



BABY
dedications

@ The Grove



THE GROVE
610 South Reynolds
Orange Grove, TX 78372
www.reachthegrove.com



COMMON QUESTIONS REGARDING BABY DEDICATIONS

WHO SHOULD BE DEDICATED?

Baby dedications are for newborn babies through children in their toddler years. The Grove: First Baptist Church baby dedications are for those church family members who want to commit before God and the church that they will raise their child in a Biblical manner. If you are attending the church (not officially a member) we are open to a conversation about Baby Dedication and your commitment to our church.

IS BABY DEDICATION THE SAME AS BABY BAPTISM?

No. Some church traditions teach that children of believing Christian families are to be baptized. We believe that baptism is for those who have repented of their sins and have trusted Christ as their Savior. In Acts 2:38 Peter tells the crowd at Pentecost, *“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...”* Since a baby is unable to understand their need for repentance, we do not practice infant baptism. Additional resources are available about the purposes of Biblical baptism.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BABY DEDICATION?

Baby Dedications are a time for believing Christian parent(s) to make a commitment to God, their family and the rest of the local congregation, that they will intentionally raise their children in a way that honors God.

All of our baby dedications are held during a Sunday worship service. During the service, we invite the parents and children to come to the front of the congregation and we take time to pray for each family. Our prayer during this time is two fold; that God will bless the children being dedicated and also grant wisdom and understanding to the parents. At the end of the dedication, we will give you a certificate of dedication and a Bible for each child dedicated.



WHY DO WE DEDICATE CHILDREN?

While there isn't a clear biblical mandate to dedicate our children, we believe the essence of this practice is contained in Scripture. In 1 Samuel chapters 1 and 2, Hannah, who had a deep trust and love for God, prayed and asked that she be given a child. When she prayed for her child, she promised that she would give her child back to the Lord. We believe this biblical example inspires our valuable tradition of baby dedication. Each of our children are a gift from God. As Christian parents, as we dedicate them we are *"giving our children back to the Lord"* and entrusting them to His care. Our prayer is that each child would follow in the footsteps of Jesus,

*"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature
and in favor with God and man."
Luke 2:52*

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARENTS?

Because baby dedication is in essence a commitment from the parents to raise their children in a God-honoring way, our baby dedications are limited to children with at least one parent who is a follower of Jesus Christ, a Christian.

Also, we do not dedicate children whose parents are not married and yet live together. The Scriptures make very clear God's command that the sexual union is to be exclusively reserved for the institution of marriage. Once the couple is married, we will happily dedicate their child(ren).

If you are unsure what it means to follow Jesus Christ, or have any other questions about these requirements, we would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail. We also offer Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling Options.

WHEN ARE BABY DEDICATIONS HELD?

We schedule baby dedications based upon requests. We do not have specifically scheduled baby dedications. Once a family fills-out the Baby Dedication Application Form at www.reachthegrove.com we begin preparations and set a date.



WHAT DOES A BABY DEDICATION LOOK LIKE?

We have our baby dedications during our Sunday morning service. After the Opening Welcome of our service, we will ask the parents and children to come and stand in front of the congregation. The pastor will take a moment to introduce each of the parents and children. After each of the children are introduced, the pastor will ask the families the following questions in regards to the raising of their children:

- Do you this day recognize this child as a gift of God, and thank Him for this blessing?
- Do you dedicate yourselves to raise your child in a Godly home, where Christ and His church are honored?
- Do you promise to instruct your child to know, love, and fear the Lord?
- Do you here this day ask God's blessings upon your child's life, to guide, guard, and direct them through all their years?

After each question, the parents will respond with “*we do*”.

The pastor will then turn to the congregation and ask them the following question:

- Do you promise to encourage, support, and pray for these parents as they seek to live out their commitments in a way that brings glory to God?

After the congregation responds with “*we do*”, the pastor performing the baby dedication will pray over the children who are being dedicated and then dismiss the families to their seats.

