

# Letter to Parents

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*Listen, Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You must love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole being, and all your strength. These words I am commanding you today must be kept in mind, and you must teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. You should tie them as a reminder on your forearm and fasten them as symbols on your forehead. Inscribe them on the doorframes of your houses and gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

*Pay attention, my people, to my instruction! Listen to the words I speak! I will sing a song that imparts wisdom; I will make insightful observations about the past. What we have heard and learned that which our ancestors have told us we will not hide from their descendants. We will tell the next generation about the Lord's praiseworthy acts, about his strength and the amazing things he has done. He established a rule in Jacob; he set up a law in Israel. He commanded our ancestors to make his deeds known to their descendants, so that the next generation, children yet to be born, might know about them. They will grow up and tell their descendants about them. Then they will place their confidence in God. They will not forget the works of God, and they will obey his commands. Then they will not be like their ancestors, who were a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that was not committed and faithful to God. Psalm 78:1-8*

*This is a blessed occasion for new parents to focus on what will affect their child's future the most.*

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of your new baby! In the midst of all that is changing in your home with the addition of your new baby, we invite you to take a moment to focus on what really matters most.

No one will have more influence on your child than YOU will! We believe that what happens at home is more important than what happens at church. It is our hope that we can partner with you from the very beginning. We want to be your biggest fans, your strongest supporters, and your trusted guides as you raise your child to know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Baby Dedication is more than an event. The purpose of baby dedication is to establish the partnership between the parents and the church in passing on the faith to your children and your children's children. Although this is not a required spiritual practice, we do see where children were dedicated to the Lord in the Bible. In 1 Samuel 1:27-28 we see how Hannah took her son Samuel to the temple to dedicate him to the Lord. Also in Luke 2:21-38 we see Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated. It is an opportunity for you to take some time at the beginning of your journey as a parent to really think about what will matter the most in the life of your child; to really talk together and decide what you value and what you can do today that will have the greatest impact on your child's future.

Baby Dedication is not infant baptism. We believe that when people are old enough to understand what it means to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they should have the opportunity to make that choice for themselves. A preschool child is not able to understand sin, forgiveness, the sacrifice our Savior made for us, and what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Baby Dedication is about your commitment as a parent to lead your child into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, so that as he/she gets older, you are able to guide him/her and to help him/her understand what that means. At New Hope Baptist Church, we would like to partner with you in the spiritual development of your child as we participate in the dedication of your child to the Lord.

Complete the Baby Dedication Application, return it to the office, and attend the Mandatory Orientation class .

If you have questions about Baby Dedication, please email [babies@newhopecity.org](mailto:babies@newhopecity.org) or phone 330-554-3458.

# Child's Information

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Child's name (as you would like it to appear on the certificate):

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Suffix

Child's Birth Date:

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
MM DD YYYY

Gender:  Male  Female

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number

\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
### ### ####

Other Children:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you had a child dedicated at New Hope Baptist before?  Yes  No

*Please include three pictures of the child.*

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**You must attend the orientation meeting in order to dedicate your child**

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# Parent Information Sheet

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Father's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of New Hope Baptist Church?  Yes  No

Please briefly describe what it means to you to be a Christian and why do you want to have your child dedicated?

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Mother's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of New Hope Baptist Church?  Yes  No

Please briefly describe what it means to you to be a Christian and why do you want to have your child dedicated?

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- What verse would you like to use as a dedication verse?
- Do you have any funny stories surrounding your experience so far as a parent?
- Can we ask you about what you have shared on stage on Parent Child Dedication Sunday?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
- Do you confess your faith and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?  Yes  No
- Do you acknowledge that your child is a gift and a trust from God, and that you are responsible to God for his/her Christian nurture?  Yes  No
- Will you pray for your child's salvation and teach your child the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?  Yes  No
- Since your child will learn by both your word and example, will you set a Godly example in prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, giving, and serving others in your church home?  Yes  No
- Do you, at this time, present your child before God, saying that whatever God might want your child to do or be you are willing to release him/her to His perfect plan?  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's signature

*You must attend the MANDATORY Orientation Meeting prior to the dedication*

# Parent Check List

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**You must attend the orientation meeting in order to dedicate your child.**

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## Information sheets completed

1. Baby Information Sheet
2. Parent Information Sheet
3. Three Pictures of baby you may also submit more

## Attend orientation

1. Bring your bible
2. Vision Casting
3. Pickup invitations (You may pick-up invitation at anytime in the office)
4. Parent Letter
5. "Our Prayer" video taken

## Video Clip

We will video the parents' short message to be shown during the dedication at orientation. Think about a short message of what you will pray the most for your child.

### *Example:*

*(Mom) I pray that Timothy will have the will and anointing power to resist temptations. When he experiences defeat, may he look to the Lord? May he always know that the Lord can help him in every and all situations. (Dad) My prayer for Timothy is that he will grow in the Lord's love and grace to be the man that the Lord has called him to be. I ask the Lord to put his protection around Timothy as I give Timothy back to the Lord.*

*(Dad) Our prayer is that Johnathan will be a man after God's own heart. That his mother and I grow more in the Lord's love to guide us to raise a God fearing man. (Mom) Our prayer for Johnathan is that he will be a man that can stand no matter what the test and that he will raise his family to Love you no matter what.*

## A Letter to Your Child

Parenting is a long journey that most of you have just begun. To be successful in parenting, we need to think with the end in mind. This means we should focus on who God wants our child to be when they become an adult. As parents, keeping the end in mind helps us figure out what steps we need to take to make it happen. As you prepare to dedicate your child, think about what hopes you have for your child's faith and character when they grow up. Think about your child at 18 years old.

Write a letter to your "18 year old child" sharing with them your hopes for them regarding their Faith and character.

Seal the letter and save it for your child to share with them in the future.

**Here are some questions that can help guide your letter:**

Tell your child how much you love them

Talk about why you chose to dedicate them and why that is important to you.

Why is your personal faith important to you?

What hopes do you have for your child's faith?

Share with them what you are committed to doing to help their faith grow.

What kind of adult do you want your child to be?

What kind of character do you hope they will have?

What bible verse would you give your child?

### **Parent Child Dedication Sunday**

1. Please show up 30 minutes before service begins.
2. Sunday Attire (pictures last a life time)
3. We will meet in fellowship hall
4. We will march in as a group
5. Pictures will be taken before and during the service.
6. Have guest go directly to the sanctuary
7. PLEASE complete the questionnaire that will be given to you after the service. This will help us to serve future parents/families better.