

Baby Dedication at The Base Church

At the Base Church we acknowledge the crucial role of parenting, and whilst becoming a parent can be the most incredibly life changing experience, there are also times that can be very difficult to navigate.

Husband and Wife

We believe that the biggest overall influence you as parents can have on the life of your child will be in your roles as husband and wife. We believe that by God's design, the husband-wife relationship is the primary family relationship from which all others flow. We see children as welcome members of the family, and not its centre. Children do not complete the family; they expand it, and we cannot stress enough the importance of growing your husband-wife relationship and keeping this central in your home. Every marriage has good times and more trying times. We invite you to constantly examine your marriage relationship and draw on the church community and resources to be constantly growing stronger.

Father and Mother

We recognise the unique roles that mothers, and fathers play, and we desire to encourage and equip you as you grow into these God ordained roles. We acknowledge that many families are Single parent families, and we embrace our single parent families, as a community of believers.

Family Discipleship

We believe that parents are called to play the key role in discipling their children, which is why, although we have a thriving children's ministry, we constantly state that is to be considered as supplemental to and never in place of, the Biblical discipleship that you as parents lead in your home. We encourage you to pray and read the word as a family, and to become actively involved in the life of the church. This may look different in the different seasons of family life! Therefore, we encourage you to become involved in the church community and glean from other families who may be ahead of you in the parenting journey!

What is baby dedication?

Baby dedication is not a statement of salvation for your child, but rather a statement of how you will raise your child. While not a command of Scripture, baby dedication can be a beautiful symbol - like a wedding band. It should be done with a community of believers who know you personally and can commit to walking with you in this commitment. This is why we, at The Base Church, include baby dedications in our regular Sunday meetings. As you acknowledge your responsibility to raise your child in a Gospel centred home taking an active role in your child's discipleship, we as your church family, are making a similar commitment to you, to come along side of you and help you in this discipleship journey.

The word "dedication" means "to consecrate" or the act of setting apart people or things to serve God. Two examples in the Bible are found in 1 Samuel 1: 11 and 28, and Luke 2:22.

In the Old Testament, we see how Hannah prayed for a child and promised God that the child, Samuel, would be given to the Lord all the days of his life (1 Samuel 1:11, 28). In the New Testament, we see how Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to "present" Him to the Lord (Luke 2:22).

These parents took this act very seriously and were making a commitment in presenting their children to the Lord. Bringing a child before the Lord is not a secret formula for keeping them from

ever experiencing harm or pain, or a way to fast track them to salvation! Rather, it is a commitment that the parents make to do their part in raising their child before the Lord.

We believe salvation is the free gift of God, received when someone grasps his or her need for Christ and makes the conscious decision to repent and enter into a relationship with God. Once a child is old enough to choose to accept Christ as his or her personal Saviour, then he or she can make a choice to be baptized. For this reason, we do not baptise infants.

What commitment am I making?

As you present your child to God, you are acknowledging that your child belongs to God and has been born to experience His love and to serve Him. You are committing, as Christian parents, to teach the truths of God's Word in your home and participate in regular worship and discipleship with your children. You are also committing to be a Christ-like example and seek to lead your children to a personal faith in Christ as soon as they are ready. Please read the following scriptures.

- Parents are to make Jesus Christ the foundation of their home (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- Parents are to keep the passion for God before them always (Deuteronomy 5:29).
- Parents must fight for the authority of God before their family (Nehemiah 4:14).
- Parents are to place trust in God's grace for life (Galatians 2:20).
- Parents are to love their family unconditionally as God loves them (Ephesians 5:25).

Here are some Scripture references we encourage you to study

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates. **DEUTERONOMY 6:5-9**

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, "Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so." **DEUTERONOMY 4:9-10**

One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. **PSALM 145:4-10**

My son keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life. **PROVERBS 6:20-23**

Fathers do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **EPHESIANS 6:4**

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:20**