

# Grandparent Ministry

## Lesson 8

### Gospel Grandparenting in Today's Culture

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

*Romans 15:7*

**Ben, what d'ya say we turn the power off for a little while and let the little guy roam around?**

■ Alex (7)

Introducing



Crystal Sarno

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# What you know to be true...

## ■ Tyler Truths

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pDZNfykDLs>

*Bravery is really just about availability - Beth G.*



Beth Guckenberger – Short Testimony

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# Big Idea



- Gospel empowered, Christ-reflected grandparents can take the initiative to **nurture** a close relationship over **long distances** and **difficult circumstances**

# Statistics

*Research indicates that the kind of grandparent individuals become is, in part, dependent on their perceptions of their own grandparents, their parents' attitudes toward grandparents, and the stereotypes of grandparents created by society and the media.*

*- J. Mulvihill*

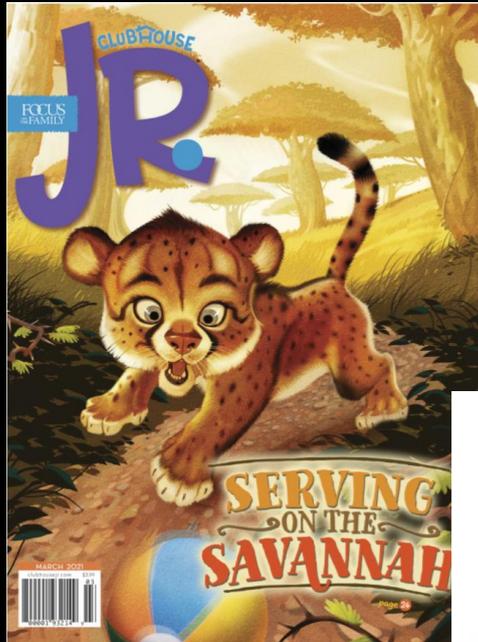
- Nearly half of all grandparents live at least 200 miles from at least one or more of their grandchildren
  - The number of people looking for divorces was 34 percent higher from March through June compared to 2019
    - <https://nypost.com/2020/09/01/divorce-rates-skyrocket-in-u-s-amid-covid-19/>
  - Currently in America, about 2.7M grandparents are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren
  - A nearly 60% jump in suicides by young Americans since 2007 has experts alarmed and somewhat puzzled.
    - <https://www.webmd.com/depression/news/20200911/suicide-rate-keeps-rising-among-young-americans#1>
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# Challenges for Today

- Distance
  - Divorce
  - Blended Families & Adoption
  - Other Challenging Situations
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# The Challenge of Distance

- Nearly half of all grandparents live at least 200 miles from at least one or more of their grandchildren
- Ideas to connect
- Intentional visits and trips
- Cards, calls and packages



# The Challenge of Divorce

*Applies to both the parents and the grandparents*

- Has anyone had to deal with that situation? How were you affected and how did you deal with it?
  
  - Approaches
    - Lay it before God - 1 Peter 5:7
      - “Casting all your anxiety on Him, because he cares for you”
    - Share with the body of Christ
    - Guard against bitterness
    - BE THE ROCK!
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# Solving Sticky Situations

[RightNow Media :: Streaming Video Bible Study : Grace Based Grandparenting: Solving the Sticky Situations : Tim Kimmel : Grace Based Families](#)

- Tim & Darcy Kimmel
  - Giving a Blessing
  - Leaving a Legacy
  - Bearing a Torch
  - Setting a Standard

SESSIONS	FEATURING	TIME
Trailer	Tim Kimmel	2 MINS
1. Minimizing the Drama of ...	Tim Kimmel	19 MINS
2. Sticky Situations: Sacred Cows, ...	Tim Kimmel	18 MINS
3. Sticky Situations: Divorce, ...	Tim Kimmel	20 MINS
4. Sticky Situations: Spoiling, ...	Tim Kimmel	18 MINS
5. Sticky Situations: Babysitting, ...	Tim Kimmel	20 MINS



# Solving Sticky Situations

*Our grandchildren are growing up in a culture that is both toxic and antagonistic to the priorities that our creator says are important.*

- As we hold up a torch to moral living...God's power and presence working through us can be an example of how not only to survive spiritually, but actually thrive.
  - God want to use us to show our grandchildren what people look like who are not intimidated by an antagonistic culture.
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## Other Challenging Situations

- Becoming the Primary Caregivers
  - Difficult Relationships
  - Special needs grandchildren
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## Discussion Questions:

- What are some challenges you are facing as a grandparent? What makes them so hard?
- What are some ways you have stayed connected to grandchildren who live some distance away? Are there ways you could improve your connectedness, now that you've read this chapter?
- What would have to happen for you to be able to visit your long-distance grandchildren? What could you be doing to make that visit possible?



## Discussion Questions:

- Has your family been impacted by divorce? What special challenges have you experienced because of divorce in your extended family?
- What truths of the gospel have you found helpful in your difficulties as a grandparent?



## Action Steps

- If you have not already done so, download whatever app is necessary for you to have video calls with your long-distance grandchildren. Begin scheduling regular video calls.
- Do you need to pursue reconciliation with a family member? Discuss and pray about this with a Christian friend, then make that call, requesting an opportunity to have a humble, loving, heart-to-heart conversation.



## Action Steps

- Are you in a small group or accountability group at your church? If so, be open about the struggles you are facing in your family, requesting prayer support as a parent or grandparent. If you're not in a group, what do you need to do to join one?
- Seek out the fellowship of other grandparents and pray for one another as you face difficulties and challenges, asking the Lord to remind you of the power and promises of the gospel.

# Blended Families & Adoption

*“By God’s grace,  
we can reflect him  
as we chose to  
move toward  
these new  
grandchildren”*

*- Larry McCall*

- We are all adopted!
- Flip the script...
- Loving Children

□ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7q6ukLCnPk>



# BACK2BACK

## Ministries

*Around the world we're establishing footholds of deep, holistic care for orphaned and vulnerable children. Our goal isn't a temporary fix or short-term relief, we're committed to helping orphaned and vulnerable children eradicate all forms of generational poverty in their lives – spiritual, physical, educational, emotional, and social.*

- Learn the practices of trauma-informed care
  - Back2Back has created a separate organization — [Trauma Free World](#) — completely dedicated to providing trauma training to adults and organizations around the world.