

Getting Started...

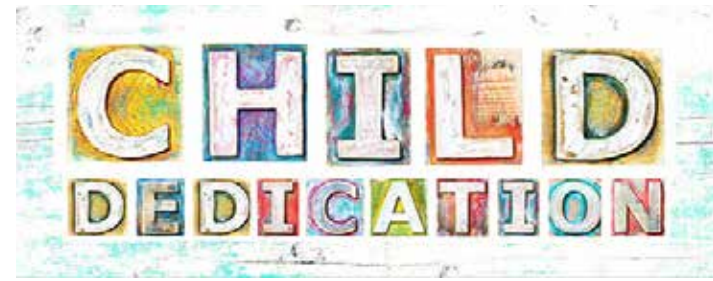
What to Do Next

1. Start praying *with* your child(ren). Make it a point to begin praying each night with your child(ren). Before he/she goes to bed is a wonderful opportunity to spend time in prayer.
2. Start praying *for* your child(ren). The Lord has blessed you with a tremendous gift and responsibility. Make it your personal mission to spend time each day praying *for* your children.
3. If you are a first-time parent or new to TCF, please call the church office to speak with or schedule an appointment with Pastor Travis Connick before you register.
4. Dedications are scheduled several times a year. Space is limited for each ceremony. Register your child at trail.org. After you've registered, if you would like to submit a photo to have an overhead slide created for the Dedication, email a photo of your child to events@trail.org. (specs: send a .jpg file, minimum size of 6"x 4" at 155 px/inch. (prefer 300 px.) and put the child's name in the subject line of your email.
5. You will be contacted to confirm the scheduling of your child's dedication. Plan on sitting in the front row. If there are special circumstances on that Sunday morning, please ask.



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at Trail Christian Fellowship

Congratulations...

As a church family we want to celebrate with you this very significant time in your lives as you prepare to dedicate your son or daughter to the Lord. We know that God designed the family (Gen.1:26-28) and knit together your precious child (Ps. 139:14-16). We rejoice with you in the gift that God has given you.



To the Parents

Please read this brief paper together before scheduling your child's dedication. This is a covenant that believing parents are making before the Lord and the church.

What Parent-Child Dedication is

- A formal moment to thank God, the Giver of life, for the gift of your child.
- An opportunity to publicly declare your intentions to raise your child to love the Lord Jesus with all their heart, soul, strength and mind (Lk. 10:27).
- A time of commitment where the church family pledges to encourage, support, and partner with you so that your child will know Christ and be complete in Him.

What Parent-Child Dedication is not

- Child Dedication is not Baptism. We don't use water during the Dedication. Baptism is an expression of one's conscious decision to give their allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord, and therefore is something that individuals pursue after personally trusting Jesus.
- Child Dedication is not a guarantee. The act of dedication represents your desire to tell and show your child the way to Jesus. Child dedication does not impart grace or salvation to the child. The Scriptures are clear that we are saved simply by God's grace, not by dedication, baptism or good works. While it's not a guarantee, it is a starting point to tell your child that from infancy you have been praying for him/her to receive Christ as Lord.



Is there Biblical Basis for this?

Yes! Jesus' parents made a similar declaration. *When the days of purification had ended they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (Luke 2:22).*

One Thing to Know

Many times a new parent will ask, "What can I do to ensure spiritual growth in my child?" The answer is quite simple: Continue to grow spiritually yourself. Your own spiritual growth is the greatest influencing factor that impacts your child's spiritual growth. In other words, as the parent goes, so goes the child. God gives parents the responsibility to train and nurture their children's spiritual growth.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says,
"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 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."

The most important thing you will ever do for your child is to point him/her to Jesus Christ. This happens on a daily basis as you parent your child. Parents often make the mistake of thinking that bringing their child to church is enough. It is not the sole responsibility of the church to introduce your child to Jesus. This is the parent's God-given responsibility. At best, the church has 12 hours a month with your child. You, however, have over 420 waking hours per month to point them to Jesus and live out the Gospel in front of them. The time you take sharing God's Word with your kids is the most important thing you'll do with them.

It is our hope that you will start from the very beginning of your child's life to be intentional in your parenting and in talking about the good-ness of our Lord Jesus. The hours you spend praying together and worshipping the Lord together will be some of your most treasured times.

Remember, God doesn't ask us to do things He is unwilling to equip us for. Ask God to help you to know how to raise your child to know and serve Him.



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