



# PARENT-CHILD *Dedication*

## *Congratulations*

on welcoming a new child into your family! Ingleside wants to celebrate and partner with you as you begin your parenting journey.

### 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 publicly 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.

### Parents are to:

- 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 revere God.
- Provide spiritual and moral training for their children 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.

For any questions or information about upcoming dedication dates, contact Jennifer Mitchell: [jmitchell@ingleside.org](mailto:jmitchell@ingleside.org)

# Memory Marker

You will receive a small New Testament, a certificate, a Church and Home Commitment, and pictures you can share with your child as they age. 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 service that you can save and share with your child.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 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 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. Our Bookstore also has some excellent resources for parents and children. You can learn about our overall strategy to partner with parents, called Church & Home, at [ingleside.org/churchandhome](http://ingleside.org/churchandhome).

