

Parent and Child Dedication



“The idea of infant dedication flows from the Hebrew context of Scripture. Although most of us don’t practice infant dedication in exactly the same way as our Hebrew counterparts, the intent is similar.

“In an act of worship we are giving back this child that has so graciously been entrusted to us and we are committing to lead her in the ‘discipline and instruction of the Lord.’ That is no small act or commitment. I believe this beautiful moment carries with it an act of covenantal promise much like a wedding.

“In an act of celebration and commitment we vow before our spiritual family and friends to steward the life of our child in a godly way. Our church in turn agrees to partner with us as we help our children grow into adults who love God and love people the way Jesus does.”

- Brian Haynes in [The Legacy Path](#) on page 61

#1 Personal Relationship with Christ // Deut 6:5-6

“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.”

- Deuteronomy 6:5-6 NIV

If you don't have a personal relationship with Christ, how can you expect your child to? How can you expect your child to become a Christian and grow in the grace and knowledge of God through Jesus Christ, if you are not growing in the grace and knowledge of God through Jesus Christ?

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do you have a relationship with Christ?
- Are you living like Jesus in front of your family?
- Are you modeling a kind of discipleship you want them to emulate?

“If you don't have anything spiritual to offer... then... you don't have anything spiritual to offer.”

The best thing you and your spouse can do spiritually for your children is to be growing in the grace and knowledge of God through Jesus Christ.

#2 Intentional Discipleship with your Family // Deut 6:7-9

“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 doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

- Deuteronomy 6:7-9 NIV

3 Things Have to Happen in Order to Have Successful, Incarnational Disciples as Children

1. Proximity
2. Time
3. Intentionality

Family Times

Based on Deuteronomy 6:7, we believe these are the four key times all families can leverage to build the faith of their children.

"Impress [these commands] 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."

MEAL TIME When You Sit at Home

Focused discussion as a teacher to establish core values

DRIVE TIME When You Walk along the Road

Informal dialogue as a friend to help your child interpret life

BED TIME When You Lie Down

Intimate conversation as a counselor to listen to the heart of your child

MORNING TIME When You Get Up

Encouraging words as a coach who gives a sense of value and instills purpose

TIMES	COMMUNICATION	ROLE	GOAL
MEAL TIME	FORMAL DISCUSSION	TEACHER	ESTABLISH VALUES
DRIVE TIME	INFORMAL DIALOGUE	FRIEND	INTERPRET LIFE
BED TIME	INTIMATE CONVERSATION	COUNSELOR	BUILD INTIMACY
MORNING TIME	ENCOURAGING WORDS	COACH	INSTILL PURPOSE

#3 Communal Responsibility with Your Church // Deut 6:4

“Hear, O Israel. The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

- Deuteronomy 6:4 NIV

Sticky Social Web

“Parents of younger children will often buy into the myth that they are the only adult influence their children need. But parents of teenagers often realize that their children are hungry for approval and advice from someone who is not their parent. So there are really only a couple of options:

“Kids will either seek out another adult’s validation on their own, or the parent can be a part of the process and pursue strategic relationships for them.”

- Reggie Joiner in [Think Orange](#) on page 70

Dr. Kara Powell calls this your “Sticky Faith Team,” or a [sticky social web](#)--a cluster of intentional, intergenerational relationships. All of our kids need other adults to affirm and guide them, to be encouraged and involved (i.e. Sunday school teacher, small group leader, coach, teacher at school, family friend, etc.). According to Dr. Powell, your child needs **FIVE** intentional, intergenerational relationships, and these won’t happen by accident. You as a parent have to be intentional.

Question to ask yourself:

- Can you think of some adults that you respect and want your children to be around?

Church Programs

Our church has programming for children of all ages. Our strategy is to connect as a secondary series of adults in the spirit of a community with your children. We really believe in coming alongside of you as parents saying similar things you say to your children, we are just another voice parroting the same things. It’s not been an easy shift. Programming for small groups is messy and often difficult. It’s easier to not do that. But it’s just not what the church is designed for: easy things. The church is made up of families who collectively help each other out.

There might be something that my daughter’s teacher or small group leader says that finally connects with her heart in a way that her Mom and I cannot. We need to depend on each other. We need to depend on the church.

Conclusion

Parent / Child Dedication is more than a formal ceremony that happens in church. It’s the beginning of (1) developing a personal relationship with Christ, (2) doing intentional discipleship with your family, and (3) participating in a church community.

Dedication Ceremony Details

1. We need a digital picture of your child. You can send those to office@hwc.church
2. We also need a Bible verse for your child. Comb through the Psalms, Epistles, or anywhere else for that matter and pick a verse that you think will be meaningful for your child as he or she grows up. You can email that verse to office@hwc.church
3. Also, the HWC Main Office needs the birthday of the child(ren) you plan to have dedicated.
4. Let us know in advance what service you plan to attend: **9:00am or 10:30am.**
5. Feel free to have sponsors or godparents come up front with you. This is right along with intentionally picking other adults to have influence in their lives.
6. Taking pictures of the ceremony is perfectly fine. You might want to get someone to take pics for you!