

SUMMIT 2026 SESSION SUMMARIES

LARRY FOWLER – ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

Perspective is a significant factor in how you grandparent your grandchildren. Scripture tells us about the brevity of life – Job 7:7 describes life as a breath, Psalm 103:15 compares our flesh like grass that withers, and James 4:14 tells us that life is a mist and then vanishes. But II Cor 4:16-18 gives us hope in that our physical body is growing weaker, our inner self is being renewed daily by God.

When we live with an eternal perspective, we will:

Make sure that we are ready for eternity – are you certain you are born again?

See hardships and trials through a different lens

Our perspective defines our PURPOSE.

Our perspective leads our PASSION

Our perspective will help us PRACTICE intentionality

DR JOSH MULVIHILL – ETERNAL CALLING

Discipling our grandchildren is an important role of grandparenting.

II Timothy 3:14-17 describes how Timothy acquired his firm belief in God:

What he learned

How he learned

Who he learned from

The family is God's method for evangelism and discipleship – home is the place to grow in godliness and maturity.

Parents are the primary influence on faith for their children. Our relationship with our adult children will trickle down to our grandkids.

God has given your adult children the job of stewardship and grandparents the job of a servant – to assist your adult children. This requires a relationship of trust.

The 3 B's for Recipe of Discipleship:

Believing family

Body of Christ – the church – equipping the home and supporting the family

Bible – do you know and saturate yourself in God's Word? Do you know it, love it and live it?

Grandparenting is ministry. God has a multi-generational plan, and there is no greater mission field than passing your faith down to your family. It must be an authentic faith – genuine and real. If our actions don't match our words, our witness will be damaged. Our grandkids will gravitate to what we are passionate about.

Psalm 92:12-15 compares us to the date palm. They still bear fruit in old age. Our later years should be spiritually productive years.

DR CHRISTOPHER YUAN – ETERNAL HOLINESS

Christopher and his mother Angela share their story of a prodigal son and a mother who never gives up – she prays and gives unconditional love that will ultimately bring her son back from death to life. Christopher became openly gay while in college and was caught up in the drug scene – he exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and became his own god. He was totally

unreasonable and completely hopeless. His mother never stopped praying, claimed the promises of God, and praising Him for every small thing in their lives. Her prayer was, “whatever it takes to bring this prodigal son to You, Lord.” And for eight years she prayed and fasted every Monday, like the persistent widow who bombarded heaven with her prayers.

When Christopher was arrested for possession and dealing of massive amounts of drugs, he called his mother and her first words were, “son, are you ok?” Romans 2:4 tells us that it is God’s kindness that leads to repentance. Christopher eventually found a Gideon Bible in the garbage can and began to read it. Over time, he surrendered his life to Jesus and his identity is now in Christ alone. Not the idols of drugs or sexual identity, but in Jesus’ finished work of redemption on the cross. His parents did not want a successful son, but a saved son. And God answered their prayers in the life of Christopher after years of hopelessness.

DR CRAWFORD LORITTS – ETERNAL HOPE

God wants to raise up patriarchs and matriarchs for the next generations. We must cry out to God for a hope that is anchored in the unseen. As grandparents, we need to be portraits of the desired destination that we want the next generation to arrive at. Relevance is not cool, but nobility is! We need to be pictures of stability and hope to our families. We must keep believing and moving through God’s grace. The values we project now will be with them long after we are gone.

II Corinthians 4:14-18 show us the example of the apostle Paul. He did not give up, so we too must not lose heart or quit when things seem hopeless. We are containers of the hope and power of the gospel.

We must give ourselves to:

A process – of feeding and fueling our souls to renew our inner selves day by day. It takes discipline to have a consistent walk with God.

Preparation – the afflictions we have on earth are preparing us for eternity. This should produce in us a hunger and desire to see and be with Jesus.

Perspective – what gives us stability is what we are focused on. Seek what is permanent and powerful.

Our lives are hidden in Christ. We don’t need to be rattled because our hope is anchored in Christ. Our salvation is secure and we will be with Him forever.

We need to live for that which matters most and model the destination to our families – drop nuggets of eternity in their hearts!

BETH GUCKENBERGER – ETERNAL PROMISES

We all have deposits of testimonies in our life banks.

Psalms 107:2 tells us, “Let the redeemed tell their story.” And Beth uses her gift of story telling to challenge and melt the hearts of her audience.

Using 5 chairs, Beth unpacks the 5 generations in the lineage of David. Rahab went from being the shame of her family to the savior of her family. She married Salmon and they had a son Boaz, a man of high standing. Boaz married a vulnerable woman, Ruth, and they had a son Obed, whose name means kinsman redeemer. He had the testimony of his mother and the strength of his father. He had a son Jesse who later had a son David. David was the fifth generation with a wealth of testimony that brought him courage when he faced giants.

Chair #1 is the first generation Christian – people will be affected 100 years from now by your influence.

The middle chair is the most likely to have compromise and complacency because they take their faith for granted.

Chair #5 are those with a long line of faith.

This illustration was so very impactful as each considers what chair they sit in their lineage of faith.

Beth turns to discipleship of our families – we must think intergenerationally. Genesis 21 contains a passage about Abraham planting a tamarisk tree – a tree that he planted for future generations because they don't bear fruit for 20-30 years. We too must plant seeds that will bear fruit long after we are gone. Discipleship is a holy work that includes praying for generations that come behind us.

