

Child Dedication Class
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Four cornerstones of helping kids develop a biblical worldview:

1. The _____ – credible source of wisdom.
2. A _____ of Biblical Content. – parents/leaders need to open it themselves and know what's in it so they can lead kids spiritually!
 - a. Story of little boy who imitated his father bringing his Bible to the table each morning to read.
3. _____ Application – how the Bible can impact your daily life.
4. A _____ to obey God – commitment to God's principles through our choices and actions.

The Biblical role of parents:

1. _____ spiritual training
(**Deut. 1:31; 6:4-9**; 11:18-21; 21:18-19; Ps. 78:5-8; Luke 8:39; **Eph. 6:4**)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NIV)

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Ephesians 6:4 New International Version (NIV)

⁴ Fathers,^[a] do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- a. Parents, you are the ones who have the responsibility of teaching your children about God! We support this with our value of "Partnering with Parents":
 - *We hold to parents being the primary spiritual nurturers of their children. We strive to support parents in this role by encouraging and equipping them to spiritually lead their families.*
 - The average church has about _____ hours/year to impact a child's life.
 - The average child spends about _____ hours/year with their parents!

There are 4 Natural times each day that parents have the opportunity to teach their children about God according to Deut. 6:4-9:

1. _____ *Up* – How your child starts the day.
2. _____ *down* – How your child ends the day.
3. _____ *at home* – Set aside time each week that says, “our family is important.”
4. _____ *along the road* – Daily and spontaneous circumstances

2. The _____ of the training is to instill a passion to love, obey and serve God.

(Matt. 10:37; 12:48-50; 1 Tim. 4:7; **2 Tim. 3:15-17**)

2 Timothy 3:15-17

¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3. _____ spiritual training when they are young!
(Isa. 7:14-15; Acts 26:4; **1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 1:5**)

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

¹²Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

2 Timothy 1:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Why is a young age the best time to start?

This may seem obvious, but the statistics stress the importance:

- Moral and spiritual development – whether related to worldview, beliefs or behavior – starts as early as age _____.
- The moral foundations of children are generally determined by age _____.

4. Parents are encouraged to work in _____ with reliable spiritual _____ - such as the Church- but should be sure that those partners are committed to the things of God.

(1 Sam. 1:27-28; 3:1-10; **Rom. 14:19**; Eph. 4:11-13)

Romans 14:19 (NIV)

¹⁹Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

- Both the church and the family are important, but the parents are the primary spiritual nurturers of their children according to the Bible.

“When a church-intentionally or not-assumes a family’s responsibilities in the arena of spiritual nurturing children, it fosters an unhealthy dependence upon the church to relieve the family of its biblical responsibility.” --- George Barna

So, parents, now is your opportunity to put it on paper. Take just a few minutes now and write down your thoughts. And then take some time in the next 2 weeks to read through the notes again and to set up some important structures for your family, or evaluate what you already have. Ask, is it working? Is it effective? Make adjustments as necessary.

- *Plan spiritual family moments into your schedule!*
- *If you plan it into your schedule, then it is much more likely to happen. Schedules are busy, but your priorities always happen.*
- *Another idea is to write it on the family calendar as a reminder; put it in your cell phone or outlook to pop up as a reminder*

Day of the week/time we are going to have family time:

Day of the week/time we are going to read & talk about the Bible:

Child Dedication

A child dedication IS NOT baptism:

1. It is not a sacrament of any kind. It does not impart salvation on the child. Dedication is the parent's commitment to God to raise the child in His ways.
2. Matthew 28:19-20 tells us that all believers are to be baptized, but it does NOT get you to heaven. Only faith in Christ alone makes a believer and only by accepting Christ do we secure salvation and eternity in heaven. Jesus asks us to be baptized and modeled this to us (Mark 1:9).
3. Crossroads Church baptizes children when they are in mid to upper Elementary grades, which is the time when children can articulate their understanding and belief.

Examples of Child Dedications in the Bible:

- 1 Samuel 1:2, 10-11, 20, 26-28 – Hannah dedicates Samuel for life to the Lord.
- Gen. 22:1-16 (Vs. 12) – Abraham offers Isaac
- Luke 2:21-24 – As a baby, Jesus' parents dedicated Him in the Temple.

Details for the weekend:

- Please check-in 20 minutes prior to the service that your child is dedicated in – meet inside the Worship Center by the stage.
- Photos are allowed during the service.