Baby Dedication Orientation

Teacher Notes

What Is Baby Dedication?

Baby Dedication is a **commitment between parents and God**—a moment to publicly acknowledge that your child ultimately belongs to the Lord and that you desire to raise them according to God's ways.

It is *not* infant baptism. Unlike baptism, which symbolizes personal faith, **dedication is a parent's declaration of dependence on God** and commitment to spiritual leadership in their home.

A Dedication Prayer

1 Samuel 1:27–28

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD."

Hannah's example reminds us that parenting is not about control, but about surrender. Dedication is a spiritual decision to release your child into God's care and walk faithfully in your role as a parent.

Why a Class?

This orientation is not about planning an event. It's about **laying a spiritual foundation**. Baby Dedication is a beautiful moment—but parenting is a long road. This class equips you with **biblical vision, practical tools, and intentional focus** to parent in a way that honors God.

Table Question

- What does parenting success look like to you?
- Is that kind of success achievable? How?
- Where do you turn for wisdom and guidance in parenting?

(Encourage Scripture-based answers such as: "God's Word," "Our church community," "Prayer and the Holy Spirit's leading.")

Parental Responsibility

God's design is for **parents to be the primary spiritual leaders** of their home. The church is here to support, not replace, that role.

Deuteronomy 6:4–7

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments… are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

This passage shows us four things:

- Start with **your own love for God**
- **Teach diligently**
- **Talk about God throughout the day**
- Build a **spiritual rhythm** in the home

Table Question

If there were only one or two things you could pass on to your child before adulthood, what would they be?

(Encourage heartfelt, spiritual answers like: "A deep love for Jesus," "A heart of compassion," "Integrity and courage.")

Four Essential Parenting Practices

1. Envision Their Future

Before you can lead your child, you need a clear vision of **who you're raising them to become**.

Exodus 19:5–6

"...You will be my treasured possession… a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Ask:

- What kind of character do you hope your child will have?
- What does it look like to raise a child for God's purposes?

Encourage parents to write a vision for their child's spiritual future.

2. Live it YOURSELF

You can't pass on what you don't possess. Children *catch more than they're taught*.

Philippians 3:17

"Join together in following my example... and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do."

Ask:

- What are your children learning by watching you?
- What traits do you model—intentionally or unintentionally?

Have parents reflect: What do you hope your kids "catch" from you?

3. Be INTENTIONAL

Spiritual growth doesn't happen by accident.

Ephesians 6:4

"Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Ask:

- How can you gently and consistently train your children spiritually?
- What tools and conversations can you start now, even at an early age?

Encourage practical ideas: Read a children's Bible, play worship music, pray together before bed.

4. Create a RHYTHM

Faith isn't just for Sundays. God invites us to weave His truth into our everyday life.

Psalm 78:4, 6

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord... so the next generation would know them."

Ask:

- What are natural times in your day to bring up spiritual things?
- What small habits could you start this week?

Examples:

- **At bedtime** – pray or read a Bible story
- **At meals** – give thanks and talk about God's goodness
- **On drives** – share a Scripture or talk about a challenge

Parents brainstorm one simple rhythm they can begin this week.

Homework for Parents

Encourage them to work through this at home:

1. **Write your spiritual vision for your child**
   (Example: "To grow up knowing God, loving people, and standing firm in faith.")
2. **Identify one area you need to grow in personally**
   (Example: "I want to grow in patience and prayer.")
3. **List spiritual tools you'll use**
   (Example: "Bible app, kids devotional, prayer journal, worship playlists.")
4. **Create a new family rhythm this week**
   (Example: "Morning Scripture, bedtime prayer, weekly verse memory.")

Teacher Notes

Encourage conversation. Model vulnerability. Share your own stories of both struggle and breakthrough. Let parents know: **they are not alone**—God is with them, and the church is here to support them.

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