

PARENT & CHILD DEDICATION - -

What exactly is a Parent & Child Dedication?

God has given parents the most influence in the lives of their children, and dedicating your child is a way to commit to modeling what it means to follow Jesus. This doesn't mean that you're going to be perfect – no one is – but it does mean that you're going to give your child(ren) opportunities to explore who Jesus is. So, it's more about your role as parents, than it is about your children. Dedicating your child is a way to commit, in front of God and your faith community, to teaching your kids what it means to follow Jesus.

Dedicating Children is not to be confused with Infant Baptism. We believe in believer's baptism (where an individual publicly acknowledges his/her decision to follow Jesus). Child Dedication does not affect a child's salvation; it is a commitment that parents make to God, declaring that they will do their best to raise their child to love and follow Him.

Are there any pre-requisites for having my child dedicated?

It is important that the family considering participating in the Parent & Child Dedication be closely connected to the church community, as both the parents and faith community commit to play a part in the spiritual development of the child.

Can we invite friends and family to the dedication?

Absolutely! As this is a commitment on the part of parents AND their faith community, we encourage friends and family to attend.

How do I sign up to participate?

Please complete the Parent & Child Dedication Registration Form. Submit the form online, along with emailing a current picture of your family to kids@gmbchurch.ca, or bring a photo and the Registration Form to the Children's Ministry desk in the foyer. Once we receive your information, we will contact you to confirm and provide further instructions.

COMMITMENTS - -

**Questions we'll ask on the day of the Parent & Child Dedication -
TO PARENTS - -**

The Bible says, "Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him." (Psalm 127:3) Will you raise and love your child, keeping in mind that he/she is uniquely created and is a gift from God? And, do you wish to present your child to God in grateful response for the marvelous and beautiful gift God has given you? (Psalm 139:13-14)

Realizing that you have the opportunity to be the most influential person in your child's life, will you daily model what it means to follow Jesus by loving God with all your heart, soul and strength? (Deuteronomy 6:5) Will you, through prayer and the example of your own lives lead your child to an understanding of God and a vibrant personal faith in Jesus Christ?

Will you rely on God to lead you and show you the path for your child, teaching your child that the Bible's truth is timeless and that learning His truth is valuable and applicable to our lives every day? (Proverbs 3:5-6) Do you recognize your dependence upon God for the wisdom, the help, and the resourcefulness you will need to raise and nurture this child?

Will you regularly pray over and with your child – asking for God's guidance in leading them? And teach them to turn to God with every request and to give God thanks even when it's hard? (Philippians 4:6)

Will you seek opportunities to be in community with other believers, modeling to your child what it means to live in community with others who are following Jesus? (Acts 3:42-47)

TO FRIENDS AND EXTENDED FAMILY - -

Will you look for opportunities to support, encourage and love this family and assist these parents in loving, teaching, and training their child?

Will you commit to pray that this child will come to know, love, and follow Jesus.

TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY - -

Will you support these parents by encouraging them, praying for them, and volunteering to help make our church a place where these children can discover how much Jesus loves them?

DEDICATION LOGISTICS - -

Do I need to check in before the service begins?

Yes. We ask all families to check in at the Children's Ministry desk in the foyer by 9:45 am.

What is the role of parents during the dedication?

To begin with parents will be asked to stand where they are sitting in the congregation. They will then be asked the questions (see above). Then extended family members will stand and answer their questions. Lastly, the congregation will stand and answer their question.

Parents, children, extended family, and friends will come on stage - one family at a time. The family picture will be on the screen. Mom, Dad and all the children will be introduced and then the parents will read their Parental Blessing for the child being dedicated and the verse that they have chosen. The person the parents have chosen to pray for their child will do so. Then a Certificate of Dedication and a Bible will be given to the parents. That family will then sit down and the next family will be asked to come up on the stage.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to email me, Cherith Rast, at – kids@gmbchurch.ca to ask them.