



Dedicating a child acknowledges God's sovereignty not only over the child, but also Mom and Dad. Parents present their child before God and His people asking for grace and wisdom in carrying out their responsibilities. Parents also come praying that their child might one day trust Jesus Christ as Savior for the forgiveness of sin.

What to expect during a child dedication ceremony.

During the dedication service, parents express vows before God, their family, and the church, declaring their desire to raise their child in a God-honoring way. Because parents are the key role models for their children, they play a primary role in the dedication service. The church also affirms her commitment to come along side of parents to help nurture the child.

Parents will be asked to affirm the following commitments:

- *Do you receive this child with gratitude, as God's gift to you and your family?*
- *Do you commit to each other as parents, creating a stable environment in which your child can mature? Will you make a covenant to strengthen your marriage?*
- *Do you commit to be parents of personal faith, recognizing your children are more likely to follow God's path by the example they first observe in you?*
- *Do you commit to lead a faith-filled home that honors God in all your relationships, in the choices you make in spiritually growing your family, and making church a priority?*
- *Do you commit to be parents with patience, recognizing that with your inherent strengths and weaknesses, your desire to shape your child is a loving act that will require time, prayer, and God in order to produce in your children what He and you hope for?*

Does Grace baptize infants?

Scripture provides evidence that Baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation (Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47–48) rather than baptizing infants or very young children.

At what age can a child take part in a dedication service?

While Grace does not have a set age requirement for child dedication, the average age for a child to be dedicated is one to twelve months old, although many parents dedicate children much older than that, often for the following reasons:

- The parent(s) are new believers in Christ and their children were not dedicated when they were infants.
- The parent(s) were not familiar with child dedication and choose to dedicate their child(ren) later.
- The parent(s) are having a younger child dedicated and want to have their older child dedicated at the same time.

Single parents and child dedication.

Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents (including single parents) to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Christ. Additionally, we highly encourage single parents to dedicate their child as they commit themselves to raise him or her without the presence or partnership of a spouse. The decision to dedicate a child is not dependent upon the beliefs of the ex-spouse; however we encourage single parents to discuss child dedication with their ex-spouse. Ideally, both parents—even if not married—would still commit to the dedication of their child to God. We acknowledge that this is often not possible, and that it takes extra effort for a single parent to raise a child. As a church, Grace is committed to supporting single parents in providing a Christian foundation for their child's upbringing.

How often are child dedications held at Grace?

Child dedications are held twice a year at Grace. To register for the next child dedication go to: discovergrace.net/events and click the registration link next to Child Dedication.