

# Parent or Grandparent Seminar Topics

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Because of the scriptural mandate that the parents of the children develop their own children spiritually (Deut. 6: 4-9), today's Church should do all it can to support, train, and empower the parents in this Biblical challenge. This support must also be open to grandparents as well. In today's world, a growing number of grandparents are the primary caretakers of children. Here is a list of parent/grandparent seminars that might be offered throughout the year:

## 1. "Knowing Your Child"

- a. Understanding the general needs of all children.
- b. Knowing your child's likes and dislikes.
- c. Knowing your child's fears.
- d. Understanding your child's needs and wants.
- e. Knowing your child's hopes.
- f. Using your understanding of your child to bond with, lead, and inspire him or her.



## 2. "Creating A Home That Launches Your Children"

- a. God's plan for the home "environment" in scripture.
- b. How to set realistic boundaries in the home.
- c. How to support the boundaries without harming the child.
- d. How to create a fun home.
- e. How to create a respectful home.
- f. The power and danger of "freedom of choice."
- g. Using the four "sensitive times" mentioned in Deut. 6:4-9:
  - Mealtimes
  - "Together times"
  - Bedtimes
  - The morning wakeup
- h. Using "teachable moments" to support, comfort and guide your child.

## 3. "Becoming A 'Significant Person' In Your Child's Life"

- a. Understanding the "seasons" of parenthood:
  - The "Care-giver Season" (birth-3-yrs.)
  - The "Developer Season" (1-yr. – 14-yrs.)
  - The "Guide Season" (13-yrs. – 18 yrs.)
  - The "Encourager Season" (17-yrs. – death)
- b. Earning the position of a "significant person" in your child's life.
- c. Guiding without smothering during your child's significant events:
  - Rejection by others / choosing friends
  - Failures (school, sports, friends, work, etc.)
  - Successes (school, sports, friends, work, etc.)
  - The first "crush"
  - Injuries
  - Deaths (animals, people)



#### 4. “Disciplining Your Child The Way God Disciplines You”

- a. The difference between “punishment” and “discipline.”
- b. The Biblical principles of discipline.
- c. The foundation of good discipline:
  - Love (sacrificial, visible, tangible, consistent)
  - Concern for future
  - Talking, listening
  - Consistency within realistic limits
- d. The enemies of discipline:
  - Inconsistency
  - Using God, Jesus, or the Bible as “weapons”
  - A thirst for control or power
  - Physical abuse
  - Lack of concern or interest in the child’s feelings
  - Lack of reinforcement of love afterward
- e. The use of words in discipline.
- f. The use of spanking – understanding the extreme danger.
- g. The use of “time out.”
- h. The use of consequences.



#### 5. “Raising A Child Who Stands Out From The Crowd”

- a. Developing a strong “work ethic”
- b. Inspiring the child to be “set apart” or “pure” in the Lord
- c. Developing a strong, Godly, “Christlike” character
- d. Developing a child who is faithful
- e. Developing a child who is honest
- f. Developing a child who cares for and serves others more than him/herself

#### 6. “We’ll Talk About That Later” – *Talking with children about “hot” topics*

- a. Sexuality – God’s original design and timing – when it becomes “fleshly.”
- b. Homosexuality – why God hates it.
- c. Sexual purity – honoring God’s design and timing.
- d. Pornography and lust – the dangers of not “taking our thoughts captive.” (2Cor. 10:5)
- e. Gender confusion – the dangers of stereotypes – be who God created you to be.

#### 7. “You’re So ‘Old Fashioned!’”

- a. Modeling and establishing **truth and honesty** in your child.
- b. Teaching your child about “**right and wrong**” in biblical perspective.
- c. Modeling and establishing **purity and holiness** in your child.
- d. Modeling and establishing a **hard work** ethic in your child.
- e. Modeling and establishing **care and sacrifice for others** in your child.



#### 8. “Raising Confident Boys or Girls”

- a. Understanding and teaching God’s plan for males.
- b. Understanding and teaching God’s plan for females.
- c. The wonderfully designed balance between males and females.
- d. The problem with our “stereotypes” of gender (boys like sports, girls like dolls, etc.)
- e. How to encourage children, regardless of their gender, to honor God and follow their dreams.

9. **“What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?”**

- a. “The family business” – avoiding inherited expectations.
- b. “Unrealized dreams” – preventing your own dreams from being forced on your child.
- c. “Parental censorship” – supporting your child’s interests even if they seem unusual.
- d. “Unbridled support” – “flowing” with your child’s “whims” as they come and go.
- e. “Fireside chats” – offering advice and encouragement in the choice of college or formal training.

10. **“How To Handle The Electronic Challenges of Today’s World?”**

- a. When to give your child his/her first phone?
- b. What limits to place on your child’s phone (text, media, online?)
- c. What about “social media”? To permit their access, or limit?
- d. How do you develop your child’s socialization skills (talking, listening) in addition to permitting them to text and interact electronically?



11. **“How To Deal With ‘Privacy’ Issues?”**

- a. Who defines “privacy”?
- b. How do you protect your child’s electronic reputation without invading his/her privacy?
- c. How do you stay “connected and aware” without invading your child’s privacy?
- d. What are the boundaries, rules, and consequences that you have to establish regarding privacy?