

Application for Dedication of Children at McKernan Baptist Church

(please complete and return to the church office)

Father's name _____

Mother's name _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

Pastor of Preference _____

Date of Preference _____

Child's full name _____

Child's date of birth _____

City and province of birth _____

In presenting your child to the Lord, you are...

- Publicly affirming your personal faith and trust in Christ.
- Committing yourself to pray daily for the physical, mental, social, and spiritual welfare of your child.
- Setting an example of honouring the Lord's Day by bringing your family to church.
- Modelling before your children your love for God and His Word in your home (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).
- Committing yourself to those teachable moments when you may present Christ to your child and have the joy of leading him/her into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS?

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Spiritual Foundations for Child Dedication

Hannah and Elkanah presented their son, Samuel, to the LORD, *"I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him...So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD. And he (Elkanah) worshipped the LORD."* 1 Samuel 1:27,28)

Mary and Joseph presented Jesus back to God in an act of worship and dedication, *"When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord...And the Child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him."* (Luke 2:22,40)

What About Infant Baptism?

When we look at the New Testament, every baptism we see is of an adult who has decided to put their faith and trust in Christ. Therefore, at McKernan Baptist Church we wait until our children have put their faith in Christ and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. In the Bible, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He welcomed them, held them, and prayed for them, but He did not baptize them. (Mark 10:13-16)



What is Child Dedication?

At McKernan Baptist Church, we encourage parents to publicly dedicate their children to the Lord.

First, the parents are dedicating themselves to raise their children in a home that honours Christ, and they will teach their child what it means to follow Jesus.

Second, we dedicate the children to the Lord, ask God to watch over them and protect them, and that the child will make a decision to follow Jesus Christ.

Third, the church members dedicate themselves to supporting the parents in the raising of their children and to coming alongside and helping the children grow in their faith.

Family and Church

We believe it is God's desire that believing parents create homes where God is honoured and glorified and where they model love and faith in Jesus Christ. The family is the key place where children learn and develop their understanding of God and His love. They learn this through the modelling and teaching of their mom and dad.

It is our desire that church would be a second family to help develop our children's faith. Church is a place where adults and kids gather to live out common faith and common values with a common dedication to the salvation of our children. It is the church's responsibility to come alongside the parents and support them in the spiritual nurture of their children. Dedicating your child to God is a public sign that you are seeking to bring your children up in the ways of Christ, and as a community we stand with you in that passion.

