



## **Family Dedication Informational Packet**

### **Preparing Christian Parents**

Parenting is a gift from God and it comes with incredible responsibility. Families can take on many shapes and sizes. Family dedication is available to Christians living a biblical lifestyle as married couples, single parents, grandparents raising children, or guardians entrusted with raising a child.

***Following Jesus*** and ***growing*** into His likeness is the foundation for parenting and raising our children in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

**Follow Jesus** - God created us in His likeness to know Him and enjoy a vibrant life-giving relationship with Him. Through our sin, we have broken that relationship and stand guilty for our sin. Jesus, the Son of God, became one of us and died on the cross in our place taking our guilt and punishment on Himself. Jesus resurrected from the dead and in victory offers forgiveness, mercy, and grace to all who place their faith in Him as their Savior and Lord (Genesis 1:27, Romans 3:23, 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-10).

**How do I grow at Bible Center?** Christians saved by Jesus are also transformed by Jesus. Jesus grows us and transforms us as we embrace biblical values that shape our habits and behaviors. At Bible Center, we seek to provide next steps and opportunities for you to continue growing in the Lord for a lifetime. By participating in these HABITS we will experience challenge, growth, and transformation that benefits us and our families.

**Have a Group**

**Attend Regularly**

**Be in the Bible**

**Invest Faithfully**

**Talk to God**

**Share your Faith**

Which HABITS have you incorporated into your family? Which HABIT is your next step of growth?



The process of preparing for the Family Dedication service gives families the opportunity to interact with the Word, the church, and our pastors and staff. Our desire is to answer your questions, pray for you, support you, and provide opportunities to equip you to raise your child in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Families are equipped through our Sunday morning services, Sunday morning family ministries, Life Groups, and Wednesday night AWANA opportunities along with many one-time events throughout the year.

### Defining a Biblical Lifestyle

Bible Center Church and all Bible-believing churches, are made up of people who are saved by grace and strive to love God, others, and His ways. We recognize that we are imperfect people serving a perfect God.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live in a way that often conflicts with the ways of current culture. The Bible is our forever source of authority in salvation, truth, and lifestyle. God uses His Word, His people, and His Spirit to save, transform, and grow us into His image.

Today it is popular for people to live together before marriage. God's desire is that couples enjoy the sexual gift given by God to those who committed themselves through lawful marriage. Committing to each other in marriage allows us the freedom of living in God's perfect design.

We encourage unmarried couples who are living together, who desire to participate in family dedication, to adjust their situation by marrying their partner or by changing their living arrangement in obedience to the Lord before dedication. *Hebrews 13:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8*

Bible Center Church does not affirm homosexual expression and does not recognize homosexual unions as biblical marriage. As with heterosexuals who openly violate God's moral will, dedicating a child to God would not be appropriate without personal repentance. Bible Center Church welcomes all persons who seek God and desire to have their family enjoy the ministries we offer. Dedicating our children begins with a parent's commitment to following Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and their willingness to love God above all else. While God's church will never achieve perfection while on earth, we are called to strive for and honor the purity God desires His people to show as followers of Jesus.

The Bible determines and shapes what we believe and how we live. Below you can find statements from our **Membership Statement of Faith** and corresponding verses from the Bible that guide our church and our Family Dedication process.



At Bible Center Church we believe all people are uniquely broken, and no person is beyond the hope of the gospel. We are committed to speaking the truth in love at all times, including when we discuss these issues. The grace of God in Christ is sufficient to forgive all sexual sins and to give every gospel-believer the power to make holy choices. *Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 4:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:11*

God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in His own image—equal in worth and dignity—distinct, similar, and interdependent as male and female. The divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original design and are meant for human good and flourishing. *Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Galatians 3:26-29*

We believe God has designed marriage to be a covenantal relationship in the eyes of God and in the eyes of the law. It's a sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman (as husband and wife), and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and His bride, the Church. *Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 22:1-14; John 2:1-12; Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:21-33; Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 19:6-8*

God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage. As a wonderful gift from God, sexual intimacy is to be expressed between a man and a woman within the commitment and love of a marital relationship. Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy or activity is contrary to God's perfect gift and design for the marriage covenant. *Genesis 39:7-12; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Judges 19:22-23; 2 Samuel 11:1-12:15; Job 31:1; Proverbs 5:15-23; 6:20-7:27; Matthew 5:27-30; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-7:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-10*

If you feel like this does not describe you today, we would like to meet with you and help you in your spiritual journey of knowing, loving, and obeying God. Please click the link below and we will arrange a time that best fits your schedule.

