



# Grandparent Ministry

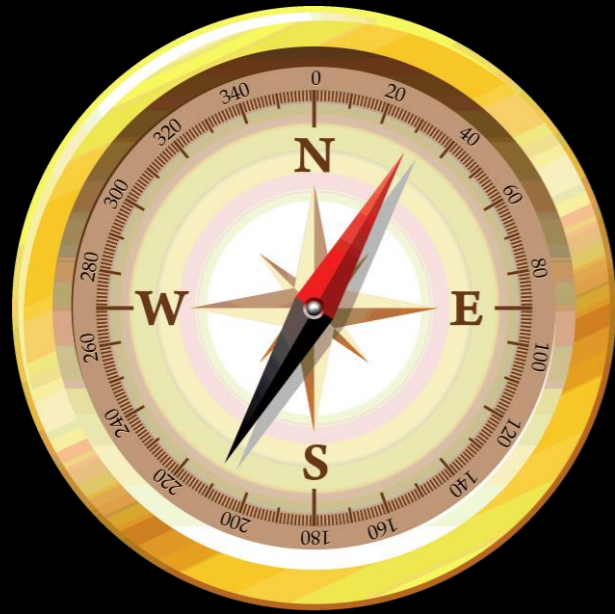
## Lesson 7

### The Power of a Praying Grandparent

The effective prayer of a righteous [grandparent] can accomplish much.

James 5:16 (adapted, NASB)

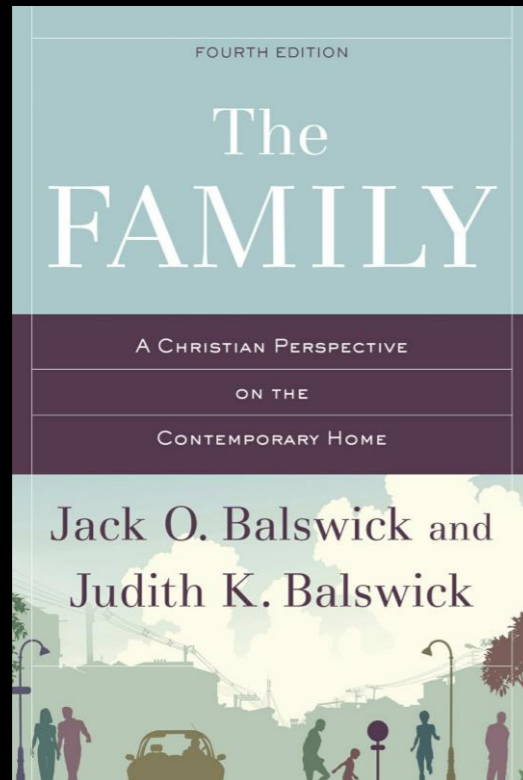
# Big Idea



- As grandparents, we want to **model** in very **tangible** ways that we live in the presence of a **sovereign, loving** God who wants us to talk to him. (pg 59)
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# The Family

Balswick, Jack O.; Balswick, Judith K.. The Family (p. 179). Baker Publishing Group.



- The role of grandparents in the lives of grandchildren **can be especially meaningful at transition points**, such as leaving home, when the tensions between parents and child are at their highest. Think of the advantage for a child of any age who can **draw on unconditional support and love** from both maternal and paternal grandparents. Grandparents who have intense relationships with grandchildren during their childhood promote continuation of the relationship into adulthood (Geurts, Van Tilburg, and Poortman 2012a).

# The Power of a Praying Grandparent

- Praying for ourselves as grandparents
  - Praying for our grandchildren's parents
  - Praying for our grandchildren
  - Praying with our grandchildren
-

## Larry McCall

Lord, please give my grandchildren, by your grace, such a high estimation of Jesus Christ that they want Him more than anything this world has to offer, more than everything this world has to offer.



