



## FAMILY DEDICATION

*(Often called "Baby Dedications")*

*NOTE: If you are interested in a Family Dedication or have any questions, please contact the church for more information.*

Children are gifts from God and special objects of his love. At Turning Point Church we count it a privilege to have dedications of children. We do not baptize children unless they are old enough to make a decision to receive Jesus Christ as their savior. Though many dedications occur in the first year of the child, the age of the child can range from birth to early childhood. Therefore, we like to use the term "Family Dedication" which also expresses the main role played by the parents.

What is being expressed in a family dedication? The following describes the commitment of the parents and the church congregation.

### PARENTS:

1. We are acknowledging that our child is a gift, graciously given by God. Jacob, Samuel and John the Baptist are examples of children given in direct answer to prayer. (Gen. 25:21, 33:5; I Sam. 1:27; Psa. 127:3-5; Luke 1:13)
2. We are thanking God for the child He has given and publicly declaring that his God-given purpose for living is to glorify God. (Ps. 150:6; Is. 42:12; Rom. 15:6; I Cor. 6:20, 10:31)
3. We are recognizing the fact that children are regarded highly by God. In God's design they are given to a husband and a wife. In the plan of salvation God Himself entered this world as a baby. In Jesus' ministry He illustrated what kind of people we should be with children. He also commanded that they be permitted to come to Him that He might bless them. (Matt. 18:3-6; Mark 10:13-16).
4. We are following the example given in the Bible; Hannah dedicated Samuel. Joseph and Mary presented Jesus. Jesus blessed the children.
5. As believing parents we are setting aside this child for God, trusting that one day, by God's grace and through faith, he will accept God's salvation in Christ and love and serve God. (Rom. 10:9-10; I Cor. 7:14; Eph. 2:8-10)
6. We are dedicating ourselves to the privilege of training this child in the ways of God and are asking God for His enabling and blessing in this task. (Deut. 31:12-13; Pro. 13:24, 22:6, 15, 23:13-14; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)
7. We are confessing that we need God and our friends at Turning Point Church to assist us in bringing up our child to love and serve God. (Ps. 78:1-8)

### CONGREGATION:

We are committing ourselves to pray for you and your child, to support and encourage you in your parental responsibility, and as God gives us opportunity to model and teach, in example and in word, God's love and holiness in our everyday lives.