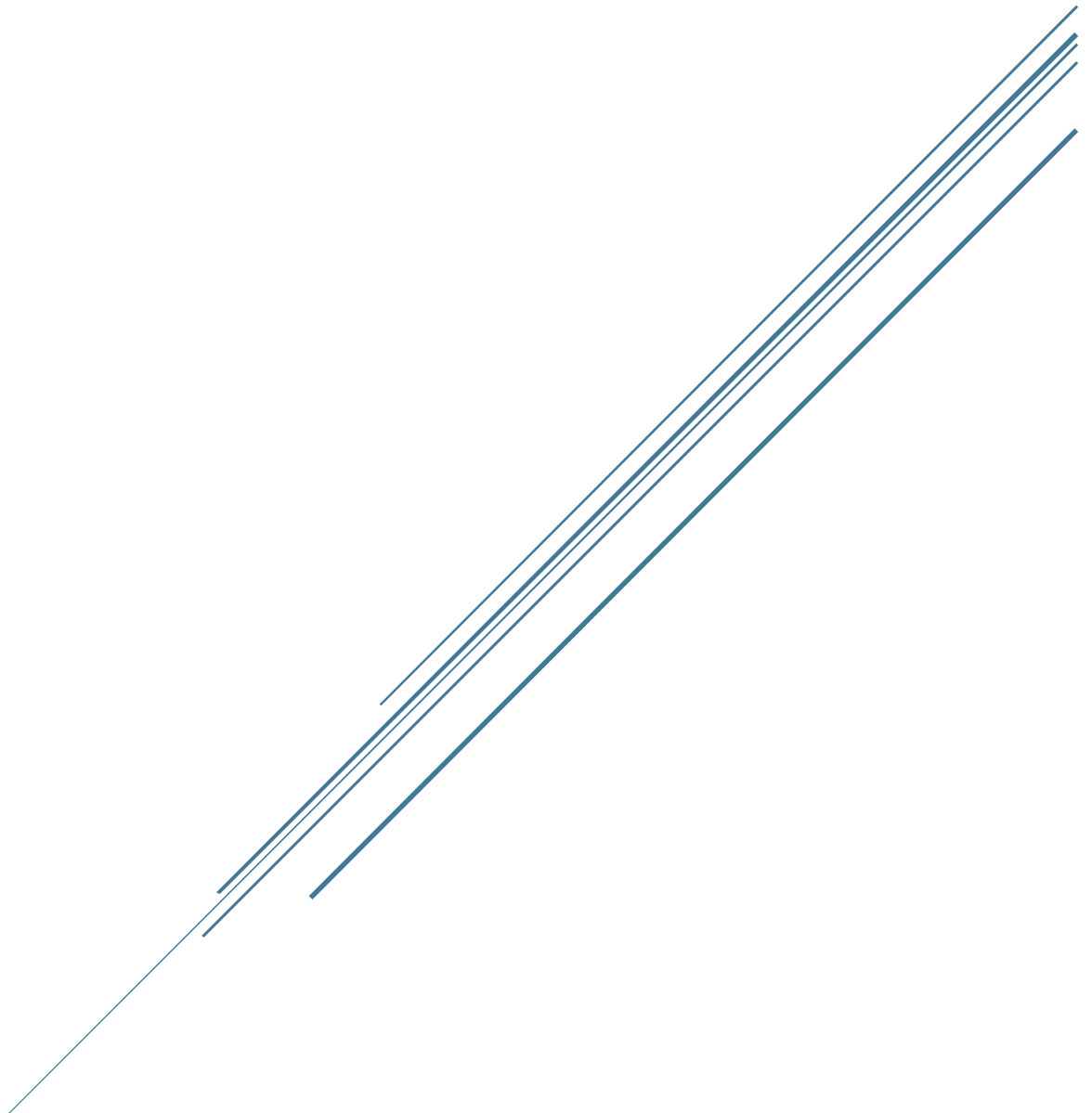


GRANDPARENTS' DAY OF PRAYER

Guidebook



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GRANDPARENTS' DAY OF PRAYER GUIDE

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. –James 5:16

HISTORY

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Senate proclamation, declaring the Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day.

More than ten years ago, under the leadership of Cavin Harper and Lillian Penner, the Christian Grandparenting Network challenged grandparents to commit this day to prayer; hence, the reason we now call the Sunday after Labor Day Grandparent Day of Prayer.

