

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for my child.
- Attend church regularly.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- _____

The next step on the Faith Path is *Blessing*, recommended at age three. You can find the *Blessing* kit at fellowshipathome.org/faithpath or pick one up in the Home Center.

Recommended Resources

Focus on the Family Complete Guide to Baby and Child Care by Paul C. Reisser, MD

My Faith Box by Lydia Randall from myfaithbox.org

The Ministry of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson

Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian



Parent Dedication

Commit to Raise Your
Child in a God-Honoring Home

Congratulations! If you are reading this, your family was recently blessed with a new baby. As a church, we are excited to partner with you as you begin this incredible journey with your child.

What is Parent Dedication?

Parent Dedication is a special time during a weekend service in which you make a formal commitment to raise your child in a Christ-centered home. We see several examples in the Bible such as I Samuel 1:24 – 2:10 when Hannah dedicated Samuel at the temple and Luke 2 where Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus. During the weekend services you will be asked to make a public pledge before the congregation that you will raise your child to know, love and follow Jesus Christ. God designed the home as the primary place for faith to be nurtured. One way that we seek to partner with you is by providing resources throughout your child's spiritual journey. We call this the Faith Path. Parent dedication is the first step.

The Parent's Commitment

Parent Dedication is *your* commitment to model, teach and reinforce the Christian Faith. It should not be confused with *your child's* personal choice to follow Christ. We believe the Bible clearly teaches that each person must decide for themselves to trust in Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10). The age a child is ready to make this personal decision will vary depending on the child.

The Church's Commitment

Parent Dedication is also a time for the church to commit to walk alongside you as you point your child toward Christ. You will receive a gift called *My Faith Box* to provide ideas each step of the way, from birth to age eighteen. It is also a place for keepsake items from your child's spiritual journey.

Parent Dedication Steps

1. **Sign up for Parent Dedication by emailing AngieL@fbcva.org or calling the church office (540662-7743)**
2. **Attend a Parent Dedication Orientation Class.**
3. **Fill out a Faith Path registration form that will be provided at Parent Dedication Orientation.**
4. **Participate in a Parent Dedication Weekend Celebration (held in January and May)**
- 5.

Parent Dedication Celebration Ideas

Ideas for making dedication a special time include...

- Have a dinner or celebration time with family and friends before/after the weekend service.
- Invite family members and special family friends to write blessings to your child to put in their *My Faith Box*. Make sure that you write one too!
- Record a video message for your child to view in the future. Speak words of affirmation, sharing how you are praying for their spiritual journey and how you desire to point them toward Christ. Put the video in your child's *My Faith Box*. Examples are available for you to watch on the video included with this kit. You can also write a letter if that works better for you.



Praying For My Child

Best Use

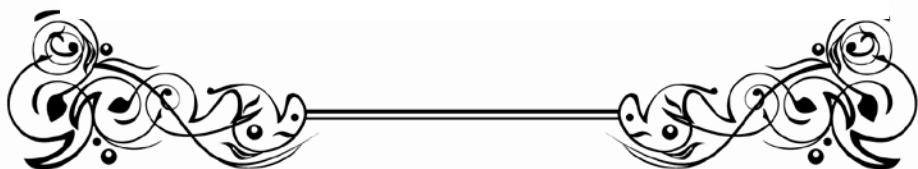
As a guide to pray over your baby

Nutritional Value

Begin the routine of prayer for and with your child

Introduction

One of the most impactful investments we can make in our children's faith formation is the habit of praying for them. Rather than repeating the same simple prayers asking for health, happiness and safety, consider the ideas on the reverse side to expand your prayer life and establish a meaningful routine of praying for your child.



Prayers from their head to their toes

You can begin praying for your baby during feedings or while he or she falls asleep in your arms. One simple method is to pray “from head to toes” by touching the child gently on the head as you pray and gradually moving your hand all the way down to his or her toes as you pray.

- **Head**: “Give my child wisdom, discernment and an understanding of Your Word.”
- **Eyes**: “Help my child see the truth and guard his/her eyes from impurity.”
- **Ears**: “Let him/her listen to the Lord and those in authority.”
- **Mouth**: “Help my child speak with truth and honesty and use his/her words to praise the Lord.”
- **Shoulders**: “Let my child cast his/her burdens on the Lord and give him/her friends who will help him/her stand strong.”
- **Hands**: “Help my child learn to work as unto the Lord with a servant’s heart.”
- **Heart**: “Open my child’s heart to salvation, a love of scripture and concern for other people.”
- **Feet**: “Inspire my child to follow the Lord all of his/her days.”

Praying Scripture

Another method is to begin praying scripture over your child inserting his or her name. For example, pray Psalm 23 by saying “Lord, be NAME’S shepherd so HE/SHE shall not want.” Jesus modeled the incredible power of combating Satan by speaking scripture aloud in order to align our desires with God’s purposes.