

## Unique Grandparenting Distinctives



1. **The Pathway** integrates parents + grandparents into a single integrated generational system.

Other resources unfortunately tend to subtly:

- Silo parenting resources and grandparenting resources.

**The Pathway** shows:

- One continuous legacy flow of faith, influence, identity, and leadership.  
Spring → Summer → Autumn → Winter  
Model → Mold → Mentor → Mantle

### **Distinctive:**

**Grandparents aren't a secondary ministry of loving helpers in later years. Instead, they are seasoned stewards of a faith and values legacy intentionally built across decades.**

2. **The Pathway** treats grandparenting as a calling shaped long before grandchildren arrive.

Other resources tend to focus on:

- What to do once you are a grandparent, like how to pray, influence, and connect with grandkids.

**The Pathway** shows—grandparent preparation is a natural and organic part of earlier parenting roles:

- Spiritual Modeling in Spring,
- Character Molding in Summer,
- Relational trust through Mentoring in Autumn.

### **Distinctive:**

**Grandparenting is not a season on its own; rather, it's the completion of the parenting mission and the fruit of a lifelong discipleship journey.**

3. **The Pathway** is intentionally focused on the relational bridge of the Autumn/Mentor Season:

Other resources unfortunately tend to:

- Miss this unique season and its critically important place in the family life cycle.

**The Pathway**

- Highlights the fragile transition from parenting to peer relationships,
- Demonstrates how building trust in the Mentoring season with adult children largely determines access to future grandchildren,
- Points out the critical need for appropriate boundaries without disengagement as parents become grandparents,
- Focuses on influence, not control.

### **Distinctive:**

**The Pathway focuses on earning and protecting an essential relational platform for effective future grandparenting influence.**



#### 4. The Pathway views grandparenting as the completion of the parenting mission in the cycle of a multi-generational vision.

*Too often grandparent ministries are confronted with an important and painful question:*

**“How can grandparents spiritually influence their grandchildren, when their adult children will not allow it?”**

By the time parents become grandparents, many of the important family dynamics are already established:

- Family patterns are largely set,
- Relationships with adult children are already defined,
- Opportunities for spiritual influence may already be limited.

Therefore—grandparent ministries find themselves trying to repair relationships developing for decades.

**The Pathway** positions the Winter/Mantle season as a natural progression of what has already been built.

At this stage, **The Pathway** provides practices such as:

- Blessing ceremonies,
- Language for leadership and legacy transfer,
- Multi-generational family identity,
- Intentional legacy traditions.

These are areas that grandparent ministries already emphasize. The difference is that within **The Pathway**, they emerge naturally from decades of preparation across the full family life cycle.

#### **Distinctive:**

**The Pathway clarifies that grandparenting does not begin when the grandchildren arrive. It starts years earlier in the family life cycle. Below are the components for each season that are preparation for grandparenting:**

#### **Seasonal Influence Focus for Future Grandparents:**

##### Spring/Model

In the Spring season, parents Model faith and values, establishing the spiritual identity of the family. The seeds planted in these early years shape the direction of future generations and become the foundation that will one day be entrusted back to them when they become grandparents.

##### Summer/Mold

In the Summer season, parents Mold character and a worldview through daily life and loving correction. Over time, the family’s identity, convictions, and virtues take root long before grandchildren arrive.

##### Autumn/Mentor

In the Autumn season, parents begin the sacred transition of mentoring their adult children. This season has the potential to be the single most important time for future grandparenting. The Mentoring parents do in this season with their young adult children who are becoming independent adults will directly affect the access they will have to future grandchildren.

##### Winter/Mantle

When the Winter season arrives, the role of grandparents becomes a meaningful continuation of healthy relationships with what has already been built, rather than a moment of tension or restriction.