



Children are a Reward

The Bible is clear on this fact—children are a reward from the Lord (Psalm 127:3). There's no shortage of examples in Scripture of when a child was a direct answer to prayer, or when having many children was the reward for following God. The story of Abraham and Sarah is just one example. Of course, one look at your own bundle of joy is probably enough to convince you of God's goodness in your life!

Children are a Responsibility

With that reward of having children comes the responsibility to raise your child/ren to know the Lord. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." Ephesians 6:4 gives a similar charge. Your goal is to establish a foundation for your family that is built upon Jesus Christ. Your hope and prayer is that your child will trust Jesus early in his or her spiritual journey.

Dedication is an Important Step

Dedicating a child is an important step in your spiritual journey and the spiritual journey of your child. Much like baptism, dedication in and of itself has no power to save. But it can be a very significant event in the life of your child as well as in your own life. You are acknowledging God's sovereignty not only over your child's life, but also over your own. You are, on the one hand, committing yourself to do everything possible to train your child in the ways of the Lord and, on the other hand, trusting Him completely to have His way with your son or daughter. This is a time to carefully examine your own relationship with the Lord and commit yourself to following Him all the days of your life, and in every area of your life.

Dedication is Daily

The dedication ceremony may be a one-time event, but being dedicated is a daily discipline. Nowhere in Scripture is that clearer than in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Moses had just returned from receiving the Ten Commandments, when he says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands ..." Do everything you can to take advantage of the teachable moments that present themselves on a daily basis, constantly making Jesus the focus not only in your daily life, but in the lives of your children. In your own strength this may seem too much to accomplish, but with God you can do it (Philippians 4:13).

What You Need to do to Prepare

- Read through the Scriptures used on the previous page:
 - Psalm 127:3 Deuteronomy 6:4-9
 - Proverbs 22:6 Philipians 4:13
 - Ephesians 6:4
- Begin praying now for God to impress the significance of this step on your heart.
- Here are some additional verses for meditation:
 - 1 Samuel 1:26-28 Proverbs 20:7 Proverbs 29:15, 17
 - Proverbs 17:6 Proverbs 20:25 Luke 2:22
- Fill out a Child Dedication Information Form
(This form is for our records and for the Dedication Certificate that you will later receive.)
- Prepare a brief statement to share with the congregation during the dedication service.
(This is simply you, expressing publicly what you have already pledged in your heart to God.)
 - This statement should be approximately one minute long.
 - It should be prayerfully written and well-thought-out—you, the parents, expressing your feelings of love and commitment to your child, what you are praying for him/her.
 - Include a favorite Bible verse if possible, one that is meaningful to you, or one you hope will become significant in your child's life.
 - The statement does NOT need to be eloquent.
- Write the statement on the back of the information form.
- Be sure to keep a copy for your reference.
- Turn the completed Information Form in to the Children's Ministry office
 - ... **or** mail it to: "Miss" Angie Smith at CCF
 615 Glen Street, Edmonds WA 98020
 - ... **or** scan, then email it to: angies@ccfedmonds.org.

What You Need to do the Day of Dedication

Plan to arrive at 10:15 am (approximately 15 minutes before the start of the service)

The dedication time will be toward the beginning of the service. All families participating will be invited to come forward at that time. Because of limited space on stage as well as time constraints, we ask that only immediate family come forward to join you on the stage.

When it is time to dedicate your child, you will have an opportunity to share your words and/or Scriptures of dedication, then one of the church leaders (either staff or elder) will hold your child, pray for him or her, then return them to you. When all the children are dedicated we will pray for all the families together, so please remain up front until the end. You will receive a flower before you return to your seats.