

DISTINCTIVES



1. **The Pathway** provides a simple, memorable framework families will actually keep using over decades of their family's life because it is:
 - Age-and-stage intuitive,
 - Built on a universal seasons metaphor,
 - Repeatable across generations,
 - Simple enough to remember without a workbook.

Distinctive:

The Pathway becomes a remembered roadmap, reviewed and renewed annually, not a one-time curriculum or seminar, put in a binder, on a shelf, and forgotten.

2. **The Pathway** is explicitly legacy-oriented
Other resources aim at:
 - Better kids,
 - Stronger faith habits,
 - Moral formation.

The Pathway uniquely and additionally emphasizes:

- Generational continuity of faith, values, leadership, and blessing.
- Answers "Who carries this forward next?"

Distinctive:

The Pathway is not just about raising Christian kids, instead, it is about stewarding a multi-generational faith family.

3. **The Pathway** recovers the Biblical weight of **blessing + Mantle**
Other resources tend to talk about:
 - Praying for kids and grandkids,
 - Being present,
 - Telling faith stories.

The Pathway highlights the most commonly missed foundational Biblical truths:

- Spoken identity and blessing,
- Generational commissioning,
- Leadership handoff,
- Spiritual family authority exercised with humility.

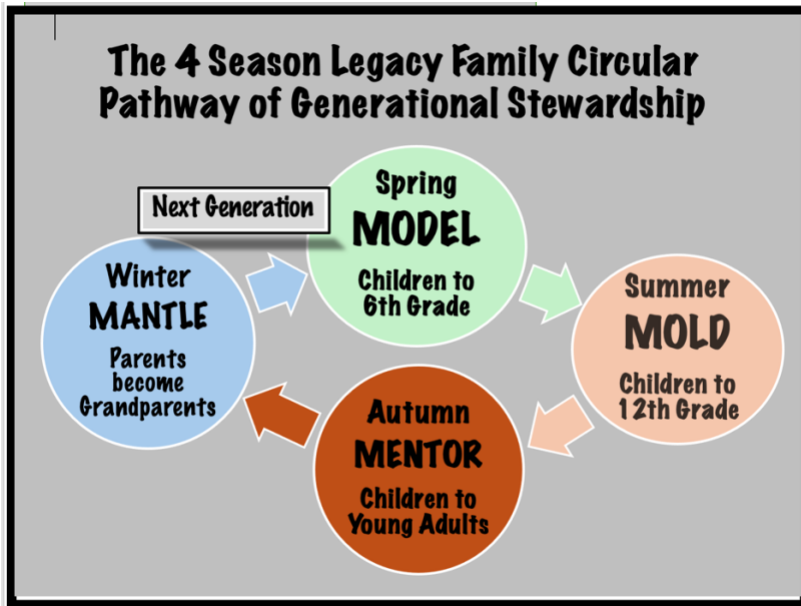
Distinctive:

The Pathway restores Biblical legacy as an intentional spiritual and leadership transfer, not just influence.

Distinctive:

The Legacy Family PathwaySM cycle was not invented. It was re-discovered.

We simply gave new language to what was already happening in healthy families of faith who recognized God’s plan for generational stewardship.



The Legacy Family PathwaySM

A simple, memorable, framework to help families intentionally pass faith and values from one generation to the next. The process is on-going, over multiple generations, reflecting the rhythms below and recognizing God’s plan of generational family stewardship.

A Legacy Family:

Models their faith daily,
Molds Godly character in their children,
Mentors emerging adults, entrust
Mantle of faith & family leadership entrusted to the next generation.

The Family Question Rhythm

Spring/**M**odelWho are we?
Summer/**M**oldWhat are we shaping?
Autumn/**M**entor.... How do we release?
Winter/**M**antle.....How do we bless forward?

The Family Leadership Rhythm

Spring/**M**odel.....Demonstrate.
Summer/**M**old.....Shape.
Autumn/**M**entor....Guide.
Winter/**M**antle.....Entrust.

The Life Journey Rhythm

Spring/**M**odel.....Parents show faith,
Summer/**M**old.....Parents shape character,
Autumn/**M**entor....Parents guide young adults,
Winter/**M**antle.....Parents bless the next generation.

The Emotional Resonance Rhythm

Spring/**M**odel.....Identity.
Summer/**M**old.....Responsibility.
Autumn/**M**entor....Wisdom.
Winter/**M**antle.....Commission.

The Legacy Rhythm

Spring/**M**odel.....Example.
Summer/**M**old.....Formation.
Autumn/**M**entor....Influence.
Winter/**M**antle.....Legacy.

The Influence Rhythm

Spring/**M**odel.....Spiritual identity of family,
Summer/**M**old.....Character & worldview formation,
Autumn/**M**entor....Relationship with children,
Winter/**M**antle.....Grandparent blessing & influence.



Distinctive:

The Pathway Scales Naturally

- **Individual Family Focus...**
 - Families can use it on their own or as part of a Church Family Ministry.
- **Church Family Ministry**
 - Family ministries could choose to organize around **The Pathway's** 4 seasons and/or 4 **M**s creating a connection between children, youth, and marriage ministries which otherwise tend to be siloed.
- **Family Life Seminar,**
 - A Family Life conference or workshop could be built around the 4 seasons and/or 4 **M**s.

3 Mistakes Families Can Make Trying to Build a Generational Legacy:

1. Starting Too Late.

It is not uncommon for people to begin thinking about generational legacy when they become grandparents. However, by that time family patterns are already established, relationships with adult children are largely defined, and spiritual influence may already be limited.

2. Focusing On Moments Instead Of Seasons.

Families often look for a few meaningful spiritual moments, special conversations, ceremonies, or traditions hoping they will shape the next generation. While those moments matter, generational faith is formed through years of intentional and frequent influence across the changing seasons of family life.

3. Lacking A Clear Framework.

Most parents deeply desire to pass on their faith and values yet they do not have a clear Biblical framework. **The Pathway** clarifies how the role of parents must change as young children grow into young adults and become parents themselves.

The Legacy Family PathwaySM helps families recognize those seasons, and intentionally steward them to assure that **M**odeling faith, **M**olding children's character, **M**entoring young adults, and passing the family leadership **M**antle become part of a purposeful, intentional and generational legacy.

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.