

## Intergenerational Parenting

We have reached the grandparent stage, but we had a taste of parenting young children again during the recent pandemic school year. For most of the school year, we had two granddaughters (age four and five) in our home for remote learning. Instead of the typical occasional babysitting several hours at a time, we had the responsibility for the two granddaughters nine hours a day. Typically, grandparents “spoil the kids and send them home.” The extended time our granddaughters were in our home was both business and pleasure. We assisted their school work, provided meals, and developed craft projects and other activities. While young children might be on their best behavior for short visits to Grandma and Grandpa’s house, the extended-stay meant that we saw their normal behavior. We had to be on our best behavior, too. We cherished the opportunity and became closer to them as a result.



Our role throughout the school year brought back memories of parenting energetic young children. In recent years, we had become accustomed to excellent relationships with our adult children and their spouses. This year’s experience gave us a broader view of the role of a parent.

As a Father’s Day message, God is a loving Father to people of all ages. We can learn from His unconditional love, His forgiveness, and His compassion. He knows what challenges we are going through. He gives us what we need, and He equips us to succeed. He understands the stage of life that each of us is currently experiencing. Even when we sometimes question our commitment to faith, He looks forward to the time when we choose to follow Him of our own free will. Throughout it all, His love for us never wavers.

Being a father is a big responsibility and an honor. Cherish those times. Remember how God has provided for you, and follow His example. Happy Father’s Day.

**The Bible Says:** *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22;6).*

**Prayer:** God, our Father. You show compassion towards all Your children. We, too, should do the same. Thank you for your guidance, protection, forgiveness, dedication, and sacrifice for us. May we do the same for our children. Amen.