



CREATION

FUN

with the
Grandkids

Activities That Inspire Conversations About Our Creator



Ruth Carter

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Foreword

How seriously do you take grandparenting?

When the doctor hands a new mother her tiny newborn baby—wow, most parents feel the weighty responsibility of what God has entrusted them with. But do we feel the same way when we hold our precious grandchildren for the first time?

With 18 grandkids, we know being a grandparent is a lot of fun—but it should be more than that! You see, grandparenting isn't about coasting along, enjoying your kids' kids while your now grown-up children do all the hard work of discipleship. While parents have the ultimate responsibility before the Lord for the spiritual training of their children (Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6–9), we as grandparents also have the God-given privilege and responsibility of passing the knowledge of the Lord on to the next generation. Consider Psalm 145:4:

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

We're to commend God's mighty acts to the next generation, just as Lois did to her grandson, Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5). We have the unique opportunity as grandparents to leave a legacy for our children's children (Proverbs 13:22).

A “veteran grandmother,” Ruth Carter is passionate about equipping grandparents to do just that. This resource, filled with fun activities and, most importantly, solid biblical teaching, is a wonderful way to equip yourself to have fun with your grandkids while imparting spiritual truths from God's Word to them.

As you do these crafts and activities with your grandkids, have fun, make memories and messes, and point them to Christ, our Creator and Savior.

Ken and Mally Ham



Dedication

This book is dedicated to my “children’s children,” my 13 grands. I love you to the moon and back! Thank you for being my students in “Grandma’s School” and allowing me to practice these ideas on you. I couldn’t ask for a better “class”!

Special thanks to:

God, my heavenly Father, who allowed me enough years to see and know my grandkids.

The original gathering of grandmothers who brainstormed ideas with me before this book was even birthed: Kym Snelling, Karen Mason, Kathy Fuller, and Sue Zitzman.

Dan Zordel, who kept the thumb drive containing the manuscript on his desk, through Covid and beyond, so that the book would not be forgotten.

Dale Mason, the granddad of all granddads at Answers in Genesis, whose passion for reaching grandparents breathed life into this project from the very beginning.

My editor and new friend, Evonne Krell. You are truly as meticulous as I am. You are a treasure!

My good husband, Steve, whose heart beats for godly grandchildren right along with mine.

Ruth Carter



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Introduction

For over 15 years, “Grandma’s School” has delighted the little people in the Carter family. The school sometimes happens around the picnic table in our basement when the grandkids, or “grands,” visit our home. At other times, the school gets packed in bins and loaded into the back of our SUV when we travel to babysit grandkids across the country. Grandma’s School is the craft projects, activities, prizes, and fun conversations that make grandparenting so special. I want to share some of my favorite Grandma’s School ideas with you.

For many years, I thought I was a pretty good grandma, but I never realized I was missing the most important point. Being an intentional grandparent is a serious, God-designed role. Psalm 78 explains that God expects each generation to teach his truth to the next generation, so even the children not yet born will know who he is. Now my goals have changed. I want to finish strong. The one message I hope the grands will learn from me is that God’s Word is completely true and totally trustworthy. I wrote this book to help you add kingdom values to your grandparenting as well.

What makes this book unique are the Creation Moment discussions with the activities. They are written to help you share biblical truth with your grandkids. Simply adapt the information to your grandkids’ level of understanding. I pray these thoughts about our Creator God and his creation will shape your grandkids’ worldviews while they are still malleable. The activities are teaching opportunities to help you pass down truth to your “children’s children” (Deuteronomy 4:9).

I cannot take credit for originating all these activities. Many came from creative people over the years who have shared their ideas in craft books, on websites, and with me personally. I have noted these sources, but to those unidentified artists I may have missed, thank you for sharing your ideas.

Blessings to all grandpas and grandmas who read and use these pages. You are building a legacy!

SEASONS BOARD

What better way to introduce the seasons than with this creative poster?

