

# child dedication

with new spring church





# what is child dedication?

Child Dedication is a time set aside where parents make a commitment to intentionally parent their child with an end in mind — to raise your child to know and have relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

It's a time for your family and friends to come alongside you and commit to helping you achieve your end goal for your child. Lastly, it's a time for the church to say, we'll partner with you to help your child develop into a growing follower of Jesus.

Child dedication is not a statement of salvation for your child, but rather a statement of commitment that you wish to raise your child in the way of Christ.

While not a command of Scripture, child dedication can be symbolic of your desire to obediently raise your child to know the person and way of Christ. It should be done with a community of believers who know you personally and can commit to walking with you in this commitment.

Our hope is that, with gospel-centered community, you will proclaim your desire to be faithful to the Lord's call upon you to make disciples in your home and that we, as your community, will affirm this desire and commitment. As your church, we're here to support you in the journey.

# dedication or baptism?

Water baptism is one of the primary practices Jesus calls his followers to observe as a visible symbol of invisible grace. Our understanding of baptism as practiced in the New Testament is that believers were baptized following a credible confession of faith, which is something we do not believe an infant or young child is able to do. We do not believe there is a minimum threshold for children to be baptized, but a child should be able to understand and articulate their salvation and their decision to be baptized.

Any child who offers a credible confession of faith should be baptized. The challenge is to be discerning and realistic regarding whether your child understands what they confess and is ready for baptism, without evaluating a child's faith by the standards of an adult's faith.

Sometimes, parents desire their children to be baptized before a child is truly ready. We encourage parents to remember that baptism is about your child's faith in Christ, not yours! Dedication, on the other hand, is a place for parents, within the community of Christ, to celebrate their children as gifts from God and to express their desire to raise their children in the way of Christ.

We recommend baptism only be practiced by children who can express a credible confession of faith. To explore this further, we have created a separate document called *Celebrating Baptism*.

# what to expect

*Below is an outline of our dedication ceremony.*

## **Introduction**

We invite families who are participating in child dedication to come on stage and we introduce them to the church.

We read Psalm 145:4-7 together as a congregation.

We invite parents/guardians to share the name and age of their children and we offer a blessing on each child.

## **Dedication**

We lead the families and congregation through several commitment questions as part of the dedication ceremony. The response to each question is "I will" or "We will."

### *For Parents*

- Will you now rejoice and give heartfelt thanks to God in recognition of his blessing, that your children are his good and perfect gifts?
- Will you now dedicate your children to the Lord who gave them to you, surrendering all worldly claims upon their lives in the hope they will belong wholly to Jesus Christ?
- Will you commit as parents, with God's help, to faithfully follow the example of Jesus Christ, that your children may experience the Gospel and the fruit of the Spirit tangibly in your life and home?
- Will you commit to making the Word of God foundational to your family, cultivating rich soil for your children to grow in wisdom and understanding of God and his Word?

- Will you commit to raise your children in the local church, that your children may know genuine community and thrive within the love, grace and prayers of the family of God?

### *For the Congregation*

- Will you, as the family of God, commit to partner with our brothers & sisters in raising these children in Biblical community?
- Will you offer your prayers and your presence so that, by the grace of God and the help of the Holy Spirit, these children may be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ for their abundant joy and the glory of God?

### *For Kids in the Congregation*

At this point, if other children are present in the service, we'll ask for their participation to support their peers.

- Will you, with your beautiful child-like faith, commit to love your friends, pray for them and walk hand in hand with them as they learn to follow Jesus?

## **Prayer & Blessing**

We will then, as a congregation, pray a blessing over the families participating in dedication. If extended family or close friends are present, we may even ask them to stand.

We will close the ceremony by celebrating your children as gifts of God, and hand out dedication certificates.



If you'd like to discuss baptism further,  
please contact [\*\*dawn@newspringcos.org\*\*](mailto:dawn@newspringcos.org).

[\*\*newspringcos.org\*\*](https://newspringcos.org)



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