

Family Dedications

Frequently Asked Questions

Dedicating your child is a big milestone, not only in your child's life, *but also in your own life*. As parents, you are declaring to everyone that you intend to model, parent, and raise this child to the best of your ability to follow Jesus. You're also asking the church to partner with you in this journey! At Ransom Church, our passion is to partner with families to see everyone worship, live, and serve free.

1. What is Family Dedication?
 - We believe that family dedication is a way to celebrate the gift of a child to the parents and to the Church. It expresses the desire *of the parents* to raise, teach and disciple (i.e. spiritual training) your child with the hope that they will one day place personal faith in Jesus Christ. The public ceremony also recognizes the role of family and the Church in this process.
2. Why the change from what other church traditions do? (e.g. infant baptism*, Dedication on a Sunday morning, etc.)
 - The church should be a place where believers can build relationships and community with each other! Not only between the church and the families, but between families within the church! We want to create a space where families can sit and discuss what it looks like to raise our children to know Jesus.
 - Family Dedication finds its origins in the Old Testament thousands of years before the Apostles started the first Church. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to "dedicate Him", not to baptize Him. Jesus' dedication was not on a Sunday during a Worship Gathering.
3. What does the morning look like?
 - Doors open at 8:50a, the Orientation will start at 9a with just the parents. Nursery will be provided during this time (for ages birth to 23 months). The 9a Orientation will start off with a fun welcome, a quick parenting challenge, and then time for you to interact with others at this Orientation. At 10a family and friends you invited to the Dedication Ceremony will join us. Once everyone is seated, we will have worship, a short message, then start the dedications. We want this to be a huge celebration!
4. I can barely get my child to sit still long enough to get them dressed. How will they survive the entire celebration event?
 - Your child will make noise during the celebration event. But that's okay, because so will everyone else's!
5. Any other instructions for the Dedication Ceremony?
 - We encourage you to invite family and friends to church that morning. During the ceremony, you are more than welcome to take family photos or video. Feel free to "move around" to find the optimum photo location.
 - During the second part of the dedication we will invite you, the mom, dad, child being dedicated (along with any siblings) to the front for the Dedication Ceremony.
6. How does this differ from infant baptism (a.k.a. Christening)?
 - Baptism is a public expression (and modeled by believers in the New Testament) of the inward work of salvation when a person chooses Jesus as their Savior. Because an infant isn't cognitively able to make that choice of salvation for themselves (even though in God's eyes they're not accountable for their salvation until they are at an older age of decision-making), we at Ransom believe that family dedication by the parents for that child is the appropriate next step. We believe that salvation comes by faith alone and baptism is not required for salvation, but in obedience to the act of salvation.
7. What if I'm a single parent? Can I dedicate my child to the Lord?
 - Absolutely. We encourage single parents who are following Biblical principles in raising their children, to dedicate their children and themselves to the Lord.

8. Does dedicating my child guarantee that they will become Christians?
 - No. Each of us makes that decision on our own. However, “values are more caught than taught” and we do believe that by dedicating your life as parents, to Jesus Christ and faithfully living as a Christian believer, your child will one day make the decision to serve the same God that you serve.