

How do I know when my child is ready to make Jesus their Forever Friend?

Children usually are old enough to accept Jesus Christ into their lives as their Forever Friend when they have an understanding of sin—recognizing that they've done wrong (e.g. lied, disobeyed)—and feel sorrow over it as an offense against God, not just getting caught.

Making Jesus our Forever Friend means understanding that Jesus died for our sins, verbally placing our trust in Him, and beginning to show a desire to know Him more. Evidence that a child may be ready for this step can include asking thoughtful questions about God, Jesus, heaven, prayer, and Scripture.

Prior to the age at which a child is able to accept Jesus Christ as their Forever Friend, we understand that they are under a period of grace whereby God's love provides a certainty of salvation to the young child.

After the age when a child is aware of the difference between right and wrong, the child will have to make their own personal decision and relationship with Jesus.

Child Dedication

Child Dedication Process

Part 1: Class (2 weeks ahead)

- A 1-hour class will be scheduled approximately 2 weeks before the Child Dedication Celebration.
- This class is a pre-requisite to having your child dedicated.
- We recommended that both parents be in attendance, and your child is welcome to be with you.

Part 2: Personal Family Celebration

- 9:30–10:30 AM on the Sunday of the dedication.
- This special time is dedicated to the families of the child being honored, providing an opportunity to invite grandparents, godparents, siblings, and close friends to share in this meaningful occasion.
- Each family will be given a few minutes to speak a blessing, prayer or Scripture over their child, and the pastor will then pray for each child individually.
- At the end of the celebration, refreshments will be served and pictures can be taken before proceeding to the main service and the public Child Dedication moment with the church family.

Part 3: Church Family Child Dedication

- The formal Child Dedication ceremony will take place during the 11:00 AM service in the Sanctuary.
- The parents, child and immediate family will be invited on stage.
- Parents will respond to a few questions (*questions will be on screens*).
- The congregation will also declare their commitment and join in prayer.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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We Believe...

A child's spiritual development begins at home and is the responsibility of their parents. As a church, we are honored to partner with families as they begin this journey of faith. Together we have 936 weeks to give your child the foundation they will build on.

Child dedication is an opportunity for parents to make a public commitment before God, their family, and their church. Through this commitment, parents are saying that they are willing to nurture their children and guide them in the love and teachings of God.

Why should I dedicate my child?

As parents, you have been given the beautiful responsibility of raising your child to know and love the Lord. They have been created by God and entrusted to you to love, guide, and treasure.

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him, Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands." (Psalm 127:3-4 NLT)

Child dedication is also a dedication of the parents. You are saying to the Lord that you accept the responsibility of leading your child spiritually—modeling God's love and introducing them to the truth of His Word.

Where is child dedication found in the Bible?

1 Samuel 1:28 - *"Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there.*

Luke 2:22 - *"Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord."*

Mark 10:14 - *"When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.'"*

What's the difference between infant baptism and child dedication?

Scripture provides evidence that baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation (Acts 2:41, 8:12 and 10:47-48).

In the Bible, parents brought their children to Jesus and He welcomed and prayed over them. As we do not see examples of Jesus baptizing children, we believe baptism comes later, when a person is ready to make their own decision to follow Christ.

Do both parents need to be involved in the child dedication process?

Whenever possible, we encourage both parents to participate in child dedication. In situations where one parent may not share the same faith, we encourage open communication and cooperation—sharing your desire to dedicate your child before moving forward.

Is there an age limit?

Any child can be dedicated, no matter their age. Dedication is for everyone—big or small!

Can a single parent living for the Lord dedicate their child?

Yes! Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents, including single parents, to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Christ. Additionally, we highly encourage single parents to dedicate their child as they commit themselves to raise them even in the absence of a spouse.

What should my child wear?

Some parents like to have special clothing for their child, but there are no specific guidelines or clothing requirements.

What about godparents?

In some traditions, godparents speak on behalf of a child's faith. While we do not practice godparenting, we encourage grandparents, family members, and friends to stand alongside parents in prayer and support. We invite them to be part of each child's journey by offering encouragement, care, and spiritual guidance.

Additionally as a church family, we welcome the opportunity to pray for these children and their families, walking together in faith and love.

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