Child Dedication Service

INTRODUCTION:

Children are a gift from God.

The Bible says: "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." (Psalm 127:3-5)

Hannah dedicated Samuel to the LORD - "For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there." (I Samuel 1:27-28)

Though this time of dedication is called a baby dedication, it is really a parent dedication, as _____ and _____ publically dedicate themselves to rear their child for the glory of God.

The dedication of a child involves at least four commitments on the part of the parents:

I. To teach (child's name) God's Word

Deut. 6:6-7 - "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Psalm 78:4-7 - "We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should

make them known to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."

Isaiah 54:13 - "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

II. To love and bring up (child's name) God's way

Ephes. 6:4 - "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Proverbs 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

III. To discipline (child's name) consistently, faithfully, and lovingly

Proverbs 29:15, 17 - "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. . . Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

(Cp. Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13)

IV. To encourage _(child's name)_ to trust Jesus Christ at an early age

Matthew 19:14 - "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Commitment Questions

1. Do you view _____ as a gift from God?

2. Will you be faithful to your responsibility to teach ____ God's Word, and to set the right example for him/her?

3. Do you now dedicate yourself to love and train _____ so that he/she will grow up to walk in the way that he/she should go?

4. Will you lovingly discipline _____ the way God says to so that he/she will learn right from wrong and be a respectful, obedient son/daughter?

5. Will you encourage _____ to trust Jesus Christ as Savior at an early age and to follow Him as Lord all the days of his life?

Note Christ's blessing upon children:

> "And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:16)

Prayer of Dedication

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