

Parenting Resources:

Baby & Child Care, Paul C. Reisser, MD with Physicians Resource Counsel, Focus on the Family

Boundaries With Kids, Henry Cloud & John Townsend, Zondervan Publishers

Parenting from Your Strengths, John Trent with Rodney Cox and Eric Tooker, Broadman & Holdman Publishers

Raising A Modern-Day Joseph by Larry Fowler

Shepherding a Child's Heart, Ted Tripp

Habits of a Child's Heart, Valerie E. Hess and Dr. Marti Watson Garlett

10 Ways To Instill A Biblical Worldview In Your Kids, Linda Weddle
Home Point Resource Center (Creekside Christian Church atrium)

Most of these resources can be found at your local Christian book store or at www.christianbook.com

Faith-building at Home Resources:

Family Time Training www.famtime.com

Awana at Home www.awana.org/athome

Elevate at Home www.elevateathome.com

What's In The Bible www.whatsinthebible.com/parents

www.biblicalparenting.org

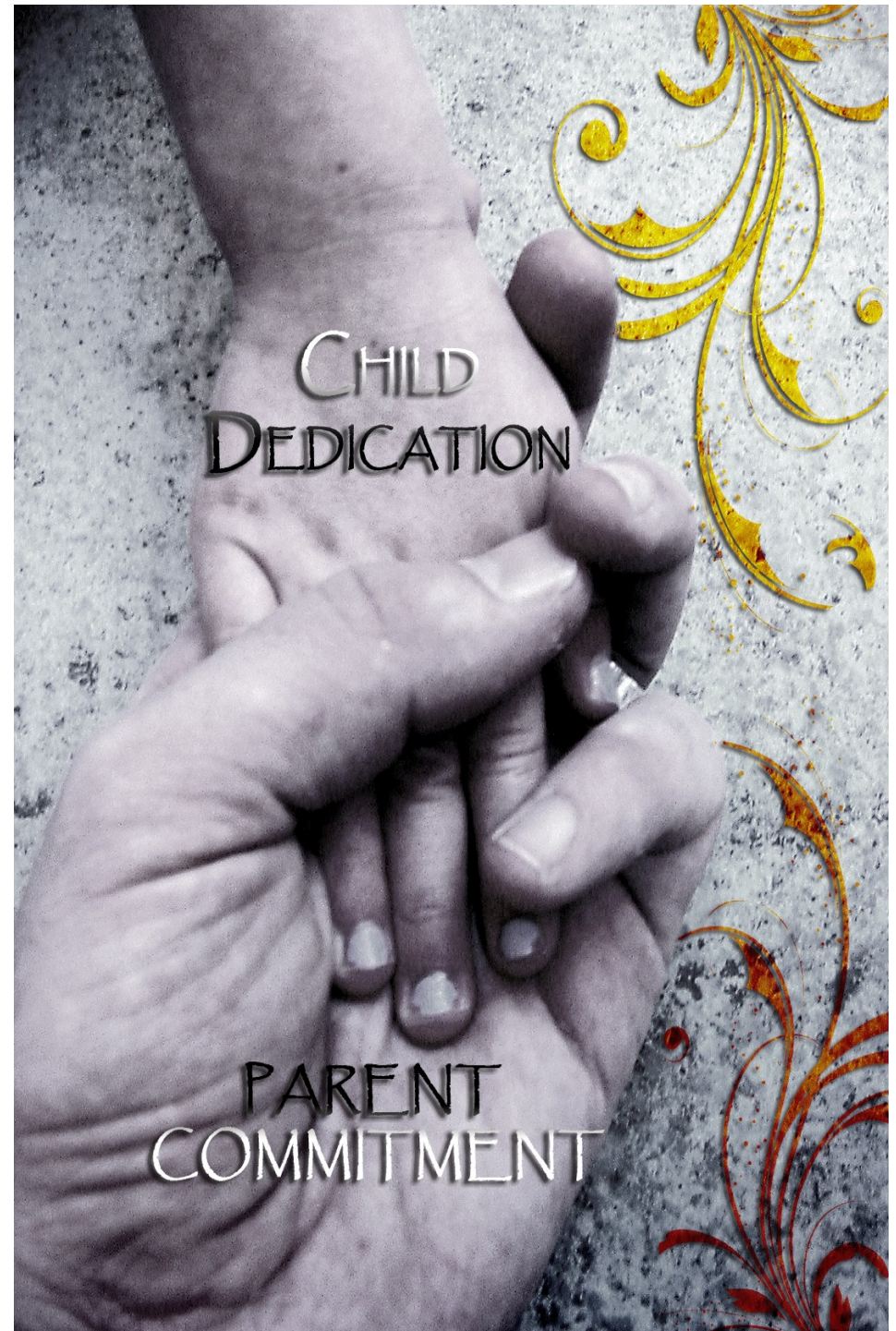
Visit our Home Pointe Center and Library at Creekside for more resources

