



FIRST STEPS



**Dedication &
Thanksgiving
Ceremonies**

So you'd like to know more about a Dedication or Thanksgiving Ceremony for your child.

We are so glad that you are reading this because this is a special time for your family and as a faith community we want to support you. We believe that every child is a gift from God, and these ceremonies allow you to give thanks, and if appropriate, commit to raising your child in a Jesus centred home with the support the faith community.

Dedication Ceremony

For Christian families wanting to make meaningful Christian promises around the raising of their child in a Jesus centred home.

Thanksgiving Ceremony

For families that wish to give thanks to God for the gift of their child but not ready to make the commitment that is in the Dedication Ceremony.

The Bible reminds us often about how important children were to Jesus:

"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

(Mark 10:13-16)

As part of the ceremony, you will be gifted a certificate to remind you of the promises made.



We encourage you to invite your family & friends, those who support you, and will continue to support you beyond the ceremony. Whilst you as a parent/caregiver are making this step, these people make a commitment to support and encourage your family as well as support your child in their faith development journey.

What does support look like?

We understand that support is not only needed as you take these steps in giving thanks for your precious child, but as the child grows and develops, and especially as they start to explore what faith might look like for them.

As part of this process, we welcome your family into our First Steps ministry, which covers activities that have engagement with children 0-5 years, such as mainly music, playgroup and pre-school Sunday School (Kids Church). Through this ministry, our focus then moves to helping the child on their faith journey - supporting them as they explore God and what faith means for them, and supporting you as a family in this. We want to create a picture based on Deuteronomy 6:5-7:

'And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.'



What now?

If you are interested in exploring this further, please speak to whoever gave you this brochure, or the Corps Officer as they will be the one who will meet with you to discuss the ceremony and what's involved.





In Dedicating to God

Child's Name _____

We _____

Parent's Name _____

desire to give you fully to God and give thanks to God for the privilege of caring for you.

We want you to be nurtured in all that is pure, lovely and honest, and to this end promise to keep from you as far as possible everything which is likely to harm you in body, mind or spirit.

We promise to progressively teach you the truths of the gospel, to encourage you to seek Christ as your Saviour and to support you in the commitment of your life to the service of God.

We undertake to be an example of true Christian living.

We pray that God will bless and keep you throughout your whole life.

Parent Signature _____

Child's Name _____

Date of Dedication _____

Date of Birth _____

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. Philippians 1:9-10

I praise you, God, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14 (NIV)



In Thanksgiving to God for

Child's Name _____

We _____

Parent's Name _____

give thanks to God for the privilege of caring for and nurturing you.

We want you to grow up to be healthy, wise and good, and so promise to keep from you as far as possible everything which is likely to harm you in body, mind or soul.

We pray that God will bless and keep you throughout your whole life.

Parent Signature _____

Child's Name _____

Date of Dedication _____

Date of Birth _____

Certificates also available in Dual & Sole Parent versions.

