

“Children’s children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children” (Prov. 17:6).



The first Sunday after Labor Day marks a special day on the calendar—Grandparents Day.

First celebrated in the United States and now in a number of other countries, this holiday is growing in popularity. Although Grandparents Day is a secular holiday, celebrating it is definitely in line with Scripture instructing us to honor and respect our elders.

Teaching children to honor grandparents is a wonderful thing. Children are on the receiving end of so much love and attention from grandparents; it is good to turn the tables at least one day of the year. Here are some helpful ideas:

### Pray for Grandparents

Train young hearts to seek God by including grandparents in their prayers. Make a list of any needs grandparents are facing. Situations like health concerns, housing decisions, and loneliness are all things we sometimes shelter children from knowing. But seeing grandparents as people with real needs can shift the focus and help little hearts be compassionate in a new way.

### Make the Holiday Memorable

Make plans to honor grandparents on Grandparents Day. This can be as simple as lunch at their favorite restaurant or bringing dessert to their home. Plan to spend some extra time just listening to them. Introduce your children to their family’s heritage by inviting grandparents to share memorabilia from earlier years and letting them tell the story behind it. Encourage grandparents to share their salvation testimony or a time the Lord brought them through a difficult season.

### Say It with Flowers

Send a floral arrangement or a letter of love to grandparents who live far away. Make the holiday really special by mailing a short note each day for a week, with each letter having a different theme. Themes for letters could be recalling a favorite memory with a grandparent, what they do that makes grandchildren feel special, how they have instilled faith in their family, how their work ethic has taught unspoken lessons to their grandchildren, etc. This simple gesture costs only a stamp per day but yields priceless blessings.

### Don’t Forget Spiritual Grandparents

Take time to teach your children what it means to have “spiritual grandparents” in their lives. Tell them about someone older who impacted your faith (a Sunday School teacher, a GA® leader, an aunt or uncle, etc.). Ask if they can think of any spiritual grandparents in their lives. Write a thank-you note to these people for their influence, or pick up the phone and let them hear the gratitude in your voice.

We live in a world where relationships are eroding and gratitude falls by the wayside. Let’s take the opportunity this Grandparents Day to make a real difference and honor those who deserve it!

—From an article by Sheila Gosney in *Missions Mosaic*, September 2015