

## Parent-child Dedication



Hello! We are so glad that you are participating in our Parent-child dedication at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. This service will be an important time for you and your child. This sheet will go over important information about the service. If both parents are participating in the service together, please be sure to read this sheet together.

### **Why participate in a Parent-child dedication?**

What is so important about this service? Why even participate at all? Let me offer a few reasons about why we have this special service.

When your child was born, something very important happened – God chose to give this child to you, and he called you to raise this child to know him. In Ephesians 6:4, Paul calls on parents to “bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Parents have a big job! You are called to raise your children to the glory of Christ – to know him, to love him, and to live their lives for him.

But God has not called you to do this alone. He has brought you here, to this moment in time to be surrounded by people who love him and love you. At our Parent-child dedication service, we are not merely announcing that your child is here. We are making a pact with you. We are promising that as you seek to raise your children to the glory of Christ, we will come alongside you to pray for you, encourage you, and support you. At Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, you have a group of people who will serve as a strong support system for you and your family.

That is what this service is all about. To remind you and your child of what God has done for you and to remind the church of the beauty of serving others.

### **What will happen in the Parent-child dedication?**

The service is very simple. We will call all the parents and children participating in the service to the front of the auditorium. The pastor will introduce the parents and the children to the church, and set out a charge to the parents and the church to pray for and support these children in their spiritual development. The church will present two gifts to you and your child that will help you point them to their need for Christ to save them.

First you will receive *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. This book is an excellent resource for teaching children not just the stories of the Bible, but how every story points to the main hero, Jesus. As I have read it to my children, God has opened my own eyes to the beauty of Christ and his love for me and my family.

Second, you will be given two letters. The first one is addressed to you and it explains the second letter. The second letter is addressed to your child. The second letter is to be opened on the day your child decides to follow Jesus as their Savior and Lord. This letter tells the child that you dedicated him or her to the Lord and committed to bring up your child.

On the morning of the Parent-child Dedication, I would like to meet with you in the auditorium at 9:20 am. We will quickly rehearse the dedication so we all know what to do during the service.

Just as a reminder—after Baby Dedication, you can return your child to the nursery care area. You can sign your child in before this time so the transition will be easy and you can return to the remainder of the worship service.

**What do I need to do for the Parent-child dedication?**

The dedication is very simple. You will not need to speak at the dedication. The pastor will deliver that. What I do ask of you:

- Your child's full name
- Birthdate
- Something fun about your child (favorite toy, cute mannerism, first word, etc.)
- Finally, I encourage you to write out a one to two sentence prayer about your dreams for your child.

In this prayer, you are seeking to answer questions like: What do you hope for your child? What kind of person do you want to see them become? What are your fears about parenting your child, and how can you trust in Christ to be in control of their life? This exercise will help you as parents think through how you can shape and direct your children to know that Christ is their redeemer and he offers salvation to all who follow him.

**Please be sure to email me this info by May 10.** You can find my email at the bottom of this letter. I am looking forward to you and your child participating in the Parent-child Dedication. Please let me know if you have any questions. I will be more than happy to answer them for you.

In Christ,

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