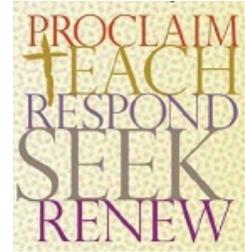




Diocese of Fredericton



Generation to Generation

A primer for grandchildren and grandparents to talk about Christian faith together

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and
with all your strength.*

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

Impress them on your children.

*Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the
road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Deuteronomy 6: 5-7

Dream: We have a dream of having grandparents and parents tell the story of God to children and grandchildren. We wish to pass on the reality of God and the walk we have had with our Lord to the next generations.

This brief primer attempts to offer you guidelines and sample questions for intentionally sharing your faith with your grandchildren, children, or other young people. The first section is to help you define your story to share at right moments. The second provides some help for young people to ask the older generations questions.

This is only a beginning but, hopefully, will encourage us all in passing on our stories of God to the next generations.

We would appreciate hearing of your successes and challenges in using this resource. Mail them to: Marks of Mission Stories, Diocese of Fredericton, 115 Church St., Fredericton, NB E3B 4C8

May the Lord bless you in this.

An offering of the Diocesan Spiritual Development Team

Generation to Generation

A guide to tell the story of God to your children and your grandchildren

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Deuteronomy 4: 9-10

How to begin: The first step is to remember your walk with God; how it began, what was important, and what practices, events and experiences helped your relationship with God to grow. How your understanding of our Lord became important. Begin to write this story down...it is a very important story to tell.

Tell your children and your children's children. Find a time to be with your grandchildren - usually with them through the usual parts of the day as our scriptures suggest - when you put them to bed is a very good time to begin to tell your story. You can even begin with 'Once upon a time...' They will be fascinated.

Do not worry about having it perfect or if it even makes complete sense to them. You are passing on your story and how you and God walked together through your life. It is a Spiritual Autobiography and it is personally yours. Your grandchildren will value your time and attention.

Questions for you to consider as you form your story:

- What was it like in my earliest years of life living in my family?
- What was school like for me? Do I remember it being fun or was it difficult?
- When did God and faith become part of my story? What did I do to grow in God?
- How was God's presence with me and when did I become interested in knowing more about and experiencing God?
- What have been important faith experiences for me (e.g., prayer, church, mission)?
- How do I experience God now?

Generation to Generation

A guide for children asking about the story of God with their grandparents

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone how ask you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3: 15-16a

The second aspect of telling your story is to allow opportunity to have your grandchildren ask you questions about your life. When you are with them and pay attention to them, you will often have them ask you questions. This can be especially true if they experience life with you as our Deuteronomy passage suggests. When your grandchildren see you worship they may also have questions so 'always be prepared to answer to everyone (especially your grandchildren) to give the reason for the hope within you.'

An alternative to this is to have questions you give your grandchildren and suggest they 'interview' you as if they were a reporter. You may even get them to record it and make a little movie. This may get them interested in asking the questions.

Some questions to get started:

- What was it like when you were a child/young adult my age?
- What is it like to be your current age?
- Did you go to church?
- Did you go to church during times of crisis, like WWII? (if appropriate)
- When did you learn about God?
- Who influenced you?
- Is God important to you now?
- Have you felt alone? Have you been angry at God?
- Did you ever question your faith?
- Did women have to wear hats in church?
- What were some rules you thought were silly/stupid?

You can come up with other questions that fit your grandchildren's age and interests and your personality.