



# Sharing your faith with your grandparents

By Ian Knox

If your grandparents are alive, have you ever shared your faith with them?

Grandparents are brilliant. A large part of the reason for this is that they think you are so special. You have no idea how excited they were about your birth. You have elevated their very status. 'We are a grandmother' was one of the most famous things Margaret Thatcher ever said. You are one of the most favourite people in their lives. They may love you even more (don't tell this to anyone) than your parents. They are willing to forgive almost anything you do wrong and will indulge you and spoil you rotten. It's tough being a grandchild, but you can do it! If you were to phone, that would be welcome. If you visit, they will really enjoy your company, your stories, and especially your time and love. Whatever your age, and whatever their age, you can have an amazing bond of love and togetherness and a unique rapport. If they are unable to travel because of mobility problems or lack of transport, go and get them. They will enjoy your simple family prayers and coming to church with you. Faith-sharing in the context of your family life will be natural and genuine.

You have a huge advantage when it comes to sharing your faith with them· they are almost certain to have a background of knowledge of Christianity, however long ago it was. Many of their generation went to church or Sunday school. Even now your grandparents may have a real interest in spiritual things and enjoy programmes like Songs of Praise. Church is not an alien place, either. If you stay with them, or they with you, include a Sunday service. They will enjoy a traditional style. However, they might also appreciate a newer type of service if you explain what is going on, and if it is both 'real' and friendly. This is an excellent way to share your faith, and a chat over lunch afterwards may be very fruitful. The grandparental age group has time to enjoy reading and listening to music. Think of good books as gifts.

But it is you who are the key. Grandparents do have time to read and listen, but they would rather talk. Sit down and chat. They want to hear about your life. Enthuse about what you do. Your faith should fit into this quite naturally. They will hear it from you better than almost anyone else. You could be the ideal person to talk with them about Jesus, his love for them and his longing that they should know him in their older days. Love them to bits! Encourage them to be ready for heaven. Should you share your faith with your grandparents? Yes. Do it with huge love and care, but do it. You could be the one who helps them, more than anyone else.

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