Ages 4–10



Materials

- One piece of corrugated cardboard, 4 x 2 ft. or 4 sheets of blue construction paper taped together
- 4 sheets of dark brown or black construction paper
- 1 box of white hole reinforcement labels
- Green buttons of all shapes and sizes
- Round stickers in fall colors, 1/2 in.
- Green and red pom-poms, 1/2 in.
- Pencil
- Markers
- White liquid glue
- Rubber cement
- Hot glue gun
- 3 straight sticks about 18 inches long, collected outdoors

Instructions

1. Draw lines to divide the board (or blue construction paper) into four sections, one for each season.
2. Use hot glue to attach a stick as a divider between each of the sections.
3. Using the brown or black construction paper, trace the hand and lower arm of your grandchild (partway to the elbow). Do this four times or use the hand and arm of four different grandkids.
4. Cut out these four hands and arms, which will be used as the trunk and branches of trees.
5. Use the rubber cement to glue the “hand trees” with fingers pointing up to the center of each of the four sections.
6. For the winter section, stick the white hole reinforcement labels randomly over the tree like snowflakes.
7. For the spring section, glue the green buttons over the tree. If your grandchild is a preschooler, you should dab spots of glue on the tree, and your grandchild can lay the buttons on the glue spots.
8. For the summer section, glue green pom-poms over the tree with red pom-pom “apples” interspersed randomly. Use the same gluing technique in #7 if your grandchild is a preschooler.
9. For the fall section, apply fall-colored stickers over the tree and around the trunk.
10. Label the top of the board “SEASONS” in big letters.
11. Write the name of the season at the bottom of each section with a thick marker.
12. If your grandkids are older, include the calendar dates that define the start of each season in North America. You may wish to confirm the exact dates for the year you are in, but they will be close to this:
 - Winter: December 21
 - Spring: March 20
 - Summer: June 20
 - Fall: September 22

SEASONS



CREATION MOMENT

What causes the different seasons?

When God created the earth as described in Genesis 1, he set the earth spinning. When the earth turns all the way around once, we have one 24-hour day. However, God also tilted the earth on its axis 23.4 degrees and caused it to revolve around the sun in this tilted position. When the earth travels around the sun once, we have one year.

During the summer, the sun's rays strike the earth more directly, and the sun shines for a longer time than it does in the winter, so it heats the earth more. During the winter, the days are shorter and the sun's rays are more slanted, making the warmth less intense.

Which season is usually the warmest with the longest days? *Summer.*

Which season is the coldest with the shortest days? *Winter.*

Which season is known for the leaves changing color and falling off the trees? *Fall.*

Which season is the best for planting and growing things? *Spring.*

Depending on where you live, the characteristics of the seasons may be different, but there will always be changes. Our Creator God took great care to make this planet a hospitable place for people to live. The seasons are a dependable cycle in our year. We can enjoy the things that make each season special.

Which season is your favorite?

MAP IT OUT

Teach geography while building anticipation for an upcoming trip.

All ages

Materials

Large paper the size of a poster board

Colored markers

Travel itinerary

Optional: star sticker



Instructions

1. Gather your grandkids around the table and sketch a rough map of the journey you plan to take to your destination. Include the following on your map:
 - A picture of your grandkids' home state. Draw a large star or place a star sticker over the location of their town. Have them label their state.
 - Draw outlines of the states through which you will be traveling. Label those states.
 - Next, draw your route along the roads with a bold line.
 - If your route passes through or near mountains, major rivers, forests, or other natural landmarks, have the grands add those to the map at the appropriate places.
 - Include where you plan to stop for breaks or meals.
 - End the route at your destination. Have your grandkids draw some places they will see (e.g., beach, hotel, museum) or things they will do (e.g., hike a trail, ride a roller coaster, take a bus tour).
 2. The project doesn't need to be a fancy work of art—it is a working document in preparation for your trip.
2. Take the map in the car so the grands can watch for places, landmarks, and features on the map.



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