- <https://vimeo.com/454089599>
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## Kirk's typical "undisciplined" prayer

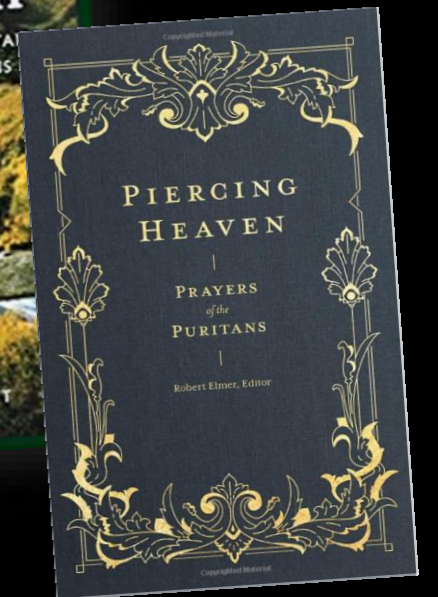
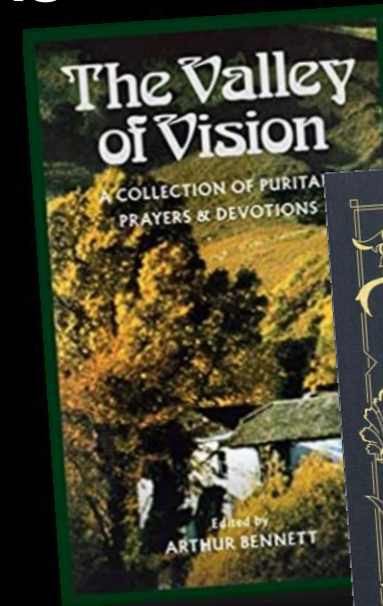
- *Lord, I thank you for this day that I may be serve you and others to Your glory. Lord as the tasks of today...like the report and two call backs, not to mention the flight next week that still needs to be ticketed...did my frequent flyer number get added?...that's right, numbers! I forgot to return the attendance list—and not just the list, but the...*  
*It's starts out strong...and then kind of tails off*



# Praying for ourselves

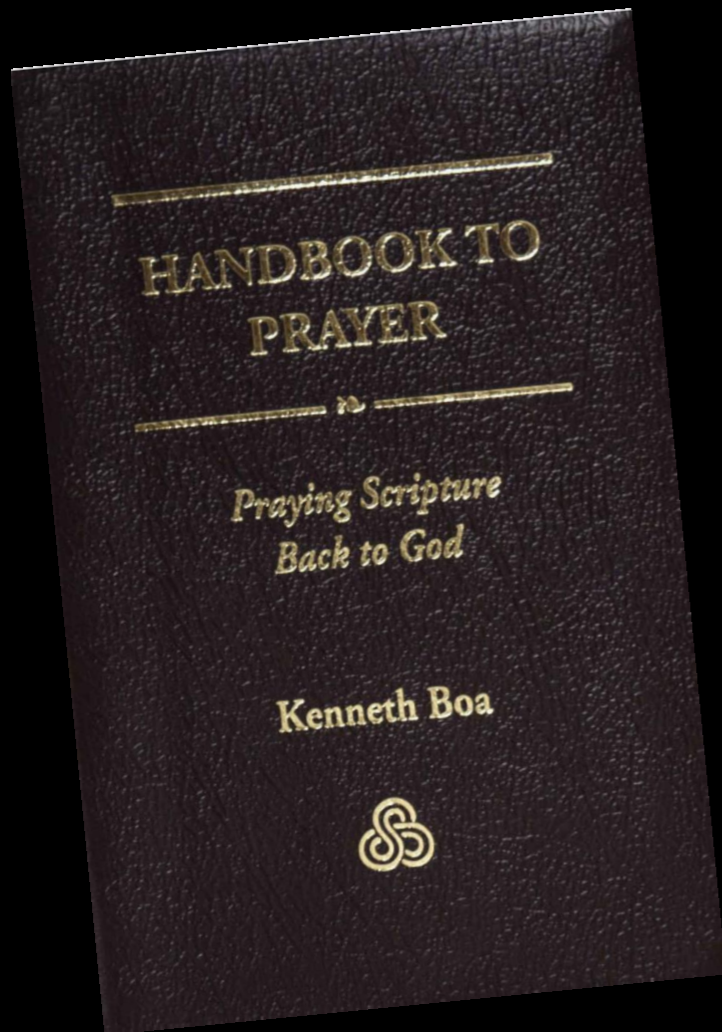
*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14–19)*

