**CEDARCREEK KIDS**

**Child Dedications Family Meeting**

**Meeting Goal –** To build a relationship with parents/guardians to understand their family and story in order to encourage a best next step.

**Family Introduction –** Start with prayer as you trust the Spirit to guide the conversation. Use the following to help navigate and progress the meeting.

* Thanks for your interest in Child Dedication.
* Tell me about your family?
  + How long have you been together?
  + How many children do you have?
  + How do you have fun as a family?
  + What is your family celebrating right now?
  + What is your family challenged with right now?
  + What are some of your parenting goals?
* Tell me about your personal faith journey?
  + When did Jesus become more than a name to you?
  + When did you first receive God’s grace?
  + How are you trusting God more every day?
  + How long have you been attending?
  + How are you connected?

**Next Steps –** Help the parents move towards their best next step on the Spiritual Journey. For some this will be Child Dedication, for others there is a more appropriate next step. Before Child Dedication, we want to ensure the parents have embraced Knowing God and Finding Freedom.

* Know God – If the parents have not received God’s grace and do not have a personal relationship with Him:
  + What is holding them back? Offer to pray with the parents to receive Christ.
  + Encourage regular weekend attendance where they can begin to Know God. Discuss resources and next steps like baptism, Living It Out, journaling, GrowthTrack workbook, YouVersion plans, etc.
  + Before parents can raise their child to Know God they must have a personal relationship with him. Their child will learn who God is by watching them.
* Find Freedom – If the parents are unrepentant or refusing to turn from sin that conflicts with following Jesus and all the good He has for them:
  + Discuss marriage for unmarried couples
  + Discuss the Biblical sexual ethic
    - Honor God with your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
    - Don’t be mastered by anything (1 Corinthians 6:12)
    - Don’t sexualize a relationship outside of marriage (Hebrews 13:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)
  + Discuss Celebrate Recovery
  + Discuss professional counseling and offer our referrals
  + Discuss Group life and open up the directory

Based on where the parents are in their Spiritual Journey, create a follow-up plan to offer encouragement and support as they take healthy next steps. Dedication may be a great next step in the future.

**Child Dedications** – If both parents Know God and are learning to trust him more and more every day, discuss our dedication vision and process.

What is Dedication?

* A Jewish custom that is no longer required due to Jesus’ finishing work of salvation; however, it still provides an opportunity for parents to make a commitment before God and a community of believers.
* A Discover Purpose step in the spiritual journey. Parents understand that their children are a gift from God and that their purpose as a parent is to raise them to love Jesus and love others.
* You are entrusting your child to God and placing them under His sovereign care and ultimate authority. We follow the example of Jesus’ dedication (Luke 2:21-22.)
* Dedication is different than baptism. Baptism always follows an individual's personal decision to trust Christ as their Savior. We look forward to celebrating your child's baptism with you when they make a personal decision for Jesus.

How do parents live this out?

* Parenting is an adventure. We ask that you commit to introduce your child to Jesus and the life-changing adventure with him.
* As your child grows, you have the privilege of guiding them on the Spiritual Journey of Knowing God, Finding Freedom, Discovering Purpose and Making a difference.
* We ask that you commit:
  + To be parents of personal faith devoted to knowing God and learning to trust him more every day; recognizing the way you live out your faith will impact your child’ relationship with God. (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)
  + (If Married) To honor your marriage covenant and vows and pursue a life-giving relationship with your spouse; recognizing that one of the best gifts you can give your child is a healthy marriage. (Ephesians 5:21-33)
  + To receive your child with gratitude and joy; recognizing their personality, strengths, and uniqueness are God’s gift to you and your family. (Psalm 127:3-5)
  + To stay engaged in a life-giving church experiencing community and discovering your gifts to make a difference; recognizing this is a necessity for wellbeing and growth for both you and your child. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
  + To lead a faith-filled home that honors God in all thoughts, actions and relationships and to raise your child with biblical love, instruction and discipline; recognizing the home as the primary place faith is nurtured. (Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 22:6)

How do we help you live this out?

* Weekend Adult Experience – We provide a weekly Know God service to invest in your personal relationship with God and each other.
* CedarCreek Kids – We provide a fun and safe experience for you and your child to feel known, cared for and connected. As your child grows, we desire to partner with you as teammates on their Spiritual Journey. We also provide parenting resources to help encourage and equip you along the way such as:
  + Family Faith Plan
  + Preschool and Elementary sites
  + Family Ministry Monthly Email
* Groups – We encourage you stay connected in Group life to continue to find freedom and encouragement. Our semester, free-market structure provides tons of opportunities for couples’ groups or individual groups as your schedule and season of life allow.
* GrowthTrack & DreamTeam – Our monthly GrowthTrack experience gives you an opportunity to learn about the unique ways God has graced you with gifts and talents. Joining a DreamTeam allows you to use those gifts and talents to make a difference within the church, your home, your workplace and your relationships.

What does the Child Dedication experience look like?

* Dedications take place in January and September on the 2nd weekend of the month.
* We will ask your family to come on stage so we can introduce you to the church, celebrate this important next step, give you an opportunity to make this parenting commitment publicly, and pray with you.
* You will publicly agree to the following commitment:

*“Do you commit to be parents of personal faith devoted to knowing God and learning to trust him more every day, to receive your child with gratitude and joy, to stay engaged in a life-giving church experiencing community and discovering your gifts to make a difference, to lead a faith-filled home that honors God in all thoughts, actions and relationships and to raise your child with biblical love, instruction and discipline, and if married, to honor your marriage covenant and vows and pursue a life-giving relationship with your spouse. If so, say ‘we do.’”*

**Questions –** Give parents and opportunity to ask questions and process any concerns.

**Pray –** Pray with the family and ensure them you will be in touch to follow up with any recommended next steps and/or dedication information as the event gets closer.