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Welcome!

We are so glad that you have chosen to dedicate your child at Creekside Christian Church! The goal of this class is to help you understand what Child Dedication means at Creekside Christian Church and to help prepare your family for the Child Dedication service.

Because Creekside Christian Church is made up of many people from various faith backgrounds, we want to be sure your questions regarding the difference between child dedication and baptism are well explained.

Child Dedication is...

- An opportunity for you to make a commitment before the Body of Christ to raise your child in the Christian faith.
- To affirm you in laying a spiritual foundation that will lead your child to grow in the knowledge and love of God so that one day he/she will come to know Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.
- To challenge the church body to assist and support you in the spiritual training of your child.
- A time for celebrating the gift that God has given you.
- A Biblical tradition.

Old Testament example: 1 Samuel 1-2 – Elkanah & Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord by giving him to Eli to be raised.

New Testament example: Luke 2:28-34 – Joseph & Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be dedicated.

Baptism is...

- According to Acts 8:12-13, all believers are to be baptized. Faith in, or accepting Christ, makes you a believer. Accepting Christ means agreeing with Him about your sin nature, asking Him for forgiveness and inviting Him to be the new leader of your life. When children are old enough to understand the concept of sin and the responsibility for that sin, then they are ready to make the decision to accept Christ as their personal Savior and assure eternal salvation. Therefore, Creekside does not baptize babies and children until they are old enough to articulate their understanding and belief.
- Baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you are a believer. Just like a wedding ring, baptism is an outward symbol of an inward commitment that you have a new life in Christ- it shows others that you believe in Jesus Christ (God's one and only Son; He died on the cross for all our sins-past, present and future; He rose from death and ascended into heaven so that we may have eternal life in heaven.)

Child dedication isn't all about your child, it's about you. It is not possible to commit to raise your child to know Christ if you have not received Christ's gift of salvation yourself. If you have not had the opportunity to receive Christ's salvation, please let the Children's Pastor know and she will be happy to lead you through that discussion privately.

God has blessed you with your child and has given you the primary responsibility and authority over your child. You have the most influence and most significant role in developing your child's faith. The Children's Ministry staff and volunteers are here to help in that. In fact, that is our purpose - to assist in building a spiritual foundation that will lead your child to grow in the knowledge and grace of God. It is our hope and prayer that, as we partner with parents and as children participate in any program or event at Creekside, each child will learn to live and love like Jesus Christ and come to know Him as their personal Savior.

Preparing for the service:

- High quality digital photo
- Complete & return Child Dedication Questionnaire to the Children's Pastor
- Invite family and friends
- Bring a camera/video recorder
- Where to meet the Children's Pastor prior to the service

Parent Encouragement:

Being a parent/guardian is a tough job. It requires daily dependence on God and His Holy Spirit. To be successful in parenting, we need to think with the end in mind. This means we should focus on who God wants your child to be when he/she matures. For example, think about how you might help your child build his/her faith and character and develop a Biblical worldview. Here are a couple of ideas in communicating your hopes for your child:

1. Choose a life verse for your child, frame it and pray over it with your child often.
2. Journal "a letter to your child." To help you formulate the letter:
 - Tell your child how much you love him/her.
 - Tell why you chose to dedicate him/her and why that is important to you.
 - Tell why your personal faith is important to you or share your testimony of God's work in your life.
 - Share with your child what you are committed to doing to help him/her to grow in his/her faith.

Writing this letter will help you, as the parent, to stay accountable and motivated, and remind you of the importance of imparting your faith to your child. (Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:1-9)