in God's plan they are to have an important influence on their grandchildren

Research has shown that in most cases of parents view of the grandparents is transmitted to the grandchildren (page 125)

3. Understand exactly what God has said about what grandparents are to do or not to do

A. Understand that God says grandchildren are a blessing

Every grandchild is made in the image of God and is a gift of God
- And should be valued

- It is a blessing to be able to know your grandchildren

Psalm 128:6 May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

Thus we should see the role of grandparent as a blessing not a burden

- not as an anchor around your neck at a time you want freedom to do whatever you want –
they are a blessing from God

What God values, you should value

Proverbs 17:6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.

Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

- See examples of this care for GC

Genesis 48:10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

Genesis 31:55 Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.

Ruth 4:16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse.

Opposite of a blessing:

Psalm 78:62-63 ⁶² He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage. ⁶³ Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song.

B. Grandparents are to pass truth to their grandchildren

Platform for influence second only the child's parent

Deuteronomy 4:9-10 ⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children— ¹⁰ how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’

Deuteronomy 4:14 ¹⁴ And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.

- care for your walk with the Lord
- remember what God has taught you, what you have seen Him do
- V14 includes statutes and rules
- pass truth to children and grandchildren
- share how you have seen God work in your life
- teach to the level they can teach their children

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 ¹“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- both do and teach God’s statutes and rules to produce an understanding of who God is to your children and grandchildren
- develop an awe and respect for God
- P, C, GC – keep His commandments that your days will be long, that it will go well with you, family multiply (blessing)

Deuteronomy 6:20-21 ²⁰ “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?’ ²¹ then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

(p. 28, p. 29, 33 word for son – support grandparent)

Counterpart responsibility – you are responsible to teach, they are to ask

Deuteronomy 32:7 Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.

- Proverbs 4:1-9 child’s responsibility to get wisdom

Proverbs 4:1-9 ¹ Hear, O sons, a father’s instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, ² for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. ³ When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. ⁵ Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. ⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. ⁸ Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. ⁹ She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.”

Psalm 71:15 ¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

Psalm 71:16-18 ¹⁶ With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. ¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

- God has taught David, and he is saying that even in his old age he is still telling the message that God taught him from his youth
- What is David's passion, why is he asking for God's protection?
- So He can proclaim God's greatness to the next generation – could be great GC
- So He can tell how God has powerfully worked in righteous acts, in deeds of salvation

Heritage, legacy

Psalm 78:1-8 ¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

- telling: report, to count, to make known, to make a written record
- teaching: to instruct or guide for the purpose of learning (p. 38)

Psalm 44:1 O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

Type of discussion grandparents should have with grandchildren (p. 38)

Psalm 145:4-12 ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹² to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Legacy multigenerational view – passing truth to the next generation creates a spiritual legacy

Deuteronomy 12:28 Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

Multigenerational vision – played role in the development of spiritual life (p. 40)

2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Frequent instruction, Jesus centered instruction (p. 40)

2 Timothy 3:14-15 ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 127:4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

- Pass truth to multiple generations to present everyone mature in Christ Col. 1:28

Colossians 1:28-29 ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Review of content discussed:

| Passage | What to teach |
|--------------|--|
| Deut. 4:9 | Things you have seen (that impact heart) |
| 10 | God's Word |
| 10 | Reverence, respect for God, to be astonished by Him |
| 10 | Teach so they can teach |
| 14 | Statutes and rules |
| 14 | Application – how to do |
| Deut. 6:1 | Statutes and rules |
| 1 | Application – how to do |
| 2 | Reverence and respect for God so that they keep God's commands |
| 3 | The result of obedience is long life and life will go well |
| 4 | God is one |
| 5 | Love God with your whole heart, soul, might |
| 6 | Word to be woven into the fabric of your life |
| 7 | Use everyday life situations to teach |
| 8,9 | Create ways to teach and be reminded of truth |
| 21 | Tell how God has worked in your life in the past |
| Psalm 71:16 | God's mighty deeds |
| 16 | God's righteousness |
| 17 | Of His wondrous deeds |
| 18 | God's righteousness |
| 18 | About God's power |
| Psalm 78:2,3 | Pass on what you have learned |
| 4 | Tell of God's glorious deeds |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 4 | Tell about God's might |
| 4 | Tell about the wonders God has done |
| 5 | God's law |
| 6 | Teach for comprehension and implementation |
| 6 | Teach so they can teach their children |
| 7 | Teach so they put their hope in God |
| 7 | Teach so they will not forget the works of God |
| 7 | Teach so they will keep God's commands |
| Psalm 44:1 | Tell about God's deeds, what He has done |
| Psalm 145:4 | Commend God's works |
| 4 | Declare God's mighty acts |
| 5 | Tell about the glorious splendor of His majesty |
| 5 | Tell about God's wondrous deeds |
| 6 | Tell about God's might seen in His awesome deeds |
| 6 | Declare God's greatness |
| 7 | Recount the fame of God's abundant goodness |
| 7 | Sing aloud of God's righteousness |
| 8 | About God's graciousness and mercy |
| 8 | About His patience |
| 8 | About how He abounds in steadfast love |
| 11 | Speak about the glory of God's kingdom |
| 11 | Speak about God's power |
| 12 | Make known God's mighty deeds |
| 12 | Tell about the glorious splendor of God's kingdom |
| II Tim. 3:15 | Acquaint them with the Bible |
| 15 | Tell of salvation |
| Colos. 1:28 | Teach to present them mature in Christ |

In summary of the responsibility to pass truth:

Grandparents have goal to transmit 2 truths – what God has done and who God is

- Grandparents can use life lessons and tell stories to intentionally magnify the nature and person of God in the hearts of their grandchildren
- Grandparents are to remind the younger generation who God is and what He has done using their own life experience (p. 38)

It seems to me, most kids will learn more from the grandparent's life lessons than they will from their parents

Application: How you disciple grandkids (p. 155-159)

Discipling Grandchild

1. Ask Questions to accomplish these two goals
2. Provide blessings to your grandchildren
3. Schedule intentional meals

4. Pray with them
5. Study the Scripture together, teach them
6. Read and memorize the Bible with them
7. Tell stories of HOW God has worked in your life, write a book to your grandkids
8. Share the gospel, and keep reviewing God's good news