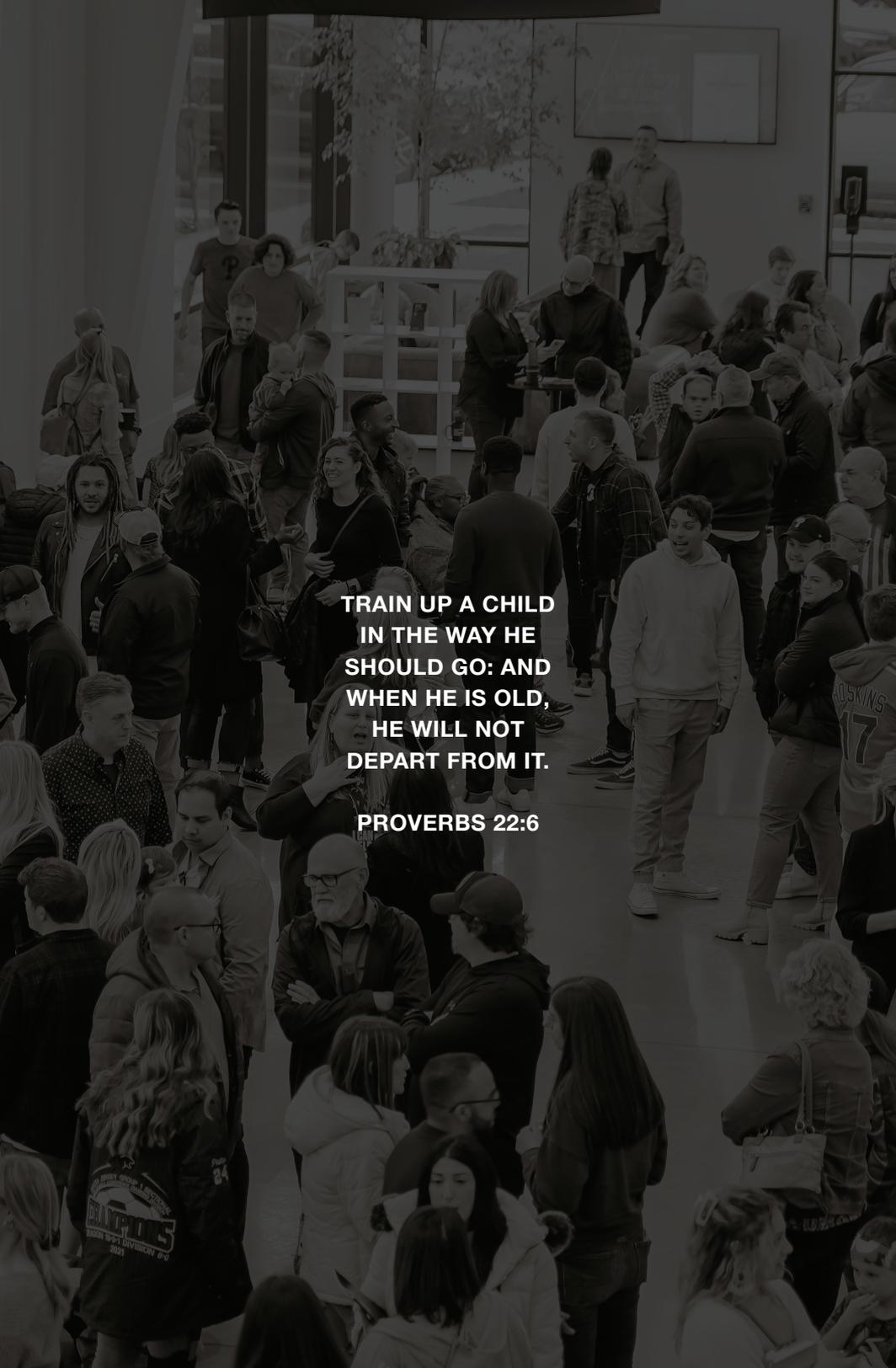


# Dedication



**TRAIN UP A CHILD  
IN THE WAY HE  
SHOULD GO: AND  
WHEN HE IS OLD,  
HE WILL NOT  
DEPART FROM IT.**

**PROVERBS 22:6**

# We are better together...

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU AS PARENTS TO LEAD YOUR FAMILY IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD.**

Dedicating your child before God and the church family is an exciting moment where you, the parent, commit to setting the example of what it looks like to be a Christ follower. We desire your marriage and households to be healthy and strong, not perfect, but humbly seeking to become more like Christ. We believe that as you live that honest example of following Jesus, your child will not depart from the path you have set.



## **Our Goal**

*Today we are going to explain what dedications represent, site biblical examples and share what this step practically means for you and your family.*

# Let's start

BY CLARIFYING & UNDERSTANDING  
WHAT A DEDICATION **IS NOT**

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**DEDICATION IS NOT SALVATION  
OR ETERNAL SECURITY**

Salvation is a personal decision made by the individual at an age of understanding. Romans 10:9 & 10:13

**DEDICATION IS NOT MANDATORY**

This is not a pre-qualifier for salvation or church membership (which we do not have).

