

A SAMPLE SERVICE FOR THE DEDICATION OF A CHILD

PURPOSE: The reason for holding a service for the dedication of a child is so that the parents or guardians of the child will make an official and public statement of their own loyalty to Christ, and openly promise to raise the child according to the Scriptures. Although some churches in a special ceremony throw water on a baby and call it baptizing, such a behavior does not fulfill the Biblical requirements for baptism. (Biblical baptism requires that the person must repent of their sins, receive Christ as Savior, and by personal choice, enter into the baptismal waters).

When a child is dedicated to the Lord Jesus, the child usually is not old enough to even know what is happening. His or her choice does not come into the picture. Instead, it is the parents or guardians who must make the decisions for the child, which is very Biblical.

THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE CALLED TO STAND BEFORE THE PASTOR AND THE CONGREGATION.

PASTOR: ARE YOU THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF THIS CHILD ?

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS: WE ARE.

PASTOR: WHAT SHALL THIS CHILD'S NAME BE ?

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS: THE CHILD'S NAME IS _____ (give the name of the child).

PASTOR: HAVE YOU COME TO DEDICATE THIS CHILD TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, BEFORE GOD AND THE WITNESSES THAT ARE HERE TODAY ?

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS: YES

PASTOR: WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE TODAY IS VERY SIMILAR TO AN EVENT FOUND IN THE BOOK OF LUKE, CHAPTER 18: 15 And they brought unto Him also infants, that He would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

BEFORE THEY WERE ENLIGHTENED, THE DISCIPLES SAW CHILDREN AS UNIMPORTANT. THEY FELT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BOTHER THE LORD. SO, THEY TOLD THEM TO GO AWAY.

In MARK CHAPTER 10:14-15 the Bible tells us, But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

PASTOR: THE CLEAR TEACHING OF JESUS IS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO JESUS. AND THAT IS WHAT THESE PARENTS (OR GUARDIANS) ARE DOING TODAY. THEY ARE BRINGING THIS CHILD TO JESUS.

THE BIBLE TELLS US: Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. AS WITH ALL BLESSING THAT COME FROM GOD, WE ARE SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF THEM AND CAUSE THEM TO BRING GLORY TO THE LORD.

FOR PARENTS (OR GUARDIANS), THIS REQUIRES THAT YOU DO SOMETHING FOR YOUR CHILDREN WHICH DEMANDS A SERIOUS COMMITMENT ON YOUR PART. THIS BLESSING WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU IN THE FORM OF A CHILD SHOULD BE GIVEN BACK TO HIM.

YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE RAISED UP SO THAT HE/SHE WILL FOLLOW THE WAYS OF GOD. THAT REQUIRES THAT YOU TEACH YOUR CHILD AT HOME AS WELL AS BRING HIM TO CHURCH.

THE BIBLE SAYS, IN Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. THE CHILD'S FATHER IS REQUIRED BY GOD TO RAISE THAT CHILD UP IN THE NOURISHMENT OF GOD'S WORD AND IN GOD'S DISCIPLINE.

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, WE HAVE THE EXAMPLE OF HANNAH. THIS MOTHER PROMISED TO GIVE HER CHILD BACK TO THE LORD. HER SON, SAMUEL, AT A VERY EARLY AGE, WAS TAUGHT ABOUT THE LORD, AND KNEW MUCH FROM WHAT THE BIBLE SAID. HIS MOTHER WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

AS CHRISTIAN PARENTS, YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS BLESSING FROM THE LORD, AND YOU NOW HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE HIM/HER A TRUE BLESSING TO GOD.

PASTOR: BEFORE GOD AND THESE WITNESSES, I ASK YOU TO MAKE SOME COMMITMENTS TODAY.

PASTOR: DO YOU PROMISE TO RAISE _____(NAME OF THIS CHILD) IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD ?

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS: WE DO.

PASTOR: DO YOU PROMISE TO SET A CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE BEFORE THIS CHILD, SO THAT THE LIFE YOU LIVE WILL BE A GODLY LIFE THAT YOUR CHILD WILL DESIRE TO FOLLOW ?

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS: WE DO.

PASTOR: DO YOU PROMISE TO INSTRUCT YOUR CHILD IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION, SO THAT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE AGE, YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION OF FAITH BY HIMSELF/HERSELF TO TRUST JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD OF HIS/HER LIFE ?

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS: WE DO.

PASTOR: LET US THANK GOD FOR THIS WONDERFUL COMMITMENT OF FAITH.

(Prayer should be personal and from the Pastor's own heart, not just reading a written prayer such as this one. This prayer is simply provided to show a sample of prayers which have been offered by other pastors previously).

PASTOR: DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR GREATNESS AND THE LOVE WHICH YOU HAVE FOR ALL YOUR PEOPLE. THESE PARENTS HAVE COME BEFORE YOU TODAY TO MAKE VOWS WHICH THEY HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO KEEP. WE PRAY FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND WISDOM AS THEY RAISE THIS CHILD IN YOUR WORD AND IN YOUR ADMONITION. WE PRAY THAT AT THE SOONEST POSSIBLE AGE, THIS CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION OF FAITH TO TRUST JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD. WE PRAY THAT THESE PARENTS WILL BE BLESSED IN THEIR COMMITMENT, AND WILL LIVE BEFORE THIS CHILD IN A WAY THAT GLORIFIES YOU. WE ASK THESE THINGS IN JESUS NAME. AMEN.

PASTOR: WE ARE WITNESSES OF THE VOWS YOU HAVE MADE BEFORE ALMIGHTY GOD. MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND YOUR CHILD WITH HIS PRESENCE AND GUIDANCE IN ALL THAT YOU DO.

CONGREGATION: AMEN.