



FAITH MILESTONES

DEDICATION

Dedication is a celebration of God's goodness! Parents respond to the Lord in thanksgiving for the gift of their child. With our eternal future in mind, it is a milestone in the spiritual formation of both the parents and child.

Step 1: Assess Your Priorities

Children are a good gift from God. In Deuteronomy, God commands His people to be set apart, first in how we love Him and then to teach our children to love Him. He tells us to do it with all our heart, soul, and our strength - putting effort and intentionality into valuing and prioritizing what He values and prioritizes.

Step 2: Attend Parent Class

The beginning of being a disciple-making parent is being a disciple yourself. The parent dedication class gives you the opportunity to form meaningful connections with other parents in the same parenting stage as you look at Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and discuss practical ways to live this out in your own life and home

Step 3: Parent & Child Dedication Celebration

Parents who have completed the class will go before the church family during the Sunday morning service and publicly commit to raise their children with the goal of knowing and loving the Lord. The church celebrates and affirms this commitment and promises to walk alongside them.

Parents, as people transformed by the gospel, we should:

- *Acknowledge that there is no greater success our child can find than to know and walk with God*
- *Proclaim our desire to be obedient in loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength*
- *Commit to teaching the things of God diligently to our children*
- *Be affirmed by a church family who commits to walking alongside us*

THE PARENTS' COMMITMENT

Parent Child Dedication is your commitment to model, teach, and reinforce the Christian Faith. It should not be confused with your child's personal choice to follow Christ. We believe the Bible clearly teaches that each person must decide for themselves to trust in Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10). The age a child is ready to make this personal decision will vary depending on the child.

TIPS & TOOLS

IDEAS FOR MAKING DEDICATION A SPECIAL TIME INCLUDE...

1. Have a dinner or celebration time with family and friends before/after the dedication.
2. Preserve the keepsake ornament given to you by Northlake. Each year as you pull it out to put it on your Christmas tree, re-tell the story of your commitment to love the Lord and teach your child the things of God.
3. Record a video message or write a letter for your child to view in the future. Speak words of affirmation, sharing how you are praying for their spiritual journey and how you desire to point them toward Christ. Preserve the video or letter to show your child later.

Invite family members and special family friends to write blessings to your child as a keepsake. Make sure that you write one too!

PREPARING THEM FOR LIFELONG FAITH

MILESTONES

Begin to build a foundation for your family on prayer and reading God's Word.

VALUE

Developing routines and rhythms early in their lives that promote drawing near to God and give them confidence in knowing how to follow Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most impactful investments we can make in our children's faith formation is the habit of praying for them. Rather than repeating the same simple prayers asking for health, happiness, and safety, consider the ideas below to expand your prayer life and establish a meaningful routine of praying for your child.

PRAYERS FROM THEIR HEAD TO THEIR TOES

You can begin praying for your baby during feedings or while he or she falls asleep in your arms. One simple method is to pray “from head to toes” by touching the child gently on the head as you pray and gradually moving your hand all the way down to his or her toes as you pray.

Head: “Give my child wisdom, discernment, and an understanding of Your Word.” (Proverbs 2:6)

Eyes: “Help my child see the truth and guard his/her eyes from impurity.” (Philippians 4:8)

Ears: “Let him/her listen to the Lord and those in authority.” (Titus 3:1–2)

Mouth: “Help my child speak with truth and honesty and use his/her words to praise the Lord.” (Ephesians 4:25)

Shoulders: “Let my child cast his/her burdens on the Lord and give him/her friends who will help him/her stand strong.” (1 Peter 5:7)

Hands: “Help my child learn to work as unto the Lord with a servant’s heart.” (Colossians 3:23)

Heart: “Open my child’s heart to salvation, a love of scripture, and concern for other people.” (1 Timothy 2:1–4)

Feet: “Inspire my child to follow the Lord all of his/her days.” (Deuteronomy 13:4)

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Another method is to begin praying scripture over your child inserting his or her name. For example, pray Psalm 23 by saying “Lord, be [NAME’S] shepherd so [HE/SHE] shall not want.” Jesus modeled the incredible power of combating Satan by speaking scripture aloud in order to align our desires with God’s purposes.

At your dedication class, Northlake gives you a copy of [Praying Through The Bible For Your Child](#) by Nancy Guthrie. This is a great daily resource to begin the habit of praying for your child. This is also great to use to pray as a couple, in the morning, before bed, or at dinner for example.

KNOWING THE STORY OF GOD

Your child will receive a Jesus Storybook Bible at their dedication. Begin fostering a love for God’s Word by incorporating this into your family’s daily rhythm. Teach your children that reading the Bible is a gift to be treasured not a chore to be dreaded.

Make sure that your child always has an age appropriate version of the Bible that is readily available, referenced, and read aloud often.

DEDICATION RESOURCES



Videos/Podcasts



[You have 936 weeks with your child](#) - Reggie Joiner



[It Starts at Home- Right Now Media](#)

[Parenting - Right Now Media](#)

(Northlake provides access to Right Now Media for all its members. Use the email associated with your planning center account to register.)



[How to prioritize family discipleship](#) - Gospel Bound

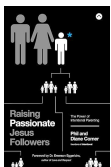
Articles

[The Power of Priority - How Putting God First in Your Schedule Will Transform You and Your Family](#) - Ruth Chou Simons

[A New Set of Priorities for Our Kids](#) - Dawn Poulterer

[Putting God First](#) - Focus on the Family

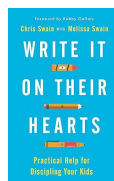
Books



[Raising Passionate Jesus Followers](#)

By Phil and Debbie Comer

(available in Northlake Resource Store)



[Write it on their hearts: Practical Help for Discipling Your Kids](#)

by Chris and Melissa Swain (available in Northlake Resource Store)



[Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms](#)

By Justin Whitmel Earley



[Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family](#)

By Paul David Tripp (available in Northlake Resource Store)



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