

First Kids Ministry is so excited to help you welcome your new little one! Family dedication is the first of many spiritual milestones you will mark in you child's life.

The tradition of family dedication has its roots in Scripture. Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus when he was just eight days old.

In our tradition, family dedication is an opportunity for Christian parents to commit to raise their child to know and love the Lord. It's also a chance for the larger church family to commit to walk alongside parents in that journey.

Parents work with kids' ministers to choose a date and service. Then they share some information and a picture and select a life verse for their child.

Let us know when you'd like to schedule this special day for your family! We look forward to partnering with you in this and in the years to come!

> Kristin & Shelley kristin.prasad@fbchsv.org shelley@fbchsv.org

## **Family Dedication FAQs**

Is there a specific age at which my child should be dedicated?

No. Children may be dedicated at any age, but we recommend doing it early!

In cases of adoption, kids are sometimes older, and that's just fine!

May I dedicate multiple children at the same time?

Yes! Siblings may be dedicated together.

What is a life verse?

Parents choose a verse or short passage that they believe will be significant in their child's life. If you need help choosing a verse, we have a list of ideas to get you started.

Does FBC Huntsville baptize infants?
We do not. As Baptists, we believe that baptism is a public profession of a personal faith. The significance of our family dedication is similar to baptism in other faith traditions.

May family participate?
Yes! We encourage siblings to stand up front for the dedication. Be sure to invite extended family and friends to be in the congregation that day.

What if I'm a single parent?
We applaud your commitment and welcome you to participate in family dedication.



Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
they are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me;
the Bible tells me so.

Preschoolers learn 3 basic truths in their Sunday morning classes:
God made me.
God loves me.
Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Two-year-olds love to sing! As they learn that God loves them, they sing the classic song, "Jesus Loves Me" in their class each Sunday morning. They also learn motions to reinforce the words.

When twos have learned the song and motions, we celebrate this sweet milestone in their young lives.



Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:4

First Baptist Huntsville offers two worship services on Sunday mornings, a contemporary service in the Life Center at 8:05 AM and a traditional service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 AM. Kids are welcome in both services, and a kids' message is presented in each.

We provide optional worship care for kids before they enter kindergarten.
Once they are in kindergarten (even if they wiggle and their attention wavers!), we encourage them to participate alongside the larger family of faith.

We believe that kids are a vital part of the worshiping community. They frequently provide leadership in worship - by praying, singing, collecting offering and reading Scripture.



Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed by your name.
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus gave his disciples this prayer as a model on which to base their own prayers. As pre-k kids learn to communicate with God through prayer, they will memorize the Lord's Prayer. Through these words, they will practice adoration, confession, forgiveness and daily reliance on God.



Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105

God's Word is a precious gift through which he reveals himself to mankind. The Bible is full of true stories and of wisdom that is relevant to our daily lives. It tells about God at work throughout history and is available to every individual to be interpreted under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

When kids are in first grade, they are beginning to read on their own, and there are no more important words to read that those in the Bible.

In August, first graders participate in a special service during which they receive their own Bibles. They are entreated to open and read the Word of God and learn from it.

During their Sunday morning Bible study each week, kids discover how to navigate their Bibles - learning to look up verses and passages.

Kids who join First Kids after August of their first grade year can get a Bible too! Just let us know you'd like one.



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tlmothy 3:16-17

The better we know our Bibles, they better able we are to navigate them! 4th and 5th graders will learn the books of the Bible so that they can easily locate Scripture passages in their Bibles.

They will learn to identify the major categories of Bible books law, history, poetry, major prophets, minor prophets, gospels, church history, letters and prophecy - and understand how to interpret verses and passages based on style and context.

### **Old Testament**

39 books

Genesis

Exodus Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Joshua Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Job

**Psalms** 

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Hosea

Joel

**Amos** 

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah Malachi

**New Testament** 

27 books

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

**Ephesians** 

**Philippians** 

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Tlmothy

2 Tlmothy

**Titus** 

Philemon

Hebrews James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation



For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

5th and 6th graders will spend 4 weeks each year focusing on the "basics" of Christianity. They will explore salvation, baptism, communion, and what it means to be a disciple.

