

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 can understand the difference between right and wrong. This age varies from child to child but is usually somewhere between the ages of 3 to 5 years.

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 stand on their own acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Child Dedication

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Part 1: Class

- Class will be scheduled approximately 2 weeks before the Child Dedication Celebration.
- Class will be 1 hour long.
- Class is a pre-requisite to have your child dedicated.
- Recommended that both parents be in attendance.

Part 2: Personal Family Celebration

- 9:30 – 10:30 AM on the day of 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.
- The Pastor will then pray for each child individually.
- At the end of the celebration, refreshments will be served.

Part 3 Church Family Child Dedication

- Formal Child Dedication will take place during the 11:00 service in the sanctuary.
- Parents, child and immediate family will be invited on stage.
- You will respond to a few questions (*Questions will be on screens*)
- The congregation will also respond.

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Child Dedication

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**

We Believe...

that a child's spiritual development is their parent's responsibility. We, the church, want to partner with families as they begin this journey. Child dedication allows parents the opportunity to make a public commitment to God, their family and their church saying they are willing to spiritually nurture their children so they can be exposed to the love and teachings of God.

Why should I dedicate my child?

As parents, you have the honor of raising this child in the ways of the Lord. Although created by God, they have been given to you to love, raise, and cherish.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth." (Psalm 127:3-4)

Part of Child Dedication is parental dedication. You, in essence, are saying to the Lord that you accept the spiritual responsibility of guiding and exposing your child to the teachings of God's Word by guiding them with God's love.

Where is child dedication found in the Bible?

"Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD. So they worshiped the LORD there." (1 Samuel 1:28)

"Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord." (Luke 2:22)

Jesus Himself said these words: *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14)*

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, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them, and told us to welcome them. There are no accounts of Him baptizing them. We believe that baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation.

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

Ideally, both parents should be involved. In the case where one parent is not a believer, our advice would be to cooperate and make the other parent aware of the desire to want to have their child dedicated before participating on your own.

Most often the other parent will agree to come to the ceremony and participate in that fashion.

Is there an age limit?

There are no age requirements for babies/children to participate in a dedication service. You are never too old.

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 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 traditional church situations, the role of a godparent is to stand before God and speak to Him on behalf of the child. These individuals make statements of faith for the child as if the child actually already had a faith in God.

Though we do not encourage the practice of having godparents, we do encourage grandparents, family members and friends to stand by the child's parents to pray for them.

We also encourage them to help with the raising, protecting and the spiritual guidance of the child. Furthermore, the church congregation is publicly asked to pray for these families on a regular basis.

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