

**Congratulations!**

If you are reading this, your family has recently been blessed with a new child. As a church, we are excited to partner with you as you begin the journey of laying the foundation of faith with your child.

**WHAT IS THE 'BABY DEDICATION' STEP?**

A Baby dedication is a parent's decision to dedicate their child to Jesus at the initial stage of their life. It works as a special moment in one of our Calvary services in which you make a formal commitment to raise your child in a Christ centered home. The reason we as a church choose to dedicate a child, rather than christen, is because Jesus was dedicated.

**Luke 2v22-23** - *And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord").*

**THE WAY A BABY DEDICATION WORKS IN A SERVICE:**

1. Our Campus Pastor will invite you and your family to the stage, with your child.
2. Our Campus Pastor will then pray for your Child, dedicating them to Jesus, acknowledging they are a gift from God, entrusted to the parents to raise in His ways.
3. Our Campus Pastor will also pray for you, the parents, that you may have the strength of the Holy Spirit and be guided in the wisdom as you raise your child.
4. A Bible will be gifted to you, to assist you in their faith journey.

**RESOURCES**

- ***Praying through the Bible for your kids*** by Tizzie Hall
- ***Baby Wise*** by Garry Ezzo
- ***The Ministry of Motherhood*** by Sally Clarkson
- ***Power of a Praying Parent*** by Stormie Omartian

**THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT**

Dedicating your child is your commitment to raise your children in the ways of the Lord.

**Proverbs 22v6** - *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

The scripture states that if you teach your child the ways of the Lord, this will help them reach a personal decision to accept Jesus into their heart and follow him for themselves. It is important to understand that a baby dedication is not your decision for your child to follow Jesus. By dedicating your child, you are making a commitment to **model, teach and fortify** the Christian faith in your home.

**Romans 10v9-10** says *"9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."*

The bible teaches that the decision to follow Jesus is one that is personal. A person must make this decision for themselves. The age in which a child accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior varies depending on the child.

**THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH**

As a church, we are committed to walking alongside you through these early stages of parenthood. We do this by providing pastoral care and parent specific connect groups. These groups will connect you with people at the same stage of life that will support you and offer friendship and various parenting courses from time to time.

**SOME IDEAS TO CELEBRATE DEDICATING YOUR CHILD:**

1. Invite family members and friends along to church to celebrate the dedication of your child.
2. Organise a lunch or meal with family and friends after the service.
3. Invite family members and friends to share advice, scripture and the opportunity to pray daily for your child.

**STEPS TO DEDICATING YOUR CHILD:**

1. Speak with our pastoral team to book in a baby dedication in one of our celebration services.
2. Speak with someone from our pastoral team through Faith Pathways in order to begin the faith journey for your child.