



Holy Grand-Parenting

Keynote Presentation Notes

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- **Experiencing God Together**

- Every moment of every day gives children an opportunity to experience God's grace and love.
- Our 5 senses help us explore and remember the world around us. These include:
 - smell
 - taste
 - touch
 - vision
 - hearing

- **Psalm 23**

- God is with us
- We have all we need to THRIVE
- We have an obligation to protect the innocent. We must stand between those who need our protection and those who would do them harm.
- Holy grand-parenting is about being faithful shepherds and guides
 - God guides us in this holy and hard work

- **Gifts we bring to the holy and hard work of grand-parenting**

- **Gift #1: Presence and Time**
 - It is important for us to say what we mean... and do what we say.
 - It is also important that we are consistent and reliable
- **Gift #2: Respect and Value**
 - Affirmations:
 - Tell your grandchildren you love them and that God loves them.
 - Share the gifts you see in them.

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- Model “I” Language
 - I know you can do this... how can I help you?
 - It makes me sad when I see you...
 - It makes me happy when I see you...
 - I am sorry... will you forgive me?
- **Gift #3: Story**
 - Our story is one of the best gifts we can share with the children we love.
- **Gift #4: Liturgy and Ritual**
 - Liturgy: Work of the people. The words we use and the actions we practice as we connect to God and neighbor.
 - Ritual: a series of actions that are repeated regularly according to a prescribed order
 - Liturgy and Ritual in your family might include:
 - prayers
 - worship
 - lighting candles
 - going to a specific location at a specific time of day/week/month/year
 - participating together in a specific activity
- **Gift #5: Wonder**
 - Children bring the gift of wonder to their experiences
 - their curiosity and their ability open them up to all the possibilities in the world
 - Take time to wonder with your grandchildren:

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- after reading or sharing a story. Say: “I wonder:”
 - what your favorite part was?
 - where you are in the story?
 - what you learned about God in the story?
 - is there any part of the story we can leave out?
 - what you wonder about?
 - at the beginning of the day:
 - what are you excited about today?
 - what you are scared about today?
 - at the end of the day, or after an activity:
 - what made you happy today?
 - what made you sad today?
 - how you experienced God today?
 - how you shared God’s love with others today?
- Gift #6: Blessing**
- Bless your grandchildren every time you see them or talk to them
 - A blessing can take many shapes or forms. One way to bless your grandchildren is to make a cross on their forehead as you say:
 - God loves you (make a vertical line with your thumb)
 - I love you (make a horizontal line with your thumb)
 - you are a blessing to me and to others (looking your grandchild in the eyes and them giving them a hug)

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- An evening blessing might be:
 - God loves you
 - I love you
 - Sleep well knowing you are loved
- **Grand-Parenting is Holy and Hard work**
 - Psalm 23:
 - Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff- they protect me.
 - Remember:
 - God is with you- even in the dark places and on the rough paths
 - We stay in touch so those we love know we love them and that God loves them too.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:13: And the greatest of these is love
 - At the end of the day- our work is to help the children we journey with know and remember that that God loves them and that we love them
 - Bless your grandchildren: Show them who you are and tell them whose they are.
 - Your work is holy. God is with you every step of the way. May the peace of God be with you as you do this hard and holy work.
 - Resources:
 - <http://igministry.com>
 - **Living with the Holy:** <https://igministry.com/family/resources/living/>
 - **Family Faith Formation Resources:** <https://igministry.com/family/family-resources/>

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