



CENTRAL

Biblical Teaching | Passionate Worship | Authentic Ministry

Dear Parent:

One of the core values of Central is that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path initiative exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been created to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this **Parent Dedication kit** you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you begin the journey well. I urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

We have provided a short video that explains this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of intentional parenting and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider the best resources on the topic. If you would like additional coaching or information about Faith Path, please visit centralbcs.org/faithpath or contact Sherry Maggard, Preschool Director, at smaggard@centralbcs.org.

STEP TWO: START

To help you get started, this kit includes *Praying for My Child* ideas. Go ahead and start a routine in order to turn good intentions into practice.

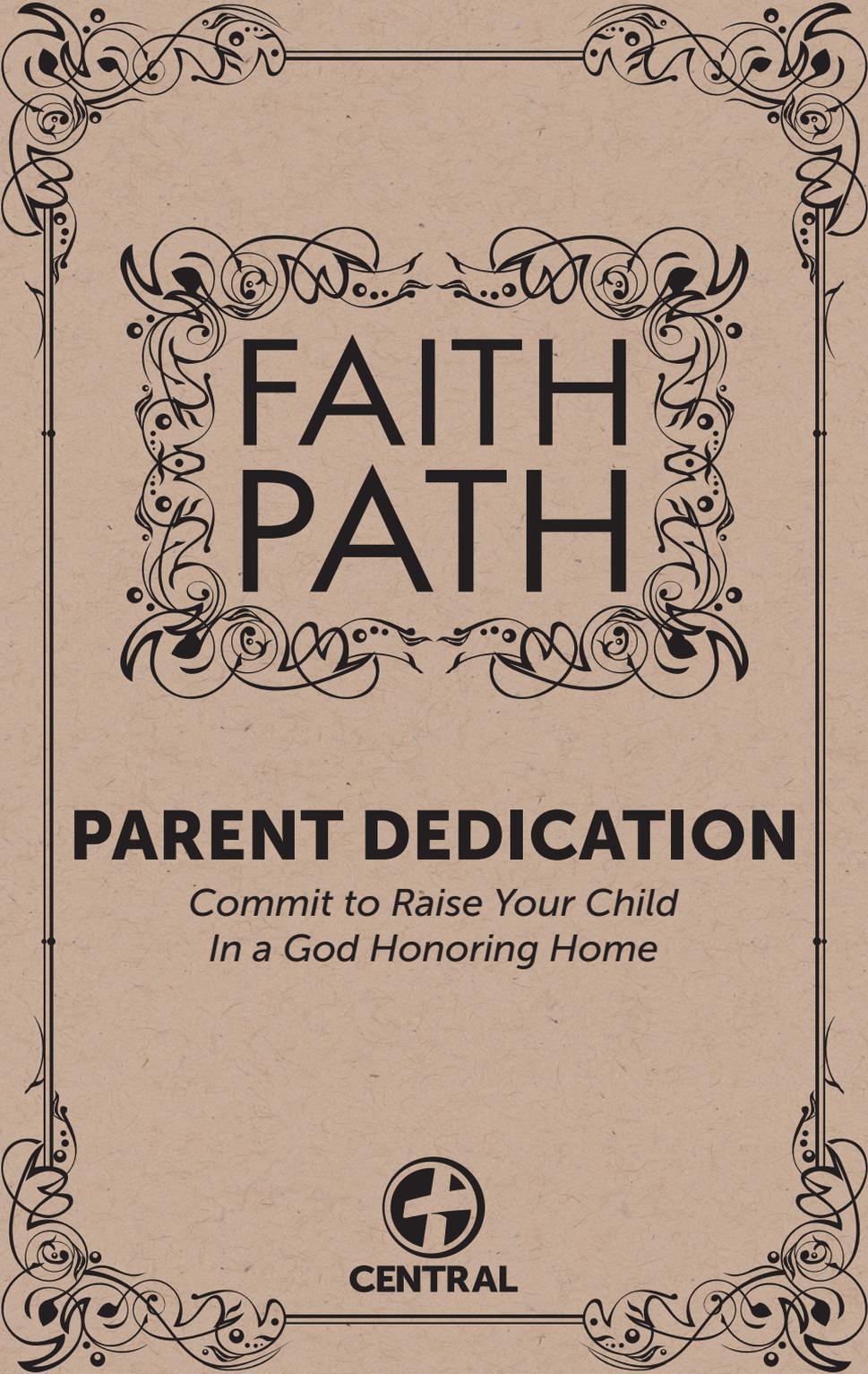
If your child is registered with Central, you will receive the next email on their second birthday explaining how to receive the Blessing kit. To confirm we have correct birthday information on your child, please log into our database at centralbcs.org/realms and update your family profile.

I hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Feel free to visit centralbcs.org/faithpath to learn more or to determine if your child/children are ready for other Faith Path steps.

In Christ,

Phillip Bethancourt
Senior Pastor

PS: Additional resources may be found at centralbcs.org/faithpath/parentdedication.

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FAITH PATH

PARENT DEDICATION

*Commit to Raise Your Child
In a God Honoring Home*



CENTRAL

Congratulations! If you are reading this, your family is participating in Parent Dedication. As a church, we are excited to partner with you as you begin this incredible journey with your child.

What is Parent Dedication?

Parent Dedication is a special time during a weekend service in which you make a formal commitment to raise your child in a Christ-centered home. We see several examples in the Bible such as 1 Samuel 1:24 – 2:10 when Hannah dedicated Samuel at the temple and Luke 2 where Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus. During the weekend service you will be asked to make a public pledge before the congregation that you will raise your child to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ. God designed the home as the primary place for faith to be nurtured. One way that we seek to partner with you is by providing resources throughout your child's spiritual journey. We call this the Faith Path. Parent dedication is the first step.

The Parent's Commitment

Parent Dedication is your commitment to model, teach, and reinforce the Christian Faith. It should not be confused with your child's personal choice to follow Christ. We believe the Bible clearly teaches that each person must decide for themselves to trust in Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10). The age a child is ready to make this personal decision will vary depending on the child.

The Church's Commitment

Parent Dedication is also a time for the church to commit to walk alongside you as you point your child toward Christ. You will receive a gift called My Faith Box to provide ideas each step of the way from birth to age eighteen. It is also a place for keepsake items from your child's spiritual journey.

Parent Dedication Steps

1. Sign up for Parent Dedication at centralbcs.org
2. Attend a Parent Dedication Orientation Class.
3. Participate in an upcoming Parent Dedication Sunday.

Parent Dedication Celebration Ideas

Ideas for making dedication a special time include:

- Have a dinner or celebration time with family and friends before/after the weekend service.
- Invite family members and special family friends to write blessings to your child to put in their My Faith Box. Make sure that you write one, too.
- Record a video message for your child to view in the future. Speak words of affirmation sharing how you are praying for their spiritual journey and how you desire to point them toward Christ. Put the video in your child's My Faith Box. Examples are available for you to watch online. The links are included with this kit. You can also write a letter if that works better for you.

INTENTIONAL FAITH PATH PLAN

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for my child.
- Attend church regularly.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- _____

*Blessing is the next step on the Faith Path
and is recommended at age two.*

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

My Faith Box by Lydia Randall from myfaithbox.org

The Ministry of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson

Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian

FAITH @ Home

centralbcs.org
centralbcs.org/faithathome

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PRAYING FOR MY CHILD

BEST USE

As a guide to pray over your baby

NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Begin the routine of praying for and with your child

INTRODUCTION

One of the most impactful investments we can make in our children's faith formation is the habit of praying for them. Rather than repeating the same simple prayer asking for health, happiness, and safety, consider the ideas on the reverse side to expand your prayer life and establish a meaningful routine.

Prayers from their head to their toes

You can begin praying for your baby during feedings or while he or she falls asleep in your arms. One simple method is to pray "from head to toes" by touching the child gently on the head as you pray and gradually moving your hand all the way down to his or her toes as you pray.

- **Head:** "Give my child wisdom, discernment, and an understanding of Your Word."
- **Eyes:** "Help my child see the truth and guard his/her eyes from impurity."



- **Ears:** "Let him/her listen to the Lord and those in authority."
- **Mouth:** "Help my child speak with truth and honesty and to use his/her words to praise the Lord."
- **Shoulders:** "Let my child cast his/her burdens on the Lord and give him/her friends who will help him/her stand strong."
- **Hands:** "Help my child learn to work as unto the Lord with a servant's heart."
- **Heart:** "Open my child's heart to salvation, a love of scripture, and concern for the people."
- **Feet:** "Inspire my child to follow the Lord all of his/her days."

Praying Scripture

Another method is to begin praying scripture over your child by inserting his or her name. For example, pray Psalm 23 by saying "Lord, be NAME's shepherd so HE/SHE shall not want." When we do this, we align our desires with God's purposes.