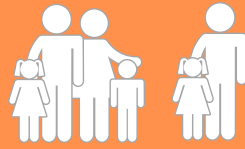




# INFANT & ADOLESCENT MILESTONES



## PARENT DEDICATION



### < Who >

Parent dedication events are for anyone who has been given the awesome responsibility of providing spiritual parenting to an infant or child. If you find yourself in this position and will commit to showing your child(ren) who God is, our parent dedication events are for you.

### < Why >

We believe that in order to receive new life in Christ, an individual must personally believe the Gospel, choose to repent of sin, and fully submit their life to Christ in the waters of baptism (John 3:16; Matt. 28:18-20; Act 2:38). While we believe that God is gracious towards those who can't yet comprehend their need for a Savior, almost all of us eventually come to a point where we are able to decide whether or not we will follow Jesus.

According to God's word in scriptures, it is a parent's responsibility to raise their children in a way that points them to God (Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6; Eph. 6:4). The goal is that one day our children would make the same decision we did - to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Participation in this event makes it clear to the rest of the church that you have chosen to lead your family towards Jesus.

The function of the local church is to "equip the saints [believers] for the work of ministry." For parents that ministry starts at home. These events are a great way to begin a partnership between the church and home.

### < What >

At parent dedication events, parents will have the opportunity to stand up in front of the entire body of believers at New Hope and verbally commit to leading their homes in a way that points their child(ren) towards God. Completion of a parent training pathway is required before participating in the event.

### < When >

It is never too early or too late to commit to raising your child(ren) to know and love God. Once you have decided to make this a personal ministry of your life, you are ready to participate in a parent dedication event.

### < How >

Parent dedication events occur throughout the year. Pay attention to the announcements (website, bulletin, Next-Steps Wall, etc) to find out when the next event is scheduled.

**NEW HOPE** CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
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# BAPTISM

If you are considering talking with your child about committing their life to Christ, you might also be wondering how the topic of Baptism fits in the picture. You might also be wondering whether or not your child is ready to make such a BIG commitment. We can understand why these conversations can be scary as a parent. As parents ourselves, we wrestle with a lot of the same questions. Hopefully the information and tips listed below will prove helpful to you and your family. If you have any additional questions, please contact one of the Family Pastors.

The Family Ministry Team | **NEW HOPE**

## What Baptism Is

Baptism functions as a public faith event where we turn to Christ and visually express that: (1) we need to be rescued from our sin, (2) only through Jesus Christ's death can we die to sin and be freed from our old self, and (3) only through Jesus Christ's resurrection can we obtain a new way of life with Him. When we are submerged and then brought back up, it symbolizes the cleansing death to sin and resurrection to new life in Christ. (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:1-7)

## What Baptism is Not

- A 'get out of jail free' card. There is no power in Baptism apart that found through a sincere faith in Jesus Christ.
- Something we do to earn salvation. Any work required for our salvation was done by Jesus when He lived a perfect life on earth, died on a cross, and rose back to life. We are only responding to accept the life Jesus offers us.

## What happens in baptism?

In Baptism, by the working of Jesus, we are forgiven of sin and given the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). With the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us, we are made able to live a new kind of life. (Romans 6:1-4, 8:1-2), we are spiritually united to the church (1Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27-28) and continually built up to serve (1Corinthians 12:4-11).

## Questions for Kids

- ASK: Why do you want to be baptized? (Your child may give any number of answers to this question. Use their answer to gauge where your child is in this decision.)
- ASK: Who is Jesus? Why did He die? (He is God's son. He died to pay the penalty for our sins, so our relationship with God could be fixed.)
- ASK: What is sin? What are some of your sins? (Sin is anything about us that is less than God created us to be. None of us live exactly how God created us to so we have all sinned - Rom. 3:23)
- Ask: Why is the Bible important? (It teaches us who God is, who we are, how He is rescuing the world from sin, and what He wants us to do in response.)

## Questions for Parents

- Does your child understand who Jesus is and why He died?
- Has your child shown an evident pattern of remorse or conviction for the sin in their life?
- Is your child mature enough mentally and emotionally to realize that baptism doesn't represent a one-time decision but a life-long commitment?
- Have you refrained from excessively "pushing" your child towards Baptism? Have you let the Holy Spirit work through the Gospel message in leading your child to wanting to take this step to Jesus?
- Is your child persistent about wanting to be baptized or did they mention it once and never again since?

## Infant Baptism

Because we do not believe that babies can comprehend the Gospel or freely choose to follow Jesus, New Hope does not practice infant baptism. It is our belief that children are safe and covered under God's grace until they mature enough to understand the consequences of sin and can freely choose whether they will choose to follow Jesus or not.

## SOME IMPORTANT TEXTS ABOUT BAPTISM

- **Jesus' Example** of Being Baptized (Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)
- **Jesus' Command** to Baptize When Making Disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)
- **The Common Pattern of Response** to the Gospel in the Early Church (Acts 2:41, 8:35-38, 9:18, 16:14-15, 16:30-34)
- **Teachings/Statements from the Apostles** about Baptism (Romans 6:1-14; Acts 2:32-41; 1Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27-28; Ephesians 4:1-6; Colossians 2:9-15; 1Peter 3:18-22)