**DEDICATION IS NOT SOLELY  
FOCUSED ON THE CHILD**

The act of dedication is more about the parents, siblings & church family, committing to lead the child by teaching and setting a Christ-like example for them.

**DEDICATION IS NOT WITHIN A  
SET TIME FRAME**

The child doesn't have to be under a specific age to be dedicated.



**EVERYONE WHO CALLS  
ON THE NAME OF THE  
LORD WILL BE SAVED.**

**ROMANS 10:13**

# A Symbolic Act

Dedication, Baptism, and Communion have one thing in common in that they are symbolic acts. They are an outward public act that is representing a decision that has happened on the inside. In the case of dedications, the decision was made by the parents.

## DEDICATIONS ARE A SYMBOLIC ACT THAT COMBINES THESE THREE SCRIPTURAL PRACTICES INTO ONE PUBLIC EVENT.

1

It is a commitment from the parents of a child that they would serve and honor the Lord.

2

They are committing to raising that child in the ways of the Lord by being planted in God's house.

3

They are publicly asking the church family to help and support them in that purpose.

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## 01

### DEDICATION AT THE TEMPLE

Mary & Joseph bring Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to God. Luke 2:22

This was done in Jewish cultures for only the firstborn males to be brought to the temple with an offering to be consecrated to the Lord.

\*

*Keep in mind that Jesus would not be baptized until he was thirty years of age. Dedication is done before a child is able to make a salvation decision, Baptism follows only after that decision occurs. A person can be saved without first being dedicated, and a child dedicated may never accept Christ.*

# 02

## **ANOINTING WITH OIL**

The prophet Samuel anoints the head of David as king.  
1 Samuel 16

This was a symbolic act to publicly declare that a person was chosen or set apart for a specific purpose. Prophets, priests and kings were all publicly anointed in a ceremony (scripture tells us we are all three).

Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

# 03

## **A DECLARATION BEFORE THE PEOPLE**

Joshua’s message before all the tribes of Israel.  
Joshua 24:15

This was a moment where Joshua declared before the people of God that he would lead his family, by setting the example, in serving God. His declaration challenged those who were serving themselves and false gods.

Joshua 24:15 “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”



**DO NOT MERELY LISTEN TO THE WORD,  
AND SO DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO  
WHAT IT SAYS.**

**JAMES 1:22**

# A Family Commitment

This commitment is made by both the parents or parent, your family, and the church family. As a church family we will come alongside of you and your family through every season of life. We will offer programs for your children to learn about Jesus, biblical community and discipleship events in the areas of parenting and marriage. You are not alone in this!

Three commitments we would like to see from parents dedicating their child.

1

Have committed their lives to the Lord, and their relationship with Jesus is evident in how they live their lives.

2

Are intentional about investing into their marriage, to have a strong, loving and committed relationship.

3

Are committed to raising up their children to also serve God, be planted in the local church & value biblical community.

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## Let's Dive a Little Deeper

*The following pages are homework for you as the parents to complete together. We hope this helps start conversations to challenge and encourage one another in your journey with Jesus.*

# Workbook Section

## Default or Design

Life happens quickly and often times we let areas in our lives go unmanaged, unspoken and unplanned. These are areas in our lives operating by default and like everything else in the world over time these areas will splinter and break. God has given us His word, to live lives of purpose and design.

## Workbook Goal

1

To ask relevant, thought-provoking questions that both the father and mother can think about and answer separately.

2

To create an environment for both the father and mother to review and discuss their answers together.

3

To come to a mutual understanding if they as a couple are ready to move forward with the Dedication or not, or if there are any other Next Steps that they would like to take.

# 01

## Salvation & Jesus

### SECTION ONE

*Take a moment to separately think about and answer the following five questions. Write down your answers on a separate page or in a notebook. When you are both done, review your answers together, noting where your answers line up and where there may be differences of opinion.*



What is a Christian, and would you consider yourself one?  
Why or why not?

Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?  
Why or why not?

Would people that know you describe you as being a  
Christ-follower? Why or Why not?

Do you believe Jesus is the only way to heaven?  
Why or Why not?

Have you been publicly baptized after accepting Christ?  
Why or Why not?

# Review Your Answers

## SECTION ONE

We believe that a Christian is a person who has given their life to Christ and has decided to follow Him all the days of their life. Christianity is not simply attending church or slapping a label on yourself because your parents were Christians or because you are a member. Christianity is a lifestyle that has Jesus at the center of it. Having both parents (or one in the case of a single parent) being Christians is vital to moving forward with dedicating your child to the Lord. It's important also that you are not a secret Christian. People in your world who are closest to you should see evidence in your life, from the way you speak and act that you are practicing what you claim. We believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven. There is no other way.

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

*John 14:6*

We also believe that baptism, while not required for salvation, is an important next step in declaring publicly the decision you made privately. The public baptism of the individual parents should always precede a dedication of their children.

