

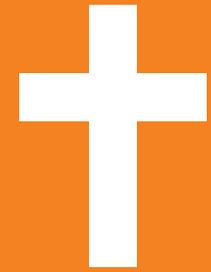
“SO NOW I
GIVE HIM TO
THE LORD, FOR
HIS WHOLE
LIFE HE WILL
BE GIVEN OVER
TO THE LORD.”

HANNAH'S PRAYER FOR SAMUEL.

1 SAMUEL 1:28

OURchurch

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child dedication

ourchurch.org.au/dedication

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The word dedication means to consecrate or the act of setting apart people or things for the purpose of serving God.

In the Old Testament we see how Hannah prayed for a child and promised God that the child, Samuel, would be given to the Lord all the days of his life. (1 Samuel 1:11,28)

In the New Testament we see how Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord. (Luke 2:22)

These parents took this act very seriously and were making a commitment in presenting their children to the Lord. Bringing a child before the Lord is not a secret formula for keeping them from ever experiencing harm or pain. It is a commitment from the parents to do their part in raising the child before the Lord.

Just as children in the Bible had set boundaries and lived their lives set apart to God from birth (Judges 13:5), so parents today - through baby dedication - commit to a lifestyle of raising their children separated from the world and its values.

WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENT AM I MAKING?

As parents you begin by publicly acknowledging your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As you present your child to God, in the presence of the pastor and congregation, you are recognising that they belong to Him and have been born to experience His love and to serve Him.

You are committing to continue to grow in your love for each other, remain faithful and continue to honour



the marriage covenant you have made with God. You are also committing, as Christian parents, to teach the truths of God's Word in your home and participate in regular worship with your children and to be a Christ-like example and seek to lead your children to a personal faith in Christ as soon as they are ready.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE BABY DEDICATION?

Child dedications generally occur following the worship portion of the morning experience and before the Pastor's message. We ask that you arrive shortly before the service begins and that you find a seat in the front section near the platform. The pastor will invite you to the platform. You will be asked by the pastor if you are making the commitment outlined in this brochure. You will respond accordingly. We will then pray for your child asking God's protection and guidance, and to lead the child to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The pastor will then pray for you as parents.

WHY DON'T WE HAVE INFANT BAPTISM?

We believe a person must make a personal commitment to Christ, consciously repending of their sin, before being baptised. For this very reason we provide parents the opportunity to dedicate their children to the Lord, praying that He would ultimately lead them to that personal decision.

To register your interest in Child Dedication email info@ourchurch.org.au or call 5593 5277