IMPORTANCE OF GRANDPARENTS' DAY OF PRAYER

As Christian grandparents, we find ourselves involved in a spiritual tug-of-war for the hearts, minds, and souls of our children and grandchildren. God's truth is under assault everywhere, including our schools, political arenas, marketplaces, and churches. Satan is relentless in his attack to desensitize mankind to the Gospel Message and love of Christ.

A spiritual battle requires a spiritual weapon, and that weapon is prayer. As grandparents, we need to humble ourselves, seek God's face, repent of our sin, and intercede on behalf of our children and grandchildren. Then, having done all, we must stand firm in our faith that God has heard and will answer our prayers according to His sovereign will.

CALL TO ACTION

In the past, united prayer has bridged the gap between a great need and a great awakening.

Christian grandparents everywhere are being asked to stand in the gap for our grandchildren, just as Queen Esther stood in the gap for her people during a desperate time. Together, through prayer, we will link arms with other grandparents for the sake of our children, grandchildren, and the generations coming after them. This includes those children and grandchildren who are not biologically related to us but whom we love. We refer to them as our spiritual children and grandchildren.

We hope thousands of churches and groups will host a prayer event for Grandparents' Day of Prayer. The event can be held in your church, home, retirement complex, or any meeting location you choose. It can be as simple or complex as you want it to be. For example, you may want to host a prayer breakfast or a luncheon after your church's morning worship service. You may want to offer an afternoon tea or evening dessert in the comfort of your living room. Or you may want to have an informal prayer gathering with your closest friends. Remember: food is optional; prayer is key!

Christian Grandparenting Network is dedicated to making this day special and stress-free; therefore, we've created this Grandparents' Day of Prayer Guide. The suggestions in this guide will help you organize and implement a prayer event at your church, in your neighborhood, or at a local Christian school or community center. We recommend you recruit a group of friends to help you plan the event.

HOSTING AN EVENT

We are excited that you have decided to hold a Grandparents' Day of Prayer event. We recommend you follow these steps: pray, plan, promote, and prepare.

1. PRAY:

All endeavors should begin with prayer. In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul writes, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

When you pray, remember to bless the Lord by glorifying Him and giving thanks for your precious grandchildren and their parents. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and your committee as you plan, promote, and prepare for this event. May your will align with the Lord's will, and may you glorify Him in all that you say and do.

2. PLAN:

Yogi Berra said, "If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else." Plans are important not only for baseball but for the Grandparents' Day of Prayer event you are hosting.

There are nine important decisions for you to make:

- 1) Will you host this event at your church or another location, such as in your home or at a community center? If you plan on hosting it at your church, you need to speak with your minister or a church staff member to obtain permission.

Some churches are not interested in having an elaborate celebration. In this case, we suggest you ask your pastor to acknowledge Grandparents Day by recognizing the grandparents (biological and spiritual) in the congregation and setting aside time during the service for grandparents to pray for their grandchildren.

- 2) What time will the event take place? Will it be held before, during, or after the church service? How long will it last?
- 3) What type of event will this be? (For event ideas, see page 6.)
- 4) Do you plan on serving food? If so, will you eat before or after the prayer service?
- 5) Do you plan on having a program or structured service with Scripture reading and music? Or do you prefer an informal prayer time among friends? (See the suggested formats on pages 9-11)
- 6) How many people do you expect to attend?
- 7) How will you promote this event?
- 8) Who is responsible for setting up? Clean up?
- 9) If this is going to be a big event, how will you fund it?

3. PROMOTE:

The type of event you are holding will determine how much and what kind of promotion you need to do. For example, if you are hosting a Grandparents' Day of Prayer breakfast at church, you should promote it in the church newsletter, on the church website and Facebook page, and during Sunday morning announcements. You may even consider making a fun and engaging video announcement. On the other hand, if you are having an intimate gathering of friends in the comfort of your living room, you may want to make individual phone calls or send an invitation, either online or handwritten.

4. PREPARE:

The more you prepare in advance, the less stress you will experience on the day of the event. Therefore, we have created a To-Do list for you to complete before the event. This list appears in a larger font, so you can print it and cross out the tasks once they are completed. (See page 7.)

