

BABY DEDICATION CELEBRATION

What:

As believers, we dedicate our children to God as a sign of our commitment to train them in the ways of the Lord. When you dedicate your children, you are affirming that God has given your children to you as a gift. You are a steward, not an owner of them. You are also asking the church body to join you in nurturing your child.



Why:

A public, formal commitment adds significance to the act. In the future when life gets hectic or humdrum, parents can look back and remember the promise they made to God to train their child in God's ways. The church provides wonderful support through our Children's Ministry, but parents are primary teachers and nurturers of their own children.

Where:

Twice a year, usually spring and fall, Fellowship Bible Church holds a Baby/Child Dedication Celebration when parents, after attending a required class, dedicate their baby or child in a Sunday afternoon celebration with close friends and family members.

Spiritual Godparents:

This is a very old practice where parents ask other adults to take a special interest in their child, especially in the spiritual area. Godparents make a commitment to pray for and add to the spiritual life of the child, and since influence flows out of relationship, anything these adults do to build a strong relationship with the child helps their spiritual influence grow. Therefore, it would be advisable to pick Godparents who have a serious walk with the Lord themselves.

Life Verse:

We ask parents to pray about a verse(s) of scripture that they would want to see their child incorporate into how they live their lives. As the parents expose their child to the truth represented in the scripture throughout childhood it is amazing how influential it can be in shaping that part of their lives. You can search anywhere in the Bible or look at a list of suggested Bible verses we supply you.

History:

In church history, baby dedication was established as a counterpart to infant baptism. Catholicism and Reformed Protestant churches have a tradition of baptizing infants. Since we believe the scriptures teach believers baptism (not infant baptism) we have always provided an opportunity for parents to publicly affirm their commitment to raise their child in a way that recognizes the biblical view of parenting. Many protestant denominations follow this tradition. This dedication/celebration recognizes the spiritual importance in their role of raising children.