

## **Grandparents and Extended Family**

A Bible study about families would not be complete without considering grandparents and extended family. This lesson will examine Biblical responsibilities of older people and the responsibilities of younger people toward their seniors.

Very few people admit that they are old. Old for most people is someone older than they are.

I used to think that 70 was old, but I don't now!

Growing old is defined in the Bible - Psalm 90:10.

Attempting to stay young is vain - Job 5:26.

Age and death are natural and beautiful for Christians - Philippians 1:21.

Notice the different attitudes among older people.

Some are happy and cheerful and fun to be around.

Others are sad and sour and people want to avoid them.

### **Responsibilities of Older People**

Job 12:12 - 'Keenagers' can offer wisdom and understanding. Good judgment develops through experience and should be shared with others.

Psalm 71:18 - Seniors are expected to share their faith.

Psalm 92:14 - They are to set an example of purity and holiness. Older people still count and can serve Christ and His church. They also fill an important role in the family.

God has always used older people to accomplish His will.

Moses was 80 when he began leading the Israelites forty years through the wilderness toward Canaan.

Abraham was 100 years old when he and Sarah had Isaac whose descendants populated Israel and Judah.

1 Kings 12:6-13 - Older men are for counsel and younger men are for action. Church elders are men of experience and wisdom who can shepherd and guide. Younger members have the energy, physical ability, and skills to carry out the work - Proverb 20:29.

Luke 2:36-38 - Anna served in the temple. Our seniors are the temple of God and are expected to serve in His church. Think about ways that older people can continue to serve others in the church and community.

2 Timothy 1:5 - Grandparents provide teaching, encouragement, help, and joy to children and grandchildren. Think about how you can support your children and grandchildren without interfering and removing their responsibility. Be a blessing to your grandchildren and other young people. Inspire those who visit you with faith, love, cheerfulness, and patience.

Titus 2:1-5 - God expects those more mature in years and wisdom to teach the younger men and women and live an example of the good life.

Reach out to encourage and provide family support to singles and others without family members near them.

How can people grow old gracefully? Stay young in spirit. Don't allow yourself to become an old grouch. Read books like "Don't Grow Old, Grow Up!" by Dorothy Carnegie.

Get to know and try to understand the youth. Don't create a generation gap, bridge the generation gap.

Most of all, remain faithful to the Lord and you will receive your crown - 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Those who die in the Lord will be able to rest from their labors - Revelation 14:13.

## **Responsibilities of Younger People Toward Their Seniors**

Leviticus 19:32 - Give honor to those who are older.

Proverb 16:31 - A righteous older person is a crown of glory.

Proverb 23:22 - Listen to your father and respect your mother.

Ephesians 6:1-3 - Obey and honor your parents.

1 Timothy 5:1-3 - Treat older people as fathers and mothers.

1 Timothy 5:4-10 - Provide and care for the needs of older people. God expects us to provide and care for our parents, grandparents, and other family members who need special care. There are many options. Every situation is different. We should not judge others when we do not know their circumstances. It is clear that children and grandchildren are to be a blessing to their parents and grandparents.

James 1:27 - Practice pure religion and take care of the widows and those who are helpless.

All Christians should bring joy into the lives of our seniors and help those who cannot help themselves.

### **Take action!**

- Older people should use every day to serve God and others.
- Younger people should respect, honor, and help older people.
- Young and old alike who live faithful shall receive a crown of life. The only way that you can grow old gracefully and let your years be years of joy and honor is to give yourself completely to Jesus Christ by obeying the gospel or renewing your commitment to Him - Revelation 2:10.