

## **AC3 Parent/Child Dedication – One on One Hand Out**

*“Congratulations on the gift of parenthood!*

*We look forward to partnering with you on your family’s faith journey at AC3.”*

Welcome /Introductions

Our Families, The Early Days

Biblical Model of Dedication and Overview

1. How to Raise a Child

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 reads: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” Also see Psalm 78:1-10 | It Takes a Community

2. Biblical Basis for “Dedication” – Ceremonies and rituals help us remember

*1 Samuel 1 - Hannah dedicated her son Samuel to God*

*Luke 2 – Joseph and Mary dedicated Jesus to God*

3. Invite the Community In – We Need Each Other

*Luke 2:25-40 Simeon & Anna    Luke 2:41-52 Jesus grew in wisdom    Esther 2:15 Adoption/Family*

4. What’s the Difference Between Baptism and Dedication?

*Mark 1:5, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12*

*Ephesians 2:8-9 Dedication doesn’t secure a child’s salvation.*

Five Essentials for Creating a Faith-Filled Legacy

1. Imagine the \_\_\_\_END\_\_\_\_ in order to stay focused on the big picture.
2. \_\_\_\_FIGHT\_\_\_\_ for the heart of your child.
3. Make it \_\_\_\_PERSONAL\_\_\_\_ and let kids see what God is doing in the lives of their own parents.
4. Create a \_\_\_\_RHYTHM\_\_\_\_ so time together as a family will nurture an everyday faith.
5. \_\_\_\_WIDEN\_\_\_\_ the circle and make sure kids have additional influences to guide them.

*“...So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.”*

*Psalm 78:4-7 (NLT)*

Kreek Kids Co-op Mission: To partner with parents in their families so that kids can KNOW, GROW and SHOW God’s Love!

**FAQ about our Kreek Kids Co-op and Fast Track @** <http://ac3.org/#/kids-youth/k-k-a-co-op-venture>

**Find us on Facebook @** <https://www.facebook.com/AC3KreekKidsCoOp>

**Next Step Opportunities at AC3:** <http://ac3.org/#/next-steps>

**Choose one or two Home Challenge Questions to do at home:** (from class outline)

Close in Prayer

## FAQ about Child Dedication

### *Q. What is Child Dedication?*

A. Child dedication is a public commitment before God, your church, and your family. The dedication service provides you, the parent(s), an opportunity to publically express your desire to lead and spiritually nurture your child in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, so your child will develop a desire to love God and love others.

Having a child dedicated should not be confused with salvation. Dedicating your child to the Lord does not secure his/her eternal destiny. The Bible tells us that salvation is by faith alone and not by works. Each of us must make our own personal decision of faith. As your child grows he/she must make their own decision to trust Jesus Christ as their savior. You cannot do it for them. What you can do is be a godly role model for them by living a life of faith and parenting them in a Christ-centered atmosphere that will lead them towards Jesus Christ.

*John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

### *Q. Is a child capable of making a faith decision?*

A. Absolutely! Jesus made it clear that His message of hope is not only for adults but also for children and that they have the capacity to trust Him. That is why we think it is very important as a church to partner with parents in their child's faith journey.

*Mark 10:13-15 - People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

In the Bible, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But He did not baptize them. The Elders of Allen Creek strongly suggest that children be at least 12 years old in order to make the decision to be baptized, a confirmation of making their faith their own. Find out more about AC3's position on baptism online @ <http://ac3.org/> Look for 'Kids' and then 'Downloads & INFO'.

### *Q. Do I need to be an AC3 member to have my child dedicated at AC3?*

A. You do not need to be an AC3 member to have your child dedicated in a group or public ceremony at AC3. We do ask that a parent(s) be a Christ follower themselves and challenge families to make sure they call AC3 their home church. Why? In dedicating your child to God, you are stating that you are willing to partner with God and our church community to raise your child in cooperation with God's intentions. To partner with any church, a parent would be wise to decide if he or she agrees with its beliefs and vision. You can discover more about AC3 and our beliefs @ <http://ac3.org/content/Discover>

### *Q. What can I expect during a child dedication, where is it held and what time should I arrive?*

A. Our child dedication service has been compared to a wedding service where, rather than a bride and groom, parents express their vows and desire to raise their children in a God-honoring way before God, their family, and their local church body. Pastor Rick or Dan will then pray for your children and your commitment as parents to help guide them along in their own Christ-centered faith journey.

Child dedication is held in the AC3 auditorium. You should plan on arriving about 20 min. before the main service time. Sit toward the front right hand side. If changes or additional directions need to be given, it will be done during this time.

Pictures are usually taken by our camera team and can be made available to you as a special memento of your family's milestone event. If you do not wish to have your child's picture posted on the internet, please let us know that at our child dedication class or by emailing [twila@ac3.org](mailto:twila@ac3.org).