# 02

## Marriage & Family

### SECTION TWO

*Take a moment to separately think about and answer the following five questions. Write down your answers on a separate page or in a notebook. When you are both done, review your answers together, noting where your answers line up and where there may be differences of opinion.*

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1. Would you say that Jesus is at the center of your marriage?  
Why or Why Not?
2. How important is it to you to raise your children according to the principles taught in the Bible? Why or Why Not?
3. Do you believe that a strong, spiritually healthy marriage is important to raising strong, spiritually healthy children?  
Why or Why Not?
4. Would you say that the example that you personally set for your children is one that displays a God-honoring life?  
Why or Why Not?
5. Do you currently feel confident in your ability as a parent to train up a child in the ways of the Lord? Why or Why Not?

# Review Your Answers

## SECTION TWO

We believe that Jesus should be at the center of a marriage. In fact, your relationship with Jesus is more important than your relationship with your spouse. And your relationship with your spouse is more important than your relationship with your children. It is out of this right priority of relationships that health, clarity, and purpose can flow and impact the whole family dynamic. Being a Christian means that you have made a decision to follow the ways of Jesus. If this is important for you, it is also important for your whole family.

As a parent, you will model the lifestyle first in your own lives that you wish to see in your children. It is not enough to simply tell your children what is right and wrong. You must commit to showing them through your own words and actions. While strong, spiritually healthy children can grow out of a less-than-ideal environment, this is not the norm. More likely, patterns of abuse, arrogance, and sin stem from parents who condone or even celebrate those behaviors. Committing first to God, then to your spouse, and finally to your children is what is best for all, and this pattern of relational priority is outlined in scripture many times. Your confidence as a parent to train your child is not nearly as important as your willingness to learn and grow. There are many resources available to you and only a teachable spirit is needed!

*Colossians 3:14-17 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

# 03

## The Local Church

### SECTION THREE

*Take a moment to separately think about and answer the following five questions. Write down your answers on a separate page or in a notebook. When you are both done, review your answers together, noting where your answers line up and where there may be differences of opinion.*

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1. How important do you think being planted in the local church is to live a God-honoring life?
2. Would you consider yourself and your family planted in the local church? Why or Why not?
3. In what ways are you using your God-given gifts and talents to serve others?
4. Are you currently connected into community with others in the local church through Crews? Why or why not?
5. Do you give a tenth of your income to the local church? Why or Why Not?

# Review Your Answers

## SECTION THREE

We believe that we are a part of the body of Christ, of which Christ is the head! It is important for all parts of that body to willingly work together, using their God-given skills and talents in order to expand the Kingdom of God on earth. In fact, you cannot fully represent Christ or live out what Christianity was intended to be on your own. It is only through coming together and combining our spiritual gifts that we can accurately reflect Christ.

Being planted in the Local Church means that you consistently attend, not once a year or even once a month, but as regularly as you can, because you hold a high view of the local church as valuable and worthy of being prioritized. You are invested in others to encourage, support, and equip them, and in the same way, you allow others to sharpen and refine you as well. Being planted also means that beyond simply attending, you are inviting, serving in some capacity, and supporting the body financially with the first and best of what God has blessed you with. It is vital to hold a high view of the Bride of Christ if you want to declare that your household will be one that serves the lord.

*Psalm 92:13 Those planted in the house of the Lord will Flourish.*

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

*1 Thessalonians. 5:11 So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.*

# 04

## Next Steps

### SECTION FOUR

*Take a moment to separately think about and answer the following five questions. Write down your answers on a separate page or in a notebook. When you are both done, review your answers together, noting where your answers line up and where there may be differences of opinion.*

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1. In reviewing your answers in the previous 3 sections with your spouse, what stood out to you as being viewpoints that you didn't know or expect from them?
2. After reviewing your answers in the section about Jesus and Salvation, what next steps do you think you would like to take as a couple?
3. After reviewing your answers in the section about Marriage and Family, what next steps do you think you would like to take as a couple?
4. After reviewing your answers in the section about the local church, what next steps do you think you would like to take either individually or as a couple?
5. After reviewing your answers in the previous 3 sections, do you feel that you are ready to move forward with the Dedication?

# What's Your Next Step?

Our prayer is that this resource challenges you to continually pursue Jesus in all areas of your life. Whether your next step is dedication or something else all together, keep moving!

## Dedication

*Now that you completed the dedication class and understand what dedication is all about, you can sign up via the QR below or through this webpage [qrco.de/tnbd](http://qrco.de/tnbd)*



## Next Steps

*You can sign up for, apply to and give via the True North App. Scan the QR code on the following page to download the app.*

Accepting Christ as your Lord and Savior  
Getting Baptized  
Joining a Crew  
Joining a Team and Start to Serve  
Starting to Tithe  
Applying to True North College  
Registering for Masterclass



## NEXT STEP RESOURCES

*Visit the resource page on our website. There are messages and resources related to each topic below.*

Praying to be spirit-filled  
Starting a daily habit of prayer  
Beginning a Bible reading or Bible study plan  
Letting go of bitterness and unforgiveness  
Marriage and Parenting  
Budgeting and Stewardship  
Addiction





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