

GRACE  
**Kids**



# CHILD DEDICATION

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is this an infant baptism?

No. Scripture provides evidence that baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Jesus alone for salvation (Acts 2:41, 8:12 and 10:47-48). In the Bible, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them and told us to welcome them, but He did not baptize them or tell anyone else to baptize them. This event is an opportunity for you as parents to publicly declare that you want to raise your child to develop their own relationship with Jesus Christ.

### What is the biblical purpose for child dedication?

The scriptural root of child dedication is found in 1 Samuel 1:27-28, where a godly woman named Hannah prayed year after year for God to give her a child. He answered her prayer and she gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel. When Samuel was born, Hannah prayed these words: "For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord."

A New Testament example is in Luke, chapter 2. Following the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple and dedicated Him. In both Scripture passages, the parents entrusted their child completely to God. The writings of Moses, found in Deuteronomy 6:5-9, describe God's plan for how a parent should raise up a child: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and 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 your 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them to your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

At Grace, Child Dedication will help you mark this step as you publicly express your desire to follow these biblical principles.

### Is there an age limit for the child who is being dedicated?

While Grace does not have a set age requirement for child dedication, most children are dedicated within their first year, although many parents chose to dedicate older children as well. You can start the process at any time; there is no minimum or maximum age your child has to be. There is no reason you couldn't even begin the first steps of the process before the baby is born.

### Do we have to meet any criteria to participate in Child Dedication?

The very nature of this process is asking you, as parents, to commit to raising your child in a home that leads them into a relationship with their heavenly Father. It is because of this, we ask that at least one or both parents have made a commitment to having a personal relationship with Jesus. We recognize that there are many families in which only one parent has come to faith and the spouse that is not yet a believer would like to participate. That is okay.

### Do I need to attend Grace to have my child dedicated?

We encourage you to make sure you are calling Grace your home church. Why? In dedicating your child to God, you are stating that you are willing to partner with God and the church to raise your child in cooperation with God's intentions. To partner with any church, you, as the parent, need to decide to agree with its beliefs and vision.

### If I am a single parent can I participate in the Child Dedication celebration?

Yes! Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents (including single parents) to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

### How much does Child Dedication cost?

There is no cost to participate in Child Dedication.