

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- ☐ Pray daily for my child.
- ☐ Attend church regularly
- ☐ Consistently spend time in God's Word
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

The next step on the Faith Path is The Blessing, recommended at age 3.

Recommended Resources

- Parkway's Parent/Child Dedication class
- Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family by Paul David Tripp
- Bumps, Babies, and the Gospel by Sarah Dargue
- Missional Motherhood by Gloria Furman
- Dad Tired and Loving It: Stumbling Your Way To Spiritual Leadership by Jerrad Lopes
- Dedicated to the Lord: Five Parental Promises for the Faithful Discipleship of Children by David Michael
- Risen Motherhood by Emily Jensen and Laura Wifler
- Ages & Stages: Levels of Biblical Learning by Lifeway Press, lifeway.com/lobl

DEDICATION

Commit to Raise Your Child
in a God-Honoring Home

FAITH
PATH

Recommended for
0-2 years

CONGRATULATIONS!

As a church, we are excited to partner with you as you begin this incredible journey with your child.

WHAT IS PARENT DEDICATION?

Parent Dedication is a special time in which you make a formal commitment to raise your child in a Christ-centered home.

We see several examples in the Bible such as

- 1 Samuel 1:24 – 2:10 when Hannah dedicated Samuel at the temple
- Luke 2 where Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus.

Ideally, make the commitment in front of the church body or with a group of close friends and relatives as a public pledge that you will raise your child to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ. God designed the home as the primary place for faith to be nurtured. One way that the church can partner with you is by providing resources throughout your child's spiritual journey.

**We call this the Faith Path.
Parent Dedication is the first step.**

THE PARENT'S COMMITMENT

Parent 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.

Parent Dedication Celebration Ideas

Ideas for making dedication a special time include...

- Sign up to participate in Parkway Bible Church's Parent/child Dedication class and service.
- Have a dinner or celebration time with family and friends before/after the time of dedication.
- Invite family members and special family friends to write blessings to your child as a keepsake. Make sure that you write one too!
- Record a video message 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 to show them later. You can also write a letter if that works better for you.

Model Personal Devotion to Jesus

Ideas to consider as you begin leading your child

- Your example of a Jesus-follower will be studied by your child, even from an early age. You cannot lead a child to faith in Christ, if you are not leading the way. Regularly evaluate your walk with the Lord and seek mentors as needed.
- Begin (or continue) the simple habits of attending worship with other believers each week, praying with your family at meals and bedtimes and reading God's Word together, even if the child is too young to understand. Engrain these practices into your home.

DEDICATION

DEAR PARENT:

We believe that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path framework exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been assembled to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this Dedication kit, you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you begin the journey well. We urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

Visit myfaithpath.com and use the password **myhome2020**

Click on **DEDICATION** for an overview and videos that explain this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of intentional parenting and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find links to other helpful resources.

STEP TWO: START

Use the guide and tools to help you get started with this step. This kit includes Praying for My Child ideas to help you start a routine that will turn good intentions into practice.

Thank you for taking seriously the task of guiding your child's faith. We hope you find these tools and the Faith Path framework helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home.

The next step on the Faith Path is The Blessing, recommended at age three.

DEDICATION PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILD

BEST USE

As a guide to pray over your baby

NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Begin the routine of prayer for and with your child

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 on the reverse side 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."
- **Eyes:** "Help my child see the truth and guard his/her eyes from impurity."
- **Ears:** "Let him/her listen to the Lord and those in authority."
- **Mouth:** "Help my child speak with truth and honesty and use his/her words to praise the Lord."
- **Shoulders:** "Let my child cast his/her burdens on the Lord and give him/her friends who will help him/her stand strong."
- **Hands:** "Help my child learn to work as unto the Lord with a servant's heart."
- **Heart:** "Open my child's heart to salvation, a love of scripture and concern for other people."
- **Feet:** "Inspire my child to follow the Lord all of his/her days."

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.