Beth concludes her session with a visual of what God sounds like. Hebrews 12:1&2 tells us we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We need to cheer on our grandchildren and be part of the cloud of witnesses in their lives.

DAVE & ANN WILSON – ETERNAL INFLUENCE

As radio hosts for Family Life Today, and speakers for Family Life's Weekend to Remember, Dave and Ann brought a challenging (and entertaining) message to grandparents. We must be ALL IN grandparents! Pouring into our grandchildren should be our calling in this stage of life. Legacy is continuing a great one (if you have that lineage), or changing a terrible one (if that is your story). Your faith walk impacts their faith walk according to II Timothy 1:5. Your grandchildren are watching your life – God's truths are to be on your heart! Tell them how Jesus is working in your life – all that matters is your walk with God.

Your words will impact their identity (Proverbs 18:21). Psalm 139 tells us that each person was knit together in our mother's womb. God made you special, like no one else. Our words can bring life to them.

Your marriage impacts their faith. Psalm 145 tells us that one generation commends God's work to another. Our example in marriage creates a vision for their own. It is to display the gospel. God knows all of our brokenness, and still He chooses us.

Dave and Ann conclude with the challenge from Joshua 24:5 "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

PASTOR HARVEY CAREY – ETERNAL LIFE

Harvey Carey brings a message on how we can be empowered for eternity in order to impact our grandchildren. Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit who lives inside of each believer. The Holy Spirit does the following:

Energizes us (Philippians 2:13) It's not in your own strength – it is God who is at work in you to give you the power and desire to do what you cannot do without Him.

Equips us (Acts 1:8) You shall receive power (the ability, efficiency, and might) to communicate with your grandchildren the truth of God's word.

Empowers us (Mark 16:15-20) Jesus' last words to His followers were to GO and proclaim the gospel. We must communicate the gospel to our grandchildren through our words, life, and witness.

You bring the presence of God with you when you are with your grandchildren.

DAVID EATON – ETERNAL IMPACT

David Eaton is the founder of Axis Ministries which brings cultural research to equip families in the challenges of today's culture.

The top 5 challenges for children today are:

Cultural changes – always new slang

Social Media – memes, reels, and other platforms

Screen Time – our grandkids are only as safe as their friends' phones

Mental Health – anxiety, depression, ADHD are at staggering high levels

Sexuality/Gender confusion – Who am I?

The most relevant voice for our grandchildren is Jesus through parents first, and then grandparents.

Research show what is important in the spiritual formation in our grandchildren:

Open communication with our adult children and grandchildren

Warmth of a father is special

Grandparents who show up

Don't give up on prodigals

Conversations must done with openness and wisdom, not with fear or anger.

Our grandchildren need our wisdom – we need their wonder!

ARLENE PELLICANE – ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE

There is a huge octopus of technology that has its tentacles into our culture. One of the greatest risks is screens. Kids are getting into a wired childhood. Depression, self-harm, and anxiety have increased exponentially since 2010 when screens were introduced. We must pray that our adult kids' eyes will be opened to this danger that will impair the future of their children. Phones must be a tool rather than a master. Initially screens were a race for attention, now they are a race for attachment (through Ai). The danger of Ai is that our grandchildren are using it for friendship and companionship. Ai affirms them while God corrects them. Ai talks to them audibly while God talks to us through His word. Ai is immediate gratification while God often works in the waiting.

Our response should be from Ephesians 5:15-17. Be careful how you live – not as the unwise.

Helpful tips for screen boundaries:

Don't give screens as a gift (should be owned by adults so they can be taken back if needed)

No screens at mealtime

No phones in the bedrooms

Implement screen free activities

No violent games or porn

Phones start as casual – lead to at risk – become addictions

DR JIM BURNS – ETERNAL PARTNERSHIP

Jim Burns is an expert in adult relationships in the family. He addresses the brevity of the time from birth to adulthood for our grandchildren – just 936 weeks! There should be an urgency to come alongside to help them make wise decisions. Psalm 90:12 tell us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Even in the most difficult family, you can be a transitional generation to turn the tide.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 contains the roadmap to transmit faith:

Faith conversations in the home are essential – not preachy or toxic

Teaching morals and values begins at home

Discipleship happens when parents and grandparents lead:

Lead with Integrity – warm, loving and kind

Lead with Margin – say no to good things in order to say yes to the most important

Lead with Eternal perspective –

Lead with Love

An eternal partnership with our adult children and grandchildren is urgent!

CISSIE GRAHAM LYNCH – ETERNAL HOME

Cissie is the granddaughter of the hero of the faith, Billy Graham. She tells of the great impact that her grandparents had in her life as they passed down faith from generation to generation. She talked about her parents and how she still needs them, and how grateful she is for how they have shaped her children. They have not stepped back but have stepped up (as we should as grandparents).

Cissie tells of a true-life rescue story that opened her eyes to our mission as rescuers to a lost world. We have the ability to bring salvation to those who are not going to heaven. We must be obedient to what God tells us to do. Where we spend our time and money should be based on eternity. We must know the target in order to direct the arrows. Don't miss the opportunity. Don't give up or quit. You still have time to build a legacy!