

Parent/Child Dedication Service

For children under one year of age

The Parent/Child service is an opportunity for parents to present their child to their community of faith, publicly promising to raise him or her in a Christian home and to teach them what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. In turn, the congregation covenants with the parents to share in the responsibilities of nurturing and teaching that child and helping them to grow in their faith.

Ultimately, each person must make his or her own decision to commit themselves to Jesus Christ. In the Baptist church, such decisions are typically followed by baptism. It is the hope and prayer of both the parents and the congregation that each presented for dedication will come to profess faith in Jesus Christ as they come to know Him better.

The dedication of babies started in the Old Testament. It was based on God's command for the Israelites to bring their firstborn sons for consecration in a ceremony (Exodus 13:1-13). In 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Hannah committed her son Samuel to the Lord. Furthermore, we see Jesus brought to the Temple by Mary and Joseph, fulfilling the Jewish purification laws (Luke 2:21-40). In preparation for the Service we would suggest that parents study the passages of Scripture listed above, as well as the following passages: Psalm 127:3-5, Psalm 37:5-6, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, and Corinthians 4:2.

Why Have A Child & Parent Service?

Marking passages

A Parent and Child service invites us to mark an important passage in the life of a young family—the birth of a child. There is no part of our life that falls “outside” our obedience to Christ, and this service reminds us of the responsibilities and privileges involved in Christian parenting. *“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.” Psalm 127:1*

Stewardship

A Parent and Child service helps us remember that raising children to love God is a matter of stewardship. Our children are not our possessions, but rather, they are God's children. These special services help us to thank God for children, and promise to surrender our children back to God. *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4*

Joy & Fear

A Parent and Child service is a joyous occasion. Grandparents, aunts and uncles will visit just to see their favorite little one all dressed up. But there is also a holy solemnity as we absorb the awesome seriousness of raising Godly children in a “perverse and wicked generation.” So with joy and fear we bring our children and dedicate ourselves to raising them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. *“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.” Psalm 127:3-5*

Who Should Participate?

Any Shadow Hills Church member parent(s) desiring to raise Christian children and want help in that challenge. This would mean, as a minimum, a willingness to set a good example through Christian living, marked in part through regular attendance in the church. This service is an important time of dedication to be taken quite seriously, in which parents are making solemn promises before God, one another, and an entire congregation. These vows, to have integrity, have lifelong ramifications. Such a time ought not to be entered into lightly, without some level of commitment.

Is It The Same As Baptism Or Christening?

No. Baptism in the New Testament is part of the conscious decision a person makes in response to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, to believe in Jesus Christ as the son of God and confess if, the decision to turn away from living that dishonors God, the decision to die to oneself and be raised to new life in Christ, and the desire to receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because we recognize that an infant is incapable of making these decisions and expressing these desires, we do not baptize them. In this service we are asking God's help, strength, guidance, and provision in raising our children to the point where one day they will choose to believe in him of their own volition, having come to their own faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord & savior, and then submit to be baptized.

If your heart is in agreement with the purpose and the motive of the Parent Commitment and Child Dedication Service, then we invite you to participate. We consider this a sincere promise to God that flows out of your commitment to Jesus Christ. To schedule a date for your Family Dedication and Commitment Service, fill out and return the attached Parent/Child Dedication form. For more information call 880-7811 and ask for Rebecca McLemore, Minister of Early Childhood Education. Form may also be mailed to:

Shadow Hills Church

Attn. Rebecca McLemore

7811 Vegas Drive

Las Vegas, NV 89128

E-mail – Rebecca@shadowhills.org



“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord.” Psalm 127:3

Parent/Child Dedication Commitment Form



Family Information

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Child's FULL name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female

Sibling(s) Name(s) & Age(s) if any: _____

Commitment to God

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Have you made a decision to follow the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior? Briefly describe your testimony of faith.

Father

Mother

Commitment to each other

"Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25

Are you committed to live out your marriage vows and stay faithful to one another?

Father _____

Mother _____

Commitment to your child(ren)

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Are you committed to teaching your child(ren) about the love of Christ and training them according to the Scriptures?

Father _____

Mother _____

Commitment to the church

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...”

Hebrews 10:24-25

I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following the leaders.

Father _____

Mother _____

I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit.

Father _____

Mother _____

I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, being equipped to serve by my pastors, and developing a servant's heart.

Father _____

Mother _____

I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, living a godly life, and giving regularly.

Father _____

Mother _____

Father - Date you joined Shadow Hills _____ BY: baptism _____ letter _____

Mother - Date you joined Shadow Hills _____ BY: baptism _____ letter _____

Church's commitment to you

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me...” Mark 9:37

The church body recognizes your need for support, and so we commit to help you in any way we can to raise your child in a Godly manner.

Staff member _____

Date _____

Staff member _____

Date _____

For Office Use Only

Date Submitted: _____ Dedication Time/Date: _____