
✠ Explore 4 ✠

INTERVIEW A GRANDPARENT

Goal: *As a family, listen as a Catholic grandparent (or unrelated elder) shares their faith.*

“Grandparents are the memory of a family. They are the ones who gave us the faith, transmitted the faith to us.”

— Pope Francis

WHAT IS IT?

Faith is handed on, person to person, across the generations. Sit with a Catholic grandparent, or another beloved Catholic elder, and listen to the story of their faith: preparing questions together, asking with love, and listening as they share about Christ.

Choosing someone Catholic lets your children glimpse what it means to live the faith: at Mass, at home, and through joys and trials.

HOW TO DO IT

1. **Choose someone.** A grandparent, parishioner, relative, or elderly friend works. Pick someone whose Catholic faith your family can learn from.
2. **Prepare questions together.** Write your questions as a family; let each child add some of their own (see ideas below).
3. **Set up the visit.** In person over a meal is wonderful; a video call works well for far-away loved ones.
4. **Listen closely.** Let the children ask their own questions, and don't rush; the silences and side-stories are part of the gift. Consider recording the conversation, to remember it by.
5. **Close in a prayer of gratitude.** Thank God, aloud and together, for this person and the faith they've shared.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR THE INTERVIEW

- ◆ Prepare your elder. Share a few questions ahead of time so they can gather memories and photos.
- ◆ Let the children lead. Coach them to ask, listen, and make eye contact. Honoring elders is itself a way to keep the Fourth Commandment.
- ◆ Bring keepsakes to spark stories- old photos, a family Bible, a rosary, holy cards, etc.
- ◆ Ask about hard times too. How faith carried them through loss or doubt is often the most powerful witness.
- ◆ Write and submit your family reflection on what you learned from your grandparent or elder.

MORE RESOURCES

- ◆ [Sharing the Wisdom of Time](#) — A book from Loyola Press, by Pope Francis & friends; elders worldwide share their faith and life.
- ◆ [StoryCorps “Great Questions”](#) — a free list of questions to ask (not specific to faith, but could provide some good background conversations about the past, to get things started).

Submit your Explore 4 reflection here.



<https://www.stbarbarachurch.org/explore-4>

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

Who taught you to pray?
How did you pray at home when you were young?
What was your First Communion like?
When did your faith feel like it became your own?
What prayer(s) do you say daily now?
Do you have a favorite saint? If so, why that one?
How has the Mass changed during your life?

How has the Mass changed during your life?
Which parish was most significant to your journey?
Have you ever had a hard time in your life, and your faith helped to get you through?
What about Catholicism are you most grateful for?
If you could talk to yourself right now as a child, what advice would you give, regarding faith?