lakesidekids

# Child

DEDICATION GUIDE

We are excited that you are interested in dedicating your child to the Lord. The purpose of Parent + Child dedication is for parents to present their child before God and the church, committing to seek after His wisdom in carrying out responsibilities.

Scripture says in Psalm 127:3 “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.” Child Dedication is a time for us to celebrate and thank God for the gift of your children. We look forward to partnering with you in this step of parenting .

## Child Dedication History

The arrival of a new baby is a joyful occasion for any family, bringing a fresh sense of life and purpose. Often, parents want to celebrate this joy within their church community by presenting their child to God for a blessing. This tradition is deeply rooted in biblical history, as seen when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be presented to God. Long before them, godly parents had also dedicated their children to God, a practice that continues today as a way to seek God's blessing.

In some Christian traditions, infants are baptized by sprinkling them with water, which is seen as a covenant similar to the Old Testament practice of circumcision. However, other Christian denominations do not baptize infants. Instead, they dedicate their babies to God. This choice is based on several reasons:

- Scripture does not clearly document any instances of infant baptism; baptism is generally seen as a sign of Christian faith.
- While some believe that baptism imparts a special grace to children, there is no strong scriptural basis for this view.
- Many adults who were baptized as children later choose to be baptized again to publicly affirm their faith in Christ.

For these reasons, Christian parents are encouraged to dedicate their children to God. During a Christian Child Dedication service, parents make a solemn promise before God and the church to raise their child in a way that honors God.

# WHAT IS CHILD DEDICATION NOW?



Child dedication is a public vow made to God before His people, one that brings His approval and blessing. It declares three key truths:

1. Children are precious to God, created in His image with the capacity to personally relate to Him.
2. Despite their innocence, these children will one day need to accept Christ for themselves, as all are helpless to achieve salvation on their own.
3. Jesus is the only Savior. He invited children to come to Him, knowing they too need His salvation. There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

God commands us to diligently raise our children in the faith. In obedience to this, we present and dedicate them to the Lord. The practice of baby dedication is rooted in Scripture, seen in the presentations of Samuel by Hannah and Jesus by Joseph and Mary. Paul reminded Timothy that he knew the Scriptures from childhood, and Jesus considered children precious, saying, "Let the children come to Me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

The true purpose of child dedication lies in the commitment of the parents. This ceremony is as much about parental dedication as it is about the child. By participating, parents publicly pledge to follow Paul's command in Ephesians 6:4: "Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the discipline and instruction of the Lord." The ceremony holds meaning only when parents dedicate themselves, along with their child, to God.

> “And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.”
> Deuteronomy 6:6-7



# WHAT TO EXPECT

You will be welcomed on stage to stand before the church. The Pastor will explain the significance of child dedication and its importance. He will ask the parents and the congregation if they will commit to raising the child in the Christian faith, to which you will respond, "I will."

The Pastor will then invite the church to join in prayer over the child(ren), during which they will be anointed with oil. After the prayer concludes, you and your family will exit the stage.

After the service, you can pick up your gift and certificate, and a photo opportunity will be available.

# COMMON QUESTIONS

**Do I need to be an owner to dedicate my child?**
You don't need to be an owner of Lakeside Church to dedicate your child, but we ask that families consider Lakeside their home. By dedicating your child, you're committing to partner with God and the Church in raising them according to God's intentions. As your church family, we're here to support you in this journey.

**What are my commitments as a parent?**
Lakeside Kids believes that the key to a child's discipleship is the role of the parent and their involvement. In this partnership, we ask that parents commit to the following expectations before dedicating their child:

- I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- I regularly attend weekend experiences at the Lakeside church.
- I agree with Lakeside church's beliefs and values which can be found in the statement of faith (link info)
- I commit to modeling personal purity and to lead by example in matters of faith and conduct.
- This includes living a life of sexual purity according to God's standards.

**Is dedication the same as baptism?**
At Lakeside Church, we believe baptism is for those who have personally chosen to trust Jesus for their salvation, once they are mature enough to understand its significance. Dedication is not a sacrament and does not impart grace or salvation; these come only through faith in Jesus Christ. Instead of baptizing infants, we encourage a dedication ceremony where parents seek God’s blessing for their child and commit to raising them according to Scripture.







# READY TO DEDICATE?

**Now that you have read through our Child Dedication Guide, you are ready to register for our next Parent + Child Dedication Class! During this class, we'll talk about the heart behind dedication, what it means for your family, what to expect on Dedication Day, and how Lakeside Church wants to partner with you as you lead your child spiritually.**

**Completion of this class is required before your family can participate in Parent & Child Dedication.**

**We're excited to celebrate this meaningful milestone with your family and help equip you for the incredible role God has given you as a parent!**

**CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO ATTEND OUR NEXT CLASS!**