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**GRANDPARENTING WITH GRACE**

**WHY DOES MY GRANDCHILD NEED A SAVIOR?**

**Session 2**

INTRODUCTION:

I. WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT OUR GRANDCHILDREN?

A. Quick review: (This will shape how we view our grandchildren and how we interact with them)

1. God wants us to know that our grandchildren are his blessings to us and should not be felt as a burden or a disruption to our “golden years.”

2. God wants us to know that our grandchildren are his creations. They are, therefore, *dependent* on Him (for life and understanding) and *accountable* to Him as their Creator.

2. God wants us to know that our grandchildren are his image-bearers and therefore made to *relate* to Him (a key purpose of their existence), *reflect* Him (living lives that are purposeful, rational, and volitional, etc.) and *represent* Him (ruling the earth, living for His glory).

B. Now, to build on that: God wants us to know also that our grandchildren are not only created in *God’s* image, but they are born in *our* image. They are born sinners. Have you ever noticed the significant wording of Genesis 5:1-3?

1. The popular assumption of most people in our culture is that children are born “tabula rasa,” that is a “blank slate.”

2. Even many Christians look at children as being “good” or at least “innocent” until they reach “the age of accountability.”

3. What does the Bible teach about the spiritual state of our grandchildren?

Genesis 8:21, *“the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth.”*

Psalm 51:5, *“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*

Proverbs 22:15, *“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child”*

Romans 3:9-23 (especially verse 23), *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

Romans 5:12, *“sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”*

Ephesians 2:1-3 (especially verse 3), *“we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind”*

4. So, how does our grandchild’s inborn sinfulness impact/shape his/her view of himself? His view of life?

Their sense of our *dependence* on God?

Their sense of our *accountability* on God?

5. Many grandparents assume that their grandkids are born “good” and just need protected from external evil influences. Our grandchildren need more than protection from bad influences. They need new hearts! [repeat]

C. If our grandchildren are to be in a right relationship with God, they must be “born again” (that is, born “spiritually” and not merely born physically into a Christian family).

II. SO, HOW OLD MUST A CHILD BE BEFORE HE/SHE CAN BE SAVED?

III. WELL, THEN, HOW DO WE BRING UP THE SUBJECT OF SALVATION WITH OUR GRANDCHILDREN?

A. Always be developing a daily lifestyle—a family culture—of speaking of God and our need for His grace.

B. Look for age-appropriate, gospel-centered children’s books that clearly tell the story of God’s redemption.

*The Ology* by Marty Machowski (and other titles by him, including *It’s Not About the Mud*)

*My ABC Bible Verses* by Susan Hunt

*Leading Little Ones to God* by Marian Schoolland

*Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing* by Sally Lloyd-Jones

*I Believe in Jesus* by John MacArthur

*God Knows Everything* by Carine Mackenzie (and other titles in this series)

*My 1st Book of Questions and Answers* by Carine Mackenzie

**The Bible itself!**

2. Be intentional about reading these kinds of books to your grandchildren. As the grandchildren get old enough to read for themselves, add to your library books for older kids, right through the teen years.

3. And, with discernment, you might also find videos that are Bible-based, gospel-centered and age-appropriate. But, be wise. Many “Christian” videos, like many “Christian” books teach “moralisms” rather than the gospel of God’s saving grace.

C. When you’re with your grandchildren, ask them what they have been learning in their Sunday School class or in the worship service. Be gentle in drawing this out, and respond with grateful enthusiasm.

D. And, when you have need to address your grandchild’s sin (with the parents’ permission), this provides a wonderful opportunity to talk to the child about his/her need for God’s forgiveness. Don’t settle for mere moralistic exhortations along the line of “You need to be a better boy/girl.” Go vertical, too! Talk to them as one sinner to another sinner.

E. Let your grandchildren hear you pray for their salvation.

F. And, of course, if your grandchild brings up the issue of wanting to be right with God, seize the moment!

IV. WHAT DO WE *SAY* TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT BEING RIGHT WITH GOD?

A. Clarify what you’re doing:

B. Use your Bible

C. Key issues to discuss with a child about being right with God.

1. God is holy. He made you and wants you to live your life for Him, not just for yourself (Isaiah 43:7).

2. But, we *do* live for ourselves instead of for God. That’s called “sin.”

3. Sin deserves punishment (Romans 6:23).

4. Jesus is the only person who never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21; Hebrews 4:15

5. Not only did Jesus live a life of perfectly obeying God, but then he died on the cross to pay the penalty that sinners earned for their disobedience (Romans 5:6-11

6. To be right with God, you must repent of your sin – you must turn away from it (Acts 2:38).

7. You must put your trust in Jesus and what he did in his life and in his death as the only way you can ever be right with God (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

8. Ask God to forgive you and make you his child (Romans 10:9-13). If the child wants to confess his/her sin and ask God to save him/her, I’d encourage the child to say that in his own words.

Recommend: Klumpenhower, Jack. *Show Them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids.* Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2014.