



## 2019 YEAR OF SCRIPTURE Monthly Devotions July 2019

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If you were to describe a wise person, what word would you choose?

In 2010 I learned I would become a grandmother. I didn't want just any name for this precious grandchild to call me - I wanted something special.

At first this presented an identity crisis for me – I am not old enough to be a grandmother, I thought. An unknown author wrote: "It's amazing how grandparents seem so young once you become one."

But then I embraced this new adventure and decided to honor the passage by carefully selecting a new name. I wanted it to be just the right name – representing how I saw myself and exemplifying this new role.

I talked to many other people asking what their grandchildren call them or what they called their grandparents. By the way, this is a great conversation starter and most people tell great and unique stories about the names.

I searched book stores and Amazon and bought two books about grandparent names. One lists over 700 names for grandmother and grandfather. Both books categorized the names as traditional, playful, or ones that honor heritages and ancestors.

On the silent retreat I attended around this same time, I read Robert Wick's book, *Crossing the Desert*. In this book Wicks tells about the ancient desert fathers and mothers in the 4th century who provided guidance on how to live. The book companioned me on the retreat on many levels including providing me with a grandmother name.

A desert mother was called Amma. Amma refers to a wise woman, a play on words for me since my last name is Wise. And Amma nurtured the spiritual formation of others – the key role grandmothers have in the lives of their children and grandchildren. As a spiritual director and Deacon, I hope to foster people closer to God.

I am Amma.

Entering into a new role seems easier with some type of ritual and selecting a name to describe this new chapter in my life initiates this rite of passage for me.

Some people warned me that the child would name me. But I hoped to can still influence that by suggesting, "Come to Amma." And with my daughter saying, "Let's go to Amma's house."



Now I have four precious grandkids now and am no longer called Amma, but I hope they still come to me for wisdom. Yep, they changed my name and made it their own – and even more endearing to my heart and soul. My new grandmother nickname now is: AMMIE!!

## **Discussion**

What grandparent names are used in your family? Share some stories.

How can older generations teach wisdom to younger generations?

Look up some of the following passages. What do they tell us about wisdom?

- Psalm 90:12
- Proverbs 1: 7
- Proverbs 3: 7, 13
- Proverbs 4: 5-9
- Ecclesiastes 2:26
- Proverbs 16: 16
- Proverbs 19: 20
- Proverbs 17: 28
- Proverbs 11: 2



How will you as an individual grow in wisdom this year and how as a council can the group grow in wisdom?

**Close with prayer**

Dearest Lord Creator, we pray for the knowledge to grow in wisdom. Not for the wisdom that leads to power or fortune, but the wisdom that leads to faith and love. Guide us to your truths and give us courage and insight to walk alongside others as we of all ages worship and serve you.