- Structure
  - A specific time and place
  - Using a journal or log book
  - Build out a list
- Puritan Prayer Books
- Daily Devotionals
- Reading Programs



# Handbook to Prayer:

Praying Scripture back to God



- “The problem with prayer is heightened by the fact that people often succumb either to the extreme of **all form and no freedom**, or the opposite extreme of **all freedom and no form**. The first extreme leads to a rote or impersonal approach to prayer, while the second produces an unbalanced and undisciplined prayer life that can degenerate into a litany of one “gimme” after another. *Handbook to Prayer* was designed to make prayer a more enriching and satisfying experience by providing both form and freedom in the practice of prayer.”



# Praying for the Parents

They are God's designated "primary disciple makers" in the lives of our grandchildren. So, how should we pray for our grandchildren's parents?

- Praying for their salvation is clearly a priority, if applicable
  - Let's pray that our adult children would have the Christian graces that we needed in raising kids...Wisdom? Faith? Love? Compassion? Humility?
  - Pray for the leadership in the home and the possibility of godly mentors that come alongside
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The Mighty  
Influence of a  
Praying Mom:  
Rhonwyn  
Kendrick's Story

- (142) The Mighty Influence of a Praying Mom: Rhonwyn Kendrick's Story - YouTube



## Praying for our grandchildren

“When a child is born, there is a candle lighted that must burn to eternity, either in heaven or hell; the consideration whereof should awaken us to pray with all possible earnestness for the salvation of their souls, next to our own.”

*Matthew Henry (Pg 59)*

- Is our focus safety and happiness?
- Psalm 78:7: “*so that* they should set their hope in God”
- Consider the prayers of Paul
  - *Ephesians 3:14–19, Philippians 1:9–11, Colossians 1:9–14, Ephesians 1:15–23, and 2 Thessalonians 1:3*
- *See the other 22 references in the chapter*

Consider expanding the application of  
*so that...*

# Prayer Ministry

- Prayer Ministry - Christian Grandparenting Network
  - 30-Day Prayer Challenge



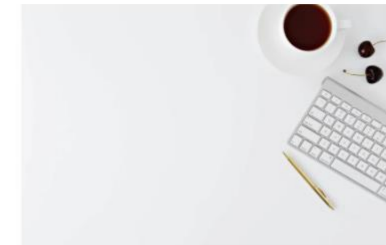
## Other Prayer Related Links



Grandparents at Prayer



Grandparents Day of Prayer



Grandparent Prayers and Blogs



# Resources

- [31 Days of Prayer for your Grandkids | Family Matters \(gracebasedfamilies.com\)](http://gracebasedfamilies.com)



- [Prayers for My Grandchildren Placemat: 18 x 12 inches with vinyl top and rubber non-slide surface on the back | Legacy Coalition \(churchgrowth.org\)](http://churchgrowth.org)



## Praying *with* our grandchildren

- Start early
  - Let's not miss opportunities to pray with our grandchildren!
  - Encourage and affirm after they pray
  - Weave it into the events and concerns in their daily lives
  - Make it engaging
-



## Discussion Questions:

- As you think about your own desires to grow as a gospel-centered grandparent, how would you like to pray for yourself?
- How would you like your spouse, kids, or fellow-grandparents to pray for you and your ministry of grandparenting?
- What are some ways you want to pray for your grandchildren's parents?
- As you think about your typical prayers for your grandchildren (Their safety? Happiness?), how might you want your prayers to grow after reading this chapter?
- If you are in a grandparenting group, what prayer requests for your family would you like to share with your fellow grandparents?



## Action Steps

- Start a prayer journal—either on paper or electronically—with an entry for each grandchild. You might want to have a place for both prayer requests and answers to prayer.
- Ask your grandchildren's parents for prayer requests for themselves, as well as for their children.
- Make a habit of regularly asking each of your grandchildren how you can be praying for them. If appropriate, seize the moment and pray for them there and then, either in person or over the phone.
- If you have grandchildren old enough to have their own phones, how about sharing prayer requests and answers to prayer via text messages?