EVENT IDEAS

- Seniors' Breakfast before church
- Church Luncheon
- Afternoon tea for grandmothers and their granddaughters
- Potluck dinner
- Chili party
- Barbeque
- "Share Your Grandmother's Favorite Recipe" dinner
- Homemade Ice Cream and Dessert gathering
- Cookie swap
- Gathering at a coffee shop, restaurant, or ice cream parlor

GRANDPARENTS' DAY OF PRAYER TO DO LIST

- **PRAY.**
- **Recruit a group of friends to help you plan this event.**
- **Decide on the type of event you are hosting.**
- **Decide on the format of the program.**
- **Speak to your pastor or adult ministry leader about hosting a Grandparents' Day of Prayer at your church (if you want to have something at your church).**
- **Schedule the meeting place.**
- **Create a promotional flyer or postcard to invite grandparents from your church and community.**
- **Promote this event in the church newsletter. Ask your pastor to announce this event during your Sunday worship service.**
- **Invite your friends!**
- **Purchase and prepare the food (if you are serving food).**
- **Print one copy per person of the Guide for Corporate Prayer.**

Prayer is the link that connects us with God. –A.B. Simpson

DAY OF THE EVENT

1. Make prayer a priority on this special day.
2. Set up for the event.
3. Be respectful by starting and ending on time.
4. Optional ideas:
 - A. Photographs provide a strong visual when we pray. You may want to ask the grandparents in advance to bring pictures of their grandchildren.
 - B. If you don't want to use photographs, you may consider asking the grandparents to list the names of their grandchildren on a poster board or banner before you begin to pray.
 - C. Candles are often lit to denote prayer, worship, and the presence of God. You may want to consider lighting one or more candles.

FOLLOWING THE EVENT

Congratulations on hosting a successful prayer event! As a result of your efforts, grandparents in your church or community are committed to praying for their grandchildren. So, what's next? Here are some ideas and resources for you to consider:

1. Start a Grandparents@Prayer (G@P) group or promote an ongoing one. For more information about G@P, visit the [Grandparents@Prayer](#) page on our website.
2. Sign up to receive the [52 Weeks of Prayer](#)
Commit to one of our [30-Day Prayer Challenges](#)
View our [Free Resources](#) (scroll past the Scripture cards)
3. Regularly contact your grandchildren and let them know you are praying for them.

SUGGESTED EVENT PROGRAM

OPTION A:

1. Welcome
2. Explain the Purpose and Process:

There can be no denying we live in a desperate moral and spiritual climate. Our grandchildren must navigate in a world that is increasingly hostile to truth. Satan has launched an aggressive attack on all fronts, including the media, technology, education, social influences, and political pressures. He is trying to desensitize and cloud the boundaries of truth and righteousness that hold nations and families together. Perhaps at no other time in our history is a call to prayer more urgently required than it is today. This is why we are gathered here: we have come to pray.

Our schedule is relatively simple. In just a moment, _____ (name of person) will open us in prayer. Next, we will read a few passages of Scripture. We will then break into groups of 5-6 grandparents (if feasible) and pray corporately. A Guide for Corporate Prayer has been included in your program to assist each group as they pray. Remember: this is only a guide. Ask and depend upon the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers. Group leaders have already been designated to lead your group.

We will gather together one last time for a song and final Benediction/Blessing.

3. Opening Prayer (There are a list of prayers on pages 11-14. You are welcome to use one of these prayers, or say a prayer of your own.)
4. Suggested Scripture Readings:
 - Reader 1: Deuteronomy 6:1-9
 - Reader 2: Jeremiah 2:5, 11-13,
 - Reader 3: Philippians. 1:9-11

Reader 4: Ephesians 1:17-19a

5. Corporate Prayer (Break into Groups)
6. Closing Prayer (You may want to consider closing with the Lord's Prayer.)
7. Song and Final Benediction

OPTION B:

1. Welcome
2. Explain the Purpose and Process:

There can be no denying we live in a desperate moral and spiritual climate. Our grandchildren must navigate in a world that is increasingly hostile to truth. Satan has launched an aggressive attack on all fronts, including the media, technology, education, social influences, and political pressures. He is trying to desensitize and cloud the boundaries of truth and righteousness that hold nations and families together. Perhaps at no other time in our history is a call to prayer more urgently required than it is today. This is why we are gathered here: we have come to pray.

Our schedule is relatively simple. In just a moment, _____ (name of person) will open us in prayer. Next, we will read a passage of Scripture (or a devotion). We will then break into groups of 5-6 grandparents (if feasible) and pray corporately. Group leaders have already been designated to lead your group. Your group leader has copies of the "Guide for Corporate Prayer." Remember: this is only a guide. Ask and depend upon the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers. We will gather together one last time for a closing prayer.

