

Baby & Child Dedication

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GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

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Welcome to the Family!

It's exciting whenever a child enters a family!



Children Are a Gift from God!

There's no greater moment when parents sense that children are a gift from God. Psalm 127:3b (NIV) proclaims that: *...children a reward from Him.*

As believers we are called to recognize that children belong first and foremost to God. God in His goodness gives children as gifts to parents who not only have the awesome responsibility of caring for this gift, but also the wonderful privilege of **enjoying the gift.**

Why Dedicate a Child?

Because children belong to God and are given by grace as gifts to parents, it is only proper and appropriate that children be dedicated back to God. Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord in I Samuel 1, and Joseph and Mary presented their baby Jesus in Luke 2:22b (NKJV) *...they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.*

Parents, you are expressing your **full appreciation to God** through Baby & Child Dedication.

At What Age Take Part?

While GLC does not have a set age requirement, the average age for a child to be dedicated is 2 months to 2 years, although many parents dedicate children much older than that:

- Parent(s) are new believers in Christ and their children were not dedicated when they were infants.
- Parent(s) are having a younger child dedicated and want to have their older child dedicated at the same time.
- Parent(s) have received a new child in their family through adoption and want to dedicate it.

What is the Parents' Part in Dedication?

Dedicating a child acknowledges God's sovereignty **not only over the child, but also Mom and Dad**. Baby & Child Dedication is a public commitment you make before God, your church, and your family. The dedication service provides you, the parent(s), an opportunity to express publicly your desire to lead and spiritually nurture your child in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, so your child will develop a desire to love God and love others.

Parents, let's look to what God's Word says:

... love the LORD your God with all your heart, 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 our 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 – NIV).

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4 – NKJV).

First, it commands parents to love God; if they truly wish for their child to one day love and follow God, *their lives must be an example*.

Second, Deuteronomy makes clear that the duty of teaching children belongs to parents; growth groups can provide weekly instruction, but parents must seize the teachable moments that rise throughout life, such as the value of prayer at meal times and before bed. Read to them aloud Bible stories for devotions.



As a support to your family, we as a church offer you parenting classes. **Ask us about them!**

We look forward to your taking this important step for you as parents and your child!

Do you promise to do your best to faithfully attend church with your child and will you seek to lead your child to a personal faith in Jesus Christ?

PLEASE NOTE: If you cannot honestly make this promise at this time, we would request that you call and schedule a meeting with the pastor prior to scheduling your child for dedication.

What Are the Steps to Dedication?

1. **Sign up giving the church the required information** (this is necessary for us to prepare specific information about your child to use in the service and also for there to be a Certificate of Dedication created and later mailed to you).
2. **Thoroughly read this booklet.**
3. Send invitations provided to family and friends who will be attending.
4. **[Meet in Café Lite at 9:30a on the Sunday designated.](#)** Here you will meet with Pastor Headley to receive final instruction and also meet a nursery representative.
5. Participate in the service when directed.

Here Are A Few Practical Questions

1. **What Does a Child Wear for this Occasion?**

Some wear regular church clothes. Some wear special clothing they have obtained for this event. It is your choice.



2. **Can Family and Friends be Part of the Dedication?**

Through the invitations we encourage you to invite family and friends. However, during the ceremony we ask that the parents and child be the ones to stand with the pastor.

3. **Can We Take Photographs?**



Yes, we allow photographs to be taken during the ceremony but ask that the person taking the photograph be discreet and not position themselves anywhere to prevent the congregation from viewing the dedication.