

# 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 them opportunities to explore who Jesus is. So it's really more about your role as parents, than it is 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.*



---

## Deuteronomy 6:1-9

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

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 on 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 doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

---

## The difference between *Dedication* and *Baptism*:

### **Baptism is for believers.**

Baptism is for those who have made the personal choice to accept God's plan of redemption and to follow Jesus. It's an outward expression of an inward choice to follow Jesus.

Baptism is not something that has to be done before a person starts following Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9). There's no right age or action that will indicate when your child is ready for baptism, so be patient and allow God to inspire their desire to be baptized. Let your child initiate the conversation. When that happens, talk about what baptism announces to people and why we do it.

Check out our conversation guide to help prepare for this important discussion. You can find it in the baptism section of the Kids ministry page of the Foothills website: [foothillscp.org](http://foothillscp.org)

### **Dedication is for the family and the church.**

Dedication is a commitment on the part of parents and their faith community, made to God and declaring that they will do their best to raise this precious child to know, love and follow Jesus.

Dedication does not affect a child's salvation. They will still have to personally choose to follow Jesus when they are older.

Dedication does not involve immersion in water, sprinkling with water, spraying with water...there's no water involved...except maybe tears.

Dedication is a serious commitment made in in the sight of God and the church and worthy of serious celebration!

FAQ's...

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

It's important that the family considering a 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. That is why we ask the following requirements be met prior to the dedication ceremony:

1. At least one parent must be a Christ-follower. Because Foothills Church is a community for those who are seeking spiritual truth, many in our community have not yet made a commitment to follow Jesus. We want people to be free to investigate for as long as they need, but it is important that at least one parent has a personal relationship with Jesus in order to guide their child's spiritual formation.
2. At least one parent must attend Foothills Church.

### **Can we invite friends and family to the ceremony?**

Absolutely! We encourage friends and family to attend. Some may even choose to participate in the dedication ceremony.

### **How do I sign-up to participate?**

Dedication ceremonies are typically held on a Sunday, in June and September; the same day as baptisms. Food is provided, or can be brought by families. Those celebrating a baptism or dedication will often bring a treat to celebrate at their table of close family and/or friends. We call it 'Picnic on the Patio' and the whole church is invited to attend!

Contact the Foothills Church office when you're ready and they'll get you all set-up: 530-677-3057