

**FORT CITY
CHURCH**

CHILD DEDICATION

Information Brochure



WHAT IS CHILD DEDICATION?

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Child Dedication is a commitment on behalf of you, the parents, to lead and raise your children to know the love of Jesus. As we are taught in the Bible, there is a blessing for those who follow Jesus, not just for themselves, but for their children and their children's children.

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Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’

- Matthew 19:14 | NIV

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WHAT COMMITMENT IS NEEDED FROM PARENTS?

By dedicating your child, you are saying that you will lead your child by example, showing them the importance of living a Christian life. You will strive to show your child what it means to walk with God and impact the world around you for the better. You are declaring that a goal you have for your family is to know, follow, and love Jesus deeply.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. - Proverbs 22:6 | NIV

IS CHILD DEDICATION DEMANDED BY THE BIBLE?

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Although the Bible does not suggest that God requires parents to dedicate their children, it does record at least two instances in which parents sought God's blessings for their children. In the Old Testament, Hannah dedicated Samuel to God (1 Samuel 1:20-25), and in the New Testament, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22-33).

WHY CHILD DEDICATION AND NOT INFANT BAPTISM?

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Child dedication is not an expression of faith on the child's part. As a church, we believe baptism to be a public declaration of an individual's personal decision to follow Jesus. We believe baptism is an outward sign of an inward work. Since young children are not yet capable of making such a decision, child dedication is a great place to start with your children.



CHILD DEDICATION SIGNIFIES A BEGINNING

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For children, a time of dedication marks the beginning of their spiritual journey, and celebrates the blessings and protection of God throughout their whole life. For parents, dedicating their child often brings a sense of peace and assurance, knowing that their children will be under the care and guidance of God.

WHAT WILL THE DEDICATION LOOK LIKE?

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The Pastor will invite the parents with their child/children to come to the platform. He will give a brief word of instruction to both the parents and the congregation on the meaning of child dedication.

The Pastor will say to the parents: *Believing that this child is a gift from God, and that He shall hold you accountable for him/her, do you now solemnly confess that it is your purpose to dedicate this child to the Lord and to His service? Will you pray with him/her and for him/her; instruct him/her faithfully in the doctrines of the Christian faith; teach him/her to read the Word of God; to pray and lead a holy life; bring him/her faithfully to church; and do all that is in your power to bring him/her to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.*

The Parents will respond: *We will.*

The Pastor will then take the child in his arms or places his hand on the child's head and pray a prayer of dedication on behalf of the child. After the prayer a certificate of dedication will be presented to the parents.

If you're interested in having your child dedicated, contact connect@fortcitychurch.ca or call 780.791.2434.

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Hear, O Israel: 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 upon your hearts. 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 6:4-9 | NIV

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