**Contact:** Pastor Matt Garrison ([mgarrison@biblecenterchurch.com](mailto:mgarrison@biblecenterchurch.com)) or Early Childhood Director, Katie Ferrari ([kferrari@biblecenterchurch.com](mailto:kferrari@biblecenterchurch.com)).



## **Dedicating your and your family to the Lord**

Have you placed your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, trusting in Him for salvation?

Are you actively growing in your relationship with God?

Will you commit to regularly attending church and actively participating in opportunities for spiritual discipleship and growth?

Do you have any concerns with Bible Center's Membership Statement of Faith?

Do you have a group to love and support you on this journey of spiritual growth and parenting?

How will you provide opportunities for your child to learn about the Lord through hearing, understanding, and applying the Bible?

Will you model a devotion to the Lord and a commitment to personal purity as you parent and love your child?

Do you have any questions or concerns about family dedication that cause you pause?

## **Preparing for the Family Dedication Service**

Register on [our website](#) for the next Family Dedication service, and attend the required class prior to the dedication.

On the day of the dedication, plan to arrive 20 minutes before the service to meet with the pastor and other families to prepare for the morning.



## **Answering Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Do I need to attend a Dedication Class?**

- Yes. All parents must attend one dedication class at Bible Center Church. Once parents attend the class for a child, they may not need to attend again for other children. If you attended the class with a different child we will have a brief conversation with both parents prior to the dedication.

### **Do I need to be a member to dedicate my child?**

- You do not need to be a member of Bible Center Church to have your child dedicated.
- We ask parents to call Bible Center their home church, because in dedicating your child to God, you are stating that you are willing to partner with God and the Church to raise your child in cooperation with God's intentions.
- Partnering with any church, a parent would be wise to decide if he or she agrees with its beliefs and vision so they can fully participate in their partnership with the church. A link to our Membership Statement of Faith is located here:  
<https://www.biblecenterchurch.com/msf/>

### **At what age can a child take part in a dedication service?**

- Bible Center Church does not have an age requirement for children participating in Family Dedication. The average age for a child being dedicated is less than one year old, although a parent may dedicate older children for reasons like:
  - The parent is a new believer in Christ and the child was not dedicated when they were infants.
  - The parent is having a younger child dedicated and wants to have their older child dedicated at the same time.
  - The child was adopted into your family at a later age.

### **How do I sign up for dedication?**

Read through the provided informational packet.

If you align with all information provided, register your family at [BibleCenterChurch.com](https://www.biblecenterchurch.com).

If you have questions about any of the information provided please reach out to Pastor Matt Garrison or Katie Ferrari.



### **Can I invite family and friends to the service?**

- Yes. This is a great opportunity for others to become familiar with your faith, beliefs, and commitment to Christ in your home.
- We welcome everyone to come and see what God is doing through your family.

### **Can a single parent, grandparent or guardian dedicate their child?**

- Yes! Child dedication signifies the commitment of any parent or guardian living a biblical lifestyle to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- We seek to support those who are loving their kids with the love of Christ. We see all you are doing and recognize how difficult it can be. Because of this, we commit ourselves to you and willingly support you in laying a spiritual foundation for your family.

### **What should I wear?**

We welcome you to wear whatever is most comfortable for you and your family.

### **Will we receive a certificate of dedication?**

Yes. A few weeks after the service, we will send you a certificate via mail.

### **Is there a cost for dedication?**

Not at all!