

Grandparents Day

By Susan Vogt

We all have grandparents. Even if they are not alive and even if we never knew them, we carry their genes and hopefully memory of them. Scripture takes great care to trace the lineage of Jesus (See Matthew 1) including Joseph adopting Jesus as his son. September 9 is National Grandparent's Day in the USA. Here's a way to celebrate grandparents.



For

Adult / Couple

Season

Fall

Needed

A Bible, some paper, and perhaps supplies for making a card.

Prepare in Advance

- If you have any record or your family's genealogy (a family tree, names in a family Bible, etc.) have it handy.
- This activity can be done either solo, with your spouse, with your children, or ideally with the generation that precedes you if they are alive and nearby. Decide which way you want to pay respect to your heritage.

Activity Plan

1. Gather your thoughts or your family around you and pray:

God of our Fathers and Mothers, you are beyond age and beyond death. As we think of our own grandparents (and the grandparents of our children) help us to honor the ongoing web of life that is the human race. Amen.

2. Read the genealogy of Christ: Matthew, Chapter 1 (see text on next page). This is a long list of Jesus' forebearers and can be tedious to read. If you have the whole family gathered rotate each person reading several lines. After every 3 or 4 lines you might say the response: *For all these holy men and women, God, we thank you.*
3. Each person lists as many parents/grandparents/great grandparents as far back as you can remember. (This is where family records or a family tree are helpful.)
4. Gather all the names and read each one slowly. Starting with the oldest person you can remember, ponder the gifts, talents, and even personality quirks that you and others can recollect. Consider how different people in the family have some of the same physical or personality characteristics of each elder. Then move on to the next oldest and thus down the line to yourself.
5. If there are no grandparents with you and if they are still alive, write them a note of gratitude. An email note is okay, but it is even better on paper and through snail mail since that is the way most grandparents communicated when they were young. If desired, children can decorate the card and add to the note.

6. If the grandparents live near you, visit them and deliver the remembrance card. If the grandparents are deceased, perhaps you could visit their grave or say a prayer of thanksgiving for your heritage.
7. If any of the family members are adopted, in a step relationship, or don't know who their ancestors are, you can still imagine – based on your own looks and talents – what your grandparents might have been like. It's fine to guess and pick the best traits that come to your mind even if you don't know for sure.

The Genealogy of Jesus

Matthew 1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

