



## Parent/Child Dedication

Let's take a look at the act of dedication by dividing it into two parts: "Dedicating the Child" and "Dedicating Ourselves at Parents."

**Dedicating a child** to God is not a new practice. In 1 Samuel, we read about Hannah not only dedicating her son, Samuel, but leaving him with the priest to be raised to serve in the temple! Her dedication may seem like an extreme response of gratitude for the gift of her child, but it is a great lesson in what dedication means. Are you willing to let God use your child for His purposes? Can you trust God to provide for your child as they follow His purpose? Giving God control of our child's life sounds good spiritually, but in practice it may be difficult to let go of our kids.

**Read Romans 8:32. Who else in the Bible was able to dedicate their son to God's purpose?**

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That's a very big act of love! Can you trust a God who loves you so completely with your child's future? Yes, you can! Praise God because His provisions will follow His purposes in your child's life. **Take a moment to pray to God and tell Him all you are feeling and thinking about relinquishing your child's life to Him, including your fears about it. If you are ready, make that statement of dedication to God about your child now.**

**Dedicating ourselves** to God is also biblical. **Read Judges 13:8. How would you describe Manoah's request for help in raising his child?** \_\_\_\_\_

If you read the entire passage about Manoah and his wife, you see their urgent desire to raise their child in the way God directed them to do. If you truly dedicated your child to God earlier, then your act of dedication as a parent is to raise that child so that they are familiar with God and prepared for His purposes. Wow! What an immense job description parenting has when we consider it from God's perspective!

**Read Psalm 127:4-5. To what are children compared in the hands of their parents?** \_\_\_\_\_

God wants you to aim straight; and the target is a godly life that glorifies Him. Preparing your children for such a life will mean preparing yourselves as parents. Our church wants to support you in that endeavor with training, resources, and prayer. When you dedicate yourself to being a godly parent and to raise your child in a home that honors God, we will be dedicating ourselves as a church to walk with you in that journey.

**Take a moment to pray to God and ask Him to guide you in your parenting.**

**Write down the Bible verse you chose for your child:**

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