



# CHILD DEDICATION AT CREEKSIDE

## **ABOUT CHILD DEDICATION**

Child dedication is done in recognition that the life of the child is a gift from God and as an acknowledgment that the child rightfully belongs to God (Psalm 127). In bringing their child before the church, the parents are also dedicating themselves to teach by word and example what it means to have a saving and growing relationship with Jesus Christ and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to encourage him/her to accept Jesus as his/her personal Savior.

There are no direct commands in the Bible calling us to dedicate our children. However there are examples which indicate that this dedication was done and approved by God. As well, the teaching of Jesus indicates that we are not to prohibit children from coming. In fact, we should be encouraging them.

- 1 Samuel 1:21-28 Samuel is brought to the Temple by his parents to dedicate him to the Lord.
- Matthew 18:1-6 Jesus instructs the disciples to receive children just as if receiving Him. As strong warning is given to not cause a child to stumble.
- Matthew 19:13-15 Children are brought to Jesus for His blessing. Jesus encourages this act.
- Mark 10:13-16 Children are brought to Jesus and He blesses them.
- Luke 2:22-38 Jesus is brought to the temple by His parents in an act of obedience and dedication.

## **WHAT DOES CHILD DEDICATION MEAN?**

Child dedication is an act of faithful commitment on the part of the child's parents. It is a commitment no less serious than their own wedding vows. The Bible teaches that salvation is a personal decision between an individual and God (John 3:7; Acts 2:38; 10:43; 13:38,39; Romans 1:16; 9:27; 10:4). As such it is not a decision that can be made for us. Each parent is pledging themselves, vowing before God and witnesses, to raise their child in the nurture and instruction of the Lord, encouraging their child to personally accept Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Savior and to follow after Him in faithful obedience.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Parents are commanded to diligently teach their children to fear the Lord, to keep His statutes and commandments, and to love the Lord God with all their heart, soul, and might.

- Proverbs 22:6 Parents are commanded to train their children. Training involves guiding their child to grow and develop according to his/her God given inclinations and abilities. Training is leading the child to choose for himself/herself the will of God for his/her life. In this sense, parenting is actually partnering with God.
- Ephesians 6:4 A special command is given to fathers not to provoke their children to anger, and to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- Colossians 3:21 Fathers are to exercise discipline administered with a right and loving spirit. This command is given so that the child will not grow discouraged and loose heart.

## **WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS?**

The primary responsibility of Christian parents is to seek first their own growth as a Christian. This is not to encourage the abandoning of your family to pursue spiritual matters. However, if you yourself are not experiencing a daily growing walk with Jesus where will your child find and example of a personal relationship with Jesus to follow? Parents cannot give what they do not have.

Secondly, as parents who has brought your child for dedication, it is your responsibility to train and instruct your child in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. It would be impossible in this short space to include a complete guide to parenting. The following are given as suggestions.

- James 3:11-13 A fountain cannot produce at the same time fresh and salt water. A parent cannot give what he/she does not have within them. If the things of God are to flow out of you then they must first flow in. **SUGGESTION #1** is a question. Do you have Jesus in your heart? Do you know Him as your personal Savior and Lord?
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 When Moses commands parents to instruct their children in the ways of God, he first instructs the parents to live what they are teaching. If you are to encourage your children to love the Lord, to trust Jesus as their Savior, and to follow after Him, the example of this must begin with you. A parent cannot teach what he/she does not know. Of these commands Movses says, *“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead”* (Deuteronomy 6:8). **SUGGESTION #2** is to live out the truths of God before your children by practicing them first in your own life.
- James 5:16b **SUGGESTION #3** is to pray. God hears our prayers and responds to them. Pray for wisdom as a parent. Pray for Godly guidance. Pray for the protection and salvation of your child. Surround yourself with others (family, friends, church) who will pray with you.
- Psalms 127:3a *“Children are a gift of the Lord.”* Like most gifts, children do come with instructions. **SUGGESTION #4** is to read and follow the instructions. Godly parenting wisdom is contained in the Bible. Additionally, God has blessed us with many excellent Christian teachers, educators, and psychologists. Seek Godly wisdom and apply it in your actions as a parent.

- Matthew 19:13-15 Children were brought to God. As parents dedicating your child you have come together before God. **SUGGESTION #5** is to keep coming together as a family to God's church.
- Psalm 127:3b-5 Children are a prize, a reward, given by God. **SUGGESTION #6** is to enjoy your children as God's special blessing to you. Sometimes that may not be easy. However, it is a truth to remember. Your child is a prize to be treasured - a sign of God's love for you.



# CREEKSIDE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH CHILD DEDICATION APPLICATION

## PARENT / PRESENTER INFORMATION

**FATHER**

\_\_\_\_\_ (LAST NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_ (FIRST NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_ (MIDDLE INITIAL)

**MOTHER**

\_\_\_\_\_ (LAST NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_ (FIRST NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_ (MIDDLE INITIAL)

**ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_ (STREET)

\_\_\_\_\_ (APARTMENT NUMBER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CITY)

\_\_\_\_\_ (STATE)

\_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP CODE)

**FATHER PHONE**

(     )

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**FATHER EMAIL**

\_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER PHONE**

(     )

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER EMAIL**

\_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD INFORMATION

**CHILD NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_ (LAST NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_ (FIRST NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_ (MIDDLE INITIAL)

**SEX**

**MALE**

**FEMALE**

**DATE OF BIRTH**

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

(MONTH / DAY / YEAR)

**PLACE OF BIRTH**

\_\_\_\_\_ (CITY)

\_\_\_\_\_ (STATE / COUNTRY)

**DATE OF DEDICATION**

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

(MONTH / DAY / YEAR)