

# A Grandparent's Influence

By Jim Gifford

**I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.**

**2 Timothy 1:5**

If Timothy's grandmother, Lois, had not been faithful in passing on her faith to her daughter, Eunice, and her grandson, Timothy, we probably would not have 1 and 2 Timothy in the Bible today. This is a good generational example of the importance of passing on the faith to future generations. Lois is our forerunner who modeled grandparenting for us.

As grandparents, we have a crucial role to fill. According to God's word, God wants grandparents to focus on passing on a godly legacy to the next generation. We can do that as we intentionally tell future generations how God has walked with us and demonstrated His mighty works in our lives.

We love to give gifts to our grandchildren. The greatest and most lasting gifts we can give them is to pray and demonstrate for them God's love and faithfulness. The material things we might leave for our children and grandchildren are temporary; however, our prayers and examples can make a significant impact on them for a lifetime. Our greatest blessings will come when we see God answering our prayers in their lives.

What a blessing it would be for me to hear my grandchildren say, "I want to have a relationship with the Lord like my grandfather modeled for me." I hope I can say in the years to come, *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children and grandchildren are walking in the truth"* (3 John 1:4).

Grandparents, while the world whispers in our ears that it's time to retire and relax, we have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our grandchildren and leave a lasting legacy for our family that will bless generations to come.

Ask yourself these questions: What kind of memories will my grandchildren have of me? Do I want my grandchildren to imitate my spiritual life? Will they want my Jesus? †



**Jim Gifford** is a 39-year veteran of ministry, having served in a variety of roles. As Dawson's Minister to Adults, Jim equips adults to be disciple-makers engaged in expanding God's kingdom. Jim is married to Dorinda, the love of his life, and they have three children and four grandchildren. In their free time they enjoy camping and traveling adventures.





# GRAND PARENTING MATTERS!

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## SEMINAR

**Friday, February 28  
& Saturday, February 29**

### SEMINAR SCHEDULE

#### Friday Evening

- 6:30 p.m. **Session 1** - The Amazing Influence of a Grandparent  
**Session 2** - What the Bible Says About Grandparenting  
8:30 p.m. Fellowship (Resource Center Open)

#### Saturday Morning

- 8:00 a.m. Doors Open & Coffee with Pastries  
8:30 a.m. **Session 3** - Reaching the Heart of Your Grandchild  
**Session 4** - Overcoming the Barriers of Distance  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Resource Center Open)  
10:50 a.m. **Session 5** - The 8 Best Practices of Christian Grandparents  
**Session 6** - Becoming an Intentional Christian Grandparent  
12:30 p.m. Dismiss (lunch on your own)

Register at [dawsonchurch.org/ItMatters](http://dawsonchurch.org/ItMatters).