

Child Dedications

Your Check List:

- ☐ Watch the teaching video
- ☐ Identify and complete the Community Circle worksheet
- ☐ Write a blessing for your child
- ☐ Read the Statement of Dedication
- ☐ Email child's photo to jenn@connectcranbrook.com
- ☐ Invite friends and family

You will prepare for Child Dedication in 3 ways:

1. Identify your community circle.

You have heard the saying “It takes a village to raise a child.” We believe it takes a strong circle of believers to help you raise your children. Grandparents who offer wisdom and experience, family members who demonstrate The Jesus Way and love your kids as their own, friends who offer perspective and hope, spiritual leaders who help you navigate discipleship. People who will pray, encourage and walk out raising your children with you. Whoever you find in your circle, it is worth noting and committing to doing life with them.

Create a list of those in your circle who you trust to hold spiritual influence over you and your children. A form for this is provided in your **Dedication Package**.

2. Write a blessing for your child

A parent's blessing is of great importance to your child and their walk with the Lord. Generations of parents have blessed their children and have seen God's promises and providence in their child's lives, and into their children's children's lives.

Blessing your child at dedication is an honour, a keepsake, and a reminder of the hope you have for your child.

We see generational blessings throughout the bible, in fact the generational blessing made to Abraham and Sarah was a direct link to the life of Jesus. It was through the descendants of

Abraham that we received Jesus as man. When we consider this, generational blessings become an important part of our commitment to parenting.

The leadership at Connect believe there are 7 important times blessings in your child's life. At conception, in utero, at birth, in early childhood, at puberty, at the time of marriage, and in senior life. Although these are important times of blessing, we encourage you to bless your children regularly, daily even! Make it an important practice in your home.

For the day of dedication, we are blessing our children to carry the faith of their descendants. Maybe your family is rich in Christian heritage, or perhaps you are a first generation believer. No matter where you fall in that range, you have a blessing of faith to offer your child. I want to be clear, salvation and faith are not inherited, however by praying blessing over your child we are reminded to walk in our faith, to be an example of our faith and to lead them into relationship with Jesus. By praying blessing we become agents of God's voice and direction in our children's lives. As parents, it is our responsibility to pass on our faith from generation to generation. Blessing our children calls God's eyes upon them and establishes the hope that the evidence of our faith would bring our children into their relationship with Jesus. Writing this blessing also stands as a reminder of how God see's our children and how we can actively pray for them.

Things to consider when writing your blessing:

Plan quiet time with your spouse to pray and consider your blessing. Write it together using the forms provided in your **Dedication Package**.

- ◆ What does your child's name mean? What does that speak about their identity and destiny?
- ◆ Has God spoken anything to you about your child, their personality or their future? Make note of it.
- ◆ Do you have a verse that you want to declare over your child, include that.
- ◆ Brainstorm using the Hopes worksheet in your **Dedication Package**
- ◆ What do you want for your child and their future. What does God say about your child's destiny. Declare that

An example blessing as been provided in your **Dedication Package**.

3. Prepare for the commitment of dedication

Read, pray, consider and then prepare your heart to agree with the Statement of Dedication provided in your **Dedication Package**. This commitment will be read at the dedication and you will be called upon to agree with it publicly, simply stating "We Do." We will also call upon your circle to make a commitment on the day of dedication.

The Dedication Statement is provided in your **Dedication Package**.

Invite and Celebrate

Who is in your community circle, and who would you like to have present for the dedication. Invite your guests early with enough notice for them to attend. Email invitations are included in your **Dedication Package**.

The dedication day is worth celebrating! You may want to plan a small gathering after your child's dedication, include your identified circle, your family, friends, your Group and anyone else that would enjoy recognizing this special day.

There will be cake and a photo booth in the lobby after the service. Be sure to have our photographer snap a picture or two of this moment. Take pictures with members of your circle to remember this special day.

Take time to pray over your family. Invite your Community Circle to gather around you in the lobby or auditorium after the Sunday Interaction. People may want to offer words of encouragement, prophecy or a blessing.