

“Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”

Matthew 19:14

Child Dedication

Child dedication is two-fold. It involves firstly asking God to shape the child in line with His plans for their life.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11.

Secondly a commitment is made by the parents to nurture their child according to God’s biblical design. **“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”** Proverbs 22:6.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4.



developing followers of Jesus through authentic kingdom living

Some things to note...

- It's not about dedicating the child to the church, it's dedicating them to God. Acknowledging that He is their source, 'Children are a gift from the Lord' Psalm 127:3, and entrusting their life into His hands.
- The role of the church is to encourage and support both the parents and the child as they pursue biblically based family life, being followers of Jesus.
- Child dedication does not take the place of baptism. As a child grows up and chooses to follow Jesus for themselves, baptism is a decision they are able to make for themselves too.

Bible stories...

- In Luke 2:21-24 we read that Jesus was dedicated at the temple when he was 8 days old.
- Hannah dedicated Samuel, "I prayed for this child and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." 1 Samuel 1:27&28.

Tips for parents...

- The child dedication can take place at home with close friends and family or during a Sunday service.
- As part of the dedication you have an opportunity to make a commitment to model a life dedicated to following Jesus. Most life-long healthy habits are learnt at home.
- We pray a blessing on the child and parents.

At the end of the day you can't decide your child's relationship with God. Each person has to make their own decision to follow Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to lead every area of their life. By dedicating them, you are laying a foundation to help lead them in that direction towards becoming a follower of Jesus.

"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 walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deuteronomy 6:4-7