



## **Child Dedication @ West Ridge Community Church**

West Ridge celebrates with you in the unique, priceless gift of your child and we would like to partner with you in your child's spiritual formation all throughout your parenting journey.

The Child Dedication service provides parents with an opportunity to express publicly their desire to raise their children in God's ways and to look for community support.

Child Dedication is a public commitment you make before God, your church, and your family. This commitment goes beyond a one-time experience. It is a commitment that lasts throughout many seasons of your child's life.

Listed below are frequently asked questions about child dedication. If you have more questions, please feel free to contact Jimena Plazola, Children's Ministry Director, at [Jimena@westridgechurch.com](mailto:Jimena@westridgechurch.com)

### **Do I need to be a member to have my child dedicated at West Ridge?**

No. West Ridge is a unique church where there is no membership. You come as you are and are part of our church body for as long as you call West Ridge your home. We are honored that you are considering to partner with us in your children's spiritual development and trust that you agree with our beliefs and values and we become your home church.

### **Do you have Child Dedication classes or meetings required?**

No. You are not required to take any classes for this ceremony. Your desire to raise your children in God's ways are enough and we are here to be your support and walk alongside you during your child-rearing years.

There is a meeting required the day of the ceremony and all details will be sent once you have signed up.

### **What can I expect during a child dedication ceremony?**

During the Child Dedication service, parents and children will participate towards the end of the Mother's Day service at each of our services. Parents express their commitment to raise their children in God's ways and ask for the church and community's love and support during their parenting journey.

### **What are the Next Steps?**

If you have registered to participate in a scheduled Child Dedication service, you will receive an email approximately six weeks before the date of the service with information regarding the Child Dedication family video and what to expect, including your scheduled dedication time. Two weeks before the dedication you will receive important information about the dedication order and reserved seat assignments as well as last minute details.

### **Does West Ridge baptize infants?**

West Ridge believes Baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, once they have the maturity and ability to understand what that means. Baptism is a declaration of that commitment and comes after making their decision to become a follower of Christ. The New Testament records the baptisms of adult believers only.

West Ridge encourages parents to dedicate their children. In this ceremony, parents formally call upon God's blessing for their child and publicly commit to raise him or her according to what the Bible teaches.

### **At what age can a child take part in a dedication service?**

West Ridge does not have a set age requirement for Child Dedication, children of any age can be dedicated.

### **Can a single parent participate in a child dedication service?**

Yes! Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents (including single parents) to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Christ. Additionally, we highly encourage single parents to dedicate their child as they commit themselves to raise him or her without the presence or partnership of a spouse. The decision to dedicate a child is not dependent upon the beliefs of the ex-spouse; however we encourage single parents to discuss child dedication with their ex-spouse. Ideally, both parents—even if not married—would still commit to the dedication of their child to God.

### **Can parents assign godparents?**

West Ridge does not require godparents to be part of the dedication, but we do welcome parents to invite friends and family members, as well as godparents, committed to supporting them to stand with them during the dedication. The presence of these significant adults symbolizes their commitment to play a supportive role in the child's spiritual development.