These lessons are designed to review and solidify their understanding of some of the basic tenets of Christian faith and how we live those out in the context of First Baptist Huntsville.

As their understanding grows, kids will be able not only to understand these concepts but to explain them to others. They will begin to articulate their own faith stories and discover how to take next steps to become faithful followers of Jesus.



If you declare with your mouth,
"Jesus is Lord," and believe in your
heart that God raised him from the
dead, you will be saved.
Romans 10:9

God sent his son, Jesus, to earth to live a perfect life and become a sacrifice for our sins. It is up to each of us to accept or reject Jesus's sacrifice on our behalf.

People make the decision to follow
Jesus at many different stages of life some as young children, some at the
end of their lives. We rejoice when kids
make that decision and have the rest of
their lives to grow in their relationship
with Jesus!

If your child has made that decision, please let us know so that we can celebrate with you! If he or she has questions, share your own experience and wisdom. If you'd like to involve a kids' minister, we love to be part of faith conversations. Let us know, and we'll get together!

Kristin & Shelley kristin.prasad@fbchsv.org shelley@fbchsv.org



We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

Baptism is a way to "go public" with your faith. Once you have made a decision to make Jesus the Lord of your life, it's important to share that decision with others. Baptism offers an opportunity to declare your decision publicly.

Baptism is a symbol, and it is not necessary for salvation. Baptism reminds us that through Jesus's sacrifice, we are washed clean from our sins. It symbolizes the death of our old way of life with us in charge and the start of a new life with Jesus as Lord.

When you are ready to be baptized, meet one of the ministers at the end of a worship service (or make an appointment for another time). They will want to hear your faith story and celebrate your decision. You may choose which service to be baptized in and which minister will baptize you.

## **Baptism FAQs**

Is there a specific age at which my child should be baptized?

There is no best age, however, we recommend that kids are old enough to understand symbolism, since baptism is a symbolic act. The crucial prerequisite to baptism is a personal relationship with Jesus. A kids' minister will talk to your child about his or her faith decision, but we rely heavily on the parents' assessment of their child's spiritual readiness.

What if my child was already baptized as an infant?

Infant baptism is a common practice in other faith traditions, and we honor that act. Baptism in our context represents a public declaration of a personal decision to follow Jesus. We can "rebaptize" an individual who was baptized as an infant without dishonoring the initial act.

What if I'm not sure if my child is ready to be baptized?

Make an appointment for your child to meet with Kristin or Shelley. You may be present for this meeting or not - your choice. We're happy to advise you and help your child take next steps in faith.

> Kristin & Shelley kristin.prasad@fbchsv.org shelley@fbchsv.org



#### What is communion?

Communion, also known as The Lord's Supper, is a celebration of Jesus's sacrifice for us. When we eat the bread and drink the juice, it reminds us that Jesus sacrificed His body through death on a cross and shed His blood to pay for our sins.

# When should a person take communion?

Communion is a celebration for all who believe that Jesus is Lord and accept His sacrifice on their behalf. At First Baptist Huntsville, we invite everyone to participate who understands the symbolism of the bread and the cup and has made a personal decision to follow Jesus.

For your first time receiving communion, we invite you and your family to come to the center table at the front of the room. A minister will recognize the occasion and present you with a special commemorative cup.

Be sure to find a kids' minister after your first communion and get your milestone sticker!

## The History of Communion

Communion has its roots in the Old Testament. When God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He commanded them to bake unleavened bread and to slaughter a perfect lamb. The blood of the lamb was painted on the doorframe to signal that God would pass over that house, sparing its inhabitants from death. (Read more in Exodus 12.) God instructed the Israelites to celebrate Passover each year so that they would remember how He rescued them from slavery and death.

Just before Jesus was arrested, He and His disciples celebrated Passover together. As He shared the meal, Jesus revealed a deeper meaning for the elements. The Bible refers to Jesus as the Bread of Life and the Lamb of God. With His death and shed blood, Jesus became the sacrifice that spares us from death and rescues us from bondage to sin. (Read more in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23.)

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:23b-25