

A guide to

Dedications

in Hope Church

www.hopecorby.org

What is Child Dedication?



We believe children are a gift from God so we are very excited that you are investigating child dedication.

The scriptural root of a 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.”

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, dedicating their lives back to Him.

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 on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

One key step in marking your desire to nurture your child in the ways of God is to dedicate him/her to God publically.

Child dedication is not the same as infant baptism [we do not practice infant baptism as a church]. We believe that the biblical pattern for baptism is that it follows a person's commitment to follow Christ. Child dedication is, instead, a public commitment *you* make before God, your church and your family.

What should I expect?

The dedication service provides you with the opportunity to...

- 1. Thank God for His gift of life**
- 2. Commit to bring your child up in the ways of the Lord**
- 3. Pray a prayer of dedication to the Lord**

We will invite you and your child/ren to the front during a Sunday gathering, usually after the first few songs. There will be an initial explanation to the congregation about what is happening and then you will be invited to make vows before the Lord and those gathered. After this, you will be invited to pray a simple prayer of dedication. We will then end with a few chosen people praying with you, perhaps sharing scriptures or specific words from the Lord as encouragements.

A dedication usually takes no longer than 15 minutes but is a very significant moment in your child's life.

For more information or to book your child's dedication, please contact Trish at trish@hopecorby.org.



Hope Church, Corby

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