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Grandparents Ministry

Volume 19

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Fall Special

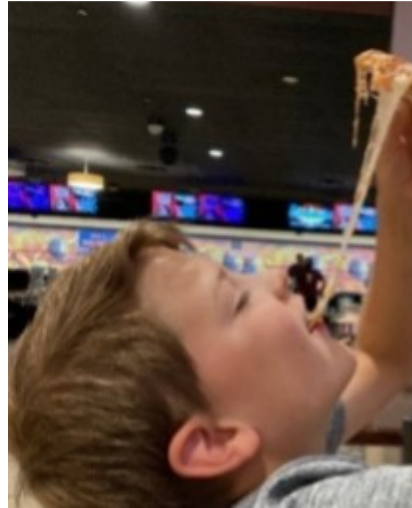
Lessons from the Life of Corrie ten Boom

- **When:** September 9, 2024, 5:30-8 p.m.
- **Where:** College Park Ministry Center
 - *The location is not the main church building. The Ministry Center is at the corner of Shelborne and 96th.*
- **What:** Nationally acclaimed first-person improviser, Vickie Gaynier, will be performing "Corrie's Story," the true-life account of holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom.
- **Why:** Christian biographies are a powerful tool in helping our grandchildren build a biblical worldview! The virtual novel of Corrie's story and other biographies will be available for purchase.
- **Bonus!** Grandparents may bring their grandchildren (adults down through fourth grade) with them for pizza, pop, and the presentation!
- **Note:** Space is limited!

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Corrie's Story



Pizza Party



By Ruth Carter

Whaaat? They're going to college this year? Seems like just yesterday she was trying out for the middle school volleyball team and just yesterday, when the friends came over, they were building forts in the woods and snacking on fish crackers. Just yesterday he was asking for a LEGO Star Wars Ultimate Millennium Falcon set...and now you say they're going to college?

Are any of you grandparents feeling amazed like we are? My husband and I have one grandson *out* of college, two granddaughters are juniors, and two grandsons are starting as college freshmen this year. The challenging transitions from living at home to a college campus are raw and real. Here are some tips from the Carter playbook for helping grandchildren navigate this new season of life:

1. **Grandparents have their place.**

In the structure of a healthy, traditional family, grandparents hold a privileged position. It is not usually as the first-line caregiver or a primary influencer in the lives of their grands. The middle generation, our children, their parents, fill that role. Our niche is a circle once

removed. It's important that grandparents respect that space. The middle generation is the gateway for grandparents to access their grandchildren. Our priority must be to build a relationship with the parents, support their decisions, and never undermine them. We pay a costly price if the relationship with them is broken.

2. **Invest in relationship.**

It's a priority to work on relationships with our grandchildren when the grands are young so they have a reason to love, respect, and listen to us when they are older. Investment in their lives comes easily when the grandchildren jump delightedly into our arms for a greeting or snuggle in our lap for a favorite fairytale. But when devices and social media begin to dominate their attention, it feels like we grandparents are not so important anymore. Be patient. Don't get discouraged. Go the route of personal invitations to breakfast, fishing, golfing, a nice dinner, or shopping; and the conversations that ensue will surprise you. As pediatric nurse practitioner, Jessica Peck, says, "Listen with your face."

There's still more!

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Proverbs 20:29

"The glory of the young is their strength; the gray hair of experience is the splendor of the old."

You have much to offer your grandchildren in every season, but especially during their college years. Be close. Be constant. Be there for them.

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Eli Carter graduated from the University of Tennessee one year ago. He shares his suggestions to us, his grandparents, through the lens of his recent college experience:



"I think the best thing you all did was just continue to love me and cheer for me when I wasn't a Christian and not make me feel like I was a disappointment. I think you all continuing to say you were praying for me and doing the things you all do during holidays, along with gramps sending me snippets of science magazines that reminded me of a different perspective all really helped. Those things paired with no feelings of pressure or disappointment allowed me to not become resentful towards faith and allowed me, when the time was right in God's eyes, to be reintroduced to Christianity by Mac and the RUF group on campus. Then I could see with clear eyes how much you all, and others too, had been loving me in a really Christlike way"

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