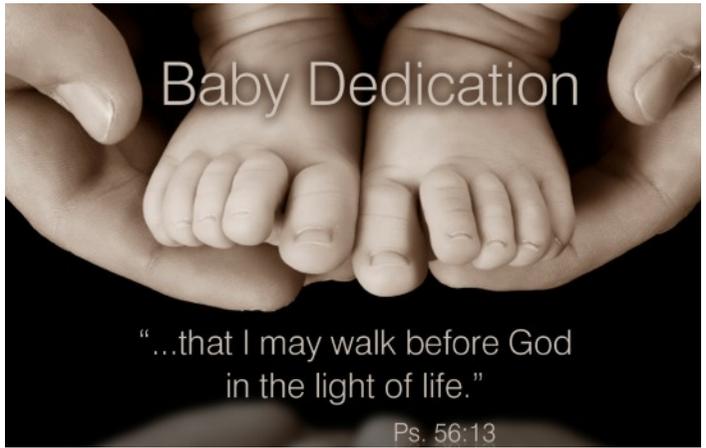


What about

# DEDICATION



One of the earliest stories in the gospels is of Jesus' dedication at the Temple (Luke 2:22-25). In the Old Testament, Hannah brought her son Samuel to be dedicated to the Lord (1 Sam 1:28).

Let us answer any questions you may have about dedicating your child to God.



Children are a precious gift from God. They need to be loved and cared for and a new addition to the family is a life-changing experience!

Having a baby seems to bring people closer to God, at least for a little while. A sense of awe and wonder accompanies a parent's concern for what is best for the child and they will often want to say 'Thank you' to God for the joy of this new life. To do this within the surroundings of local church is wonderful.

At Life Church Petersfield we welcome the opportunity to include child dedications as part of our Sunday gatherings and to provide an occasion when the family can rejoice together and thank God for the gift of this new life.

We read of dedication of children in the Bible. Hannah brought Samuel to be dedicated to The Lord (1Sam 1:28) and Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated (Luke 2:22-25). Later, during Jesus' ministry, parents brought their children to him so that he could bless them (Mark 10:16). At Life Church Petersfield we like to follow the examples found in Scripture and dedicate children to the Lord. This is not baptism or a sacrament, but a special time when parents can thank God for the gift of their child and dedicate themselves as Christian parents who want to bring their children up 'in the knowledge and love of the Lord', knowing that they will need the support and encouragement of God, friends and family to help along the way.

During the dedication many things can happen as we celebrate the arrival of the new family member and thank God for the gift of a new life.

Parents dedicate their children, recognising that they are truly a gift from God and their lives belong to him.

They also dedicate themselves to raise their children in the things of God.

The church will dedicate itself to support the parents and to provide an environment in which children can learn about and become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Dedication is therefore a confirmation between the parents and the church to raise the child in a Godly way until the child is old enough to make his or her own decisions.

Please contact a member of the Leadership Team if you have any other questions about dedication.

# DEDICATION



## **What should I do if I want my child to be dedicated?**

We are keen to plan dedications which will be meaningful and appropriate for each family, so specific format and content is quite flexible. If you want to know more, please speak to one of the Leadership Team who can talk through your needs and agree a suitable date. We would encourage you to invite family and friends, since it is a wonderful opportunity to bear witness to Jesus.



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