

Child Dedication Fact Sheet

Dedications are a big deal here at EastLake Church. In order to make it a memorable and intimate event for the families, we do our dedications immediately following our services so that we can take the time that is necessary to pray over you and your little one. This covenant that is made with God is not just between you and Him; it is also a commitment from your pastors, your family and your close friends to support you as parents to train your child up in the ways of the Lord. EastLake Church does not charge for dedications. This is a service we provide to our members.

Our child dedication package will include:

1. Invitations for you to send to family and friends
2. A baby's first bible
3. A keepsake photograph

"Frequently Asked Questions"

- **How do we get started?** Review the information provided. Fill out the Child Dedication Application online at <http://eastlakechurch.com/next-steps/member-services/>. You will be contacted after we have processed the application. Please allow up to 1 week for this process. If you haven't heard anything please contact us at dedications@eastlakechurch.com
- **What are the specific requirements to have our child dedicated at EastLake Church?** The father or mother of the child must be a member of EastLake Church - this means they have completed Discover Membership and signed the Membership Agreement.
- **Which dates are available for baby dedications?** Dedications are scheduled the first weekend of the month immediately following the Saturday service. Schedule is subject to change.
- **Which pastor will dedicate our child?** A staff pastor scheduled to work that weekend.
- **What time should our family get to church on the day of the dedication?**
We ask for you to arrive 20 minutes prior to service so all the kids can get checked into their programs and we can answer any last minute questions you may have.

- **Who gets to go on stage with the child?** Immediate family (parents & siblings) of child being dedicated will be called up to stand with the pastor for prayer.
- **Should we check our children into the children's programs for the regular service?** Absolutely! The dedication will take place approximately 10 minutes after the regular service has dismissed - allowing you time to check your children out of their programs. Parent viewing rooms and outdoor patio seating areas are also available for those parents who are not comfortable leaving their children for service.

Biblical Principles behind Child Dedications

1. Children are a gift from God

- *Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him.
Psalm 127:3*
- *For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:13,14*

Therefore, we receive our children from Him with a heart of thanksgiving.

2. God has a purpose and a plan for each of His children

- *All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.
Psalm 139:16*
- *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10*
- *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11*

Therefore, we ask that His will be revealed and released in the lives of our children.

3. Jesus encouraged His disciples to bring the children to Him

- *People were bringing little children to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like*

a little child will never enter it.' And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.
Mark 10:13-16

Therefore, we bring our children to Jesus in prayer to ask for His blessing.

4. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children about God

- *“Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them...so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life... 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.”*
Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:2, 6-7
- *We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done.*
Psalm 78:6
- *Parents do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and in the instruction of the Lord.*
Ephesians 6:1-4
- *He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.*
Proverbs 14:26

Therefore, we accept our responsibility and commit ourselves to a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and to raising our children in the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As a result of our relationship with God, our homes will be characterized by *....the fruit of His Spirit, filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. (Galatians 5:22)*

5. Practical ways to guide your children into a relationship with Christ

- Continue to develop your own personal relationship with God through prayer, Bible reading, joining a growth group and obedience to God's Word.
- Attend church regularly as a family. Here at EastLake Church we begin teaching children lessons from the Bible at age 2. Talk to

your children about what they learned at church and share what you learned as well.

- Develop Christian relationships with other parents who can be mentors, offer support and encouragement and friendship. Growth groups are a great place to develop these friendships. If you want more information about getting connected to a growth group, email groups@eastlakechurch.com.
- Talk about your faith and read from the Bible at home. Encourage your children to begin memorizing scripture as soon as they are able. Pray with and for your children daily.
- Look for opportunities to develop your Christian parenting skills through books, seminars, classes and growth group opportunities.

Child Dedication Scripture Samples (NIV)

- For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless. O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in You.
Psalm 84:11-12
- He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
Psalm 91:15
- Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.
I Chronicles 16: 11
- ... Acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you.
Chronicles 28:9
- One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in his temple.
Psalm 27:4
- But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:33
- For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10

- ...Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.
Deuteronomy 4:9
- 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 6-9
- Parents do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and in the instruction of the Lord.
Ephesians 6:1-4
- He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.
Proverbs 14:26
- Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7
- Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.
Psalm 139:16
- For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
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- Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him.
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