

A Grandparent's Love

It brings us pure joy when the grandkids burst through the door and come running to hug us. Immediately following the hug, they start naming what they want to do with us that day. No matter what happened that day, our day became instantly better.

The grandkids ask questions because they value our wisdom. They want to learn from us – how to cook, play a family-favorite card game, or other things they enjoy from us. We teach by example, including letting them have the last of the strawberries when we haven't had our serving yet. It demonstrates our willingness to sacrifice for the good of others. We fix their favorite meals because it makes them feel special. Isn't it great that God provides opportunities to model Christian values for our grandchildren?



Grandparents have the liberty of serving favorite after-school snacks. A cookie is just fine—although we may quickly set boundaries when we say, "just one." We support parental discipline standards but seek to show the grandkids they are special in our eyes.

We cherish the handmade birthday, Mother's Day and Father's Day and Christmas cards from our grandchildren. They are written from the heart and convey a message of love and appreciation for family.



As you read this, you may see parallels between grandparents' roles and God's love. We are present in our grandkids' lives, just as God is always present in ours. God cherishes our expressions of genuine love. God gives us commands on how to live, just as we guide our grandchildren. We are part of the Christian foundation of a grandchild's life, but we have to allow them to make their own decisions. We are there to catch them when they fall.

Grandparents usually have more flexibility in their schedule. They are usually retired and empty-nesters, so they can devote unencumbered time to modeling how to be like Jesus.

Grandparenting is the opportunity to impart wisdom through our words and example. We share what we have in abundance (Grace) and forgive them (Mercy) when they fall short. While the child's parent points to us for wisdom, we point to Jesus for the source of all we have. We thank God every day for the opportunity He has given us to guide the development of our grandchildren. God will take great pleasure in the loving relationship that is established.

The Bible Says: *We love because God loved us first (1 John 4:19). Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14).*

Question: In what intentional ways do you model God's love to others?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to share Your love with our family, especially the grandchildren who are in their developmental years. Amen.