3. Opening Prayer
4. Scripture Passage or Devotion
5. Corporate Prayer

6. Closing Prayer (You may want to consider closing with the Lord's Prayer.)

GUIDE FOR CORPORATE PRAYER

1. Give thanks for the blessing of children and grandchildren.
2. Pray for your grandchildren's salvation and sanctification.
3. Pray God protects your grandchildren from Satan and all forms of evil.
4. Pray for your grandchildren's parents and their marriages.
5. Pray for families everywhere.
6. Pray for wisdom to represent Christ well through example.
7. Pray for the restoration of truth and moral foundations in our nation and throughout the world.
8. Pray for your grandchildren's pastors, youth leaders, teachers, and coaches.

SUGGESTED PRAYERS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Abba Father,

We praise You for the love that exists between grandparents and their grandchildren. It reflects both the power and sweetness of Your love for each of us.

As we gather to celebrate Grandparents' Day of Prayer, we want to acknowledge the grandparents in our midst. We pray You look upon them with favor and blessing. Please give them wisdom and discernment as they strive to find a balance between being too strict or lenient. Help them navigate time constraints, financial concerns, and challenging family dynamics so they can foster long-lasting relationships with their

grandchildren. Show them how to love their children and grandchildren as You love them, unconditionally and without reservation or restraint.

We pray that when their time on earth is complete, these devoted grandparents will hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

In Jesus' Name, we pray.
Amen.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You on Grandparents' Day of Prayer, our voices raised in one accord, praying for a special anointing to pass our faith in Christ Jesus to the generations coming after us.

We come from all walks of life, united in Christ with one single passion... to share the love of our Savior and the message of His salvation with our grandchildren and their parents.

We come before Your mercy throne, praying for the ability to love our family as You love them, unconditionally and without reservation or restraint.

We give You thanks and praise for the indescribable joy our grandchildren and their parents bring to this season of our lives.

In Jesus' Name, we pray.
Amen.

PRAYERS FOR GRANDCHILDREN

Lord Jesus,

We acknowledge Grandparents' Day of Prayer by thanking You for the blessing of grandchildren. Our love for them brings us tremendous joy.

We pray You awaken our grandchildren to the truth of the Gospel Message. Please let them understand that Your love for them led You to Calvary and the empty tomb from which You were raised on the third day serves as a reminder of Your victory over sin and death.

Our heart's greatest desire is for our grandchildren to receive Your gift of grace and salvation. Therefore, we pray they confess and repent of their sin and accept You as their Lord and Savior. Let them "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4), now and forevermore. After all, we can't imagine eternity without them.

In Your name, we pray.
Amen.

Abba Father,

We humble ourselves before Your mercy throne, interceding on behalf of our beloved grandchildren. We pray You empower and strengthen them by Your Holy Spirit. Please let Christ dwell within them, so they grow daily in their faith and are filled with the fullness of God.

We pray You open their hearts, minds, and souls to comprehend and experience the breadth, length, height, and depth of Your immeasurable and everlasting love. Let them be rooted and grounded in Your love, so they never waver in their faith or walk away from their relationship with You.

We pray this in Jesus' Name.
Amen.

Abba Father,

We pray that our grandchildren "run with endurance the race You have set before them" (Hebrews 12:1). Let them strip off everything that slows them down, especially sin, which entangles their feet and causes them to stumble.

We pray they do not grow weary or give up anywhere along the way. Instead, let them run their life's race with commitment, endurance, and joy, keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Please surround our grandchildren with other believers who, like us, are willing to offer them wise counsel; give course correction, if needed; pray without ceasing; and cheer them to the finish line.

In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

Lord Jesus,

A battle exists for the hearts, minds, and souls of our beloved grandchildren. Scripture tells us the battle isn't "against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness" (Ephesians 6:12).

We pray You cover our grandchildren in the mantle of Your love. Clothe them in Your holy armor and secure the armor in place with Your belt of truth. Please safeguard their hearts against the world's depravity with the breastplate of Your righteousness. Shod their feet so they stand firmly for the gospel of peace, and protect their minds from Satan's lies with the helmet of Your salvation.

We pray our grandchildren learn how to wield the offensive pieces of Your armor effectively. Show them how to use the shield of faith to extinguish Satan's fiery darts and how to disarm all forces of evil with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:11-17).

We pray grandchildren persist in prayer, "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication" (Ephesians 6:18). And let them always be mindful that the victory has already been won by You!

In Your name, we pray.
Amen.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines running across the width of the page, typical of notebook or composition paper. The lines are thin and light grey, set against a plain white background. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.