

# PHASE

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## Future *disciples*

CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD, OFFSPRING A REWARD FROM HIM. - PSALM 127:3

### What's it About

I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.<sup>28</sup> So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there. - 1 Samuel 1:27-28

We, as Christians, have a tremendous responsibility given to us when the Lord blesses us with a child. By doing so, He entrusts us with the responsibility of raising that child in the way of the Lord and establishing early in his life, a foundation built upon Jesus Christ. The church wants to be there with you as you start this new chapter of your life. We want to encourage, strengthen and be a support to you as you undertake this new responsibility.

The Future Disciples service is a way for the church to celebrate this new addition to your family and to let

you know that we are here for you. The Future Disciples service is also a way in which the church can help promote purposeful parenting and also strengthen the family. This is a part of our Phase Ministry. Phase is all about “leveraging distinct opportunities to influence a person’s future.” We believe the birth of a child is a very distinct opportunity and we, the church, want to encourage and support you!

The dedication of your family is a serious matter. If you have any questions Dale Warren is our elder in charge of this service and he would be glad to talk to you. Amanda Leech, the church secretary, can also answer any questions you have.

### Timeline

- December 31 - Turn in your blessing and Pictures
- January 21 - Blessing Ceremony

### Future Disciples Service

- 5:00 - We start
- Show slideshow and elders read letters
- Reception afterward

# Helpful Guidelines

Some Helpful Guidelines as you write your child's dedication.

## Proverbs 22:6

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

Answers to all of these questions don't have to be in the letter to your child but these might help prompt you to write a purposeful letter.

What is your vision for your child's life?

What are you praying for your child?

Is there a special Scripture that you have for your child?

What type of godly characteristics do you want your child to display?

# An Example

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Where do we even begin? Although you have only been with us for a few months, we cannot imagine our lives without you. You are a reminder of God's perfect creation and a miraculous example of His handiwork. Ever since the day that you surprised us on that pregnancy test, we have been lifting you up in prayer. We have been praying that we can raise you in such a way that it will be easier for you to eventually give your life back to your Creator. As we get to know you more and more each day, we can tell that you have a sweet spirit and gentle nature. It is our dream for you to use your calm demeanor and contagious laugh to be a peacemaker in this troubled world and shine the light of Christ with your pure heart. You are a very good baby and you have been very graceful to us as we adjust to being a family of four. Thank you for being patient with your older sister, \_\_\_\_\_, who is still so young herself and doesn't always understand what it means to be gentle. We know that she loves you very much and that she is excited to have a little sister. We pray that the two of you will grow to be best friends and playmates, and we hope that you will always be there for one another as sisters in our family, and as sisters in Christ.

As we cuddle with you in our arms, we want so much for good things to come your way in life. We pray that you will find happiness and experience good health. We hope that you find fulfillment in your hobbies, goals, and aspirations and that you experience a successful life full of joy and prosperity. However, more than any of these things, we pray so desperately that you will have a relationship with Jesus Christ and that you will let that relationship be the center of your life and the purpose of your existence here on this earth. We pray that you will seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, knowing that everything else will work out in His timing.

We know that we will make mistakes as parents and we will not always reflect the perfect love of the Heavenly Father that you have above. However, by the grace of God, we will strive to train and bring you up in the Lord, and to foster within you a love and passion for His Word and help you see the importance of your church family. We hope that no matter what comes your way here in this life, you will always be assured of our love for you, and the love that your Heavenly Father has for you. We love you so much, and no amount of messes could ever change that! You and your sister are the best thing that has ever happened to us, and we pray you will always know and feel our love. May God bless you with many years of faithful service in His Kingdom!

With love, Your mom and dad