

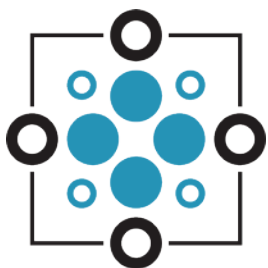
PARENT-CHILD *dedication*



CONGRATS!

Congratulations on welcoming a new child into your family!

Ingleside wants to celebrate and partner with you as you begin your parenting journey. We are excited that you are considering participating in Parent-Child Dedication. We hope the following information will give you answers to some of the questions you may have.



What is Parent-Child Dedication?

In the pattern following biblical examples like Elkanah and Hannah (1 Samuel 1), and Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:21-38), parents may publically commit their children to God and commit themselves to raising them with His guidance and help. Parent-Child Dedication is an opportunity to celebrate the gift God has given your family through your child. But it is more than just a time to celebrate. It is a time when parents commit to doing everything they can to teach and train their children to know, love, and follow Jesus. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, we find a "job description" of sorts for parents.

- **Love God, and pursue a relationship with Him on a daily basis.**
- **Honor God by obeying His word in their lives.**
- **Teach their children to love and reverence God.**
- **Provide spiritual and moral training for their child according to the Bible.**

Parents acknowledge God's role in the parenting process, seeking His help, wisdom, and strength. They also acknowledge the church's partnership in their mission to disciple their children. Ingleside is here to come alongside you in your parenting journey.



Memory Marker

As your child gets older, you can share about the Parent-Child Dedication service with them, and explain how you dedicated them to God and promised that you would teach and train them to love and obey Him.

You will receive a small New Testament, a certificate, a Church and Home Commitment, and pictures that you can share with your child when they get older. We also encourage parents to select a life verse to pray over their child prior to the dedication service that day. We will provide your family with a video link to the dedication

For any questions or information about upcoming dedication dates, contact Jennifer Mitchell:

jmitchell@ingleside.org

Frequently Asked Questions about Parent-Child Dedication

Is Parent-Child Dedication the same as baptism?

No, Parent-Child Dedication is not baptism. It is a commitment to raise the child to know, love, and follow Jesus. Baptism is an expression of faith in Jesus and occurs when a person turns from their sin and trusts in Jesus.

What ages can participate in Parent-Child Dedication?

Parent-Child Dedication is primarily for children birth-18 months old. However, each family situation is unique. We have had parents who are new believers participate with older children and also parents who have adopted children celebrate this new beginning in their families.

Do I need to attend the Parent-Child Dedication class?

We strongly encourage parents to attend one of the classes. If you have attended previously with the dedication of an older child, you do not need to attend again but are welcome to do so if you'd like! The goal of this class is to strengthen and encourage families.

Can an unmarried couple participate in Parent-Child Dedication?

No. While we honor the life of every child, the Parent-Child Dedication service is intended to reflect the teaching of Scripture on family life. We believe the Scriptures teach that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime, and is designed by God for intimate companionship, sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the procreation of the human race. Children, from the moment of conception, are to be treasured as a gift from God, and parents are to teach their children the gospel and train them in the ways of the Lord.

For those who are unmarried or living together, taking steps to acknowledge and surrender to God's plan for their individual lives would take precedence over participation in Parent-Child Dedication.

Can a single parent participate in Parent-Child Dedication?

In many cases, the answer is yes. If you are a single parent and would like to talk about your specific situation, please let us know.

What else is available at Ingleside to help me grow as a parent?

A lot! Be sure to check our website for classes, groups, and seasonal studies that may benefit you. We regularly have a parenting conference and a marriage conference. Our Bookstore has some excellent resources. You can learn about our overall strategy to partner with parents, called Church & Home, at ingleside.org/churchandhome.