



First Steps Class



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Baby Dedication is an opportunity for new parents to focus today on what will affect their child's future the most. CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of your new baby! In the midst of all that is changing in your home with the addition of your new baby, we invite you to take a moment to focus on what really matters most.

No one will have more influence on your child than YOU! We believe that what happens at home is more important than what happens at church. It is our hope that we can partner with you from the very beginning. We want to be your biggest fans, your strongest supporters, and your trusted guides as you raise your child to know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

What we are doing on Baby Dedication is more than an event. It is an opportunity for you to take some time at the beginning of your journey as a parent to really think about what will matter the most in the life of your child; to really talk together and decide what you value and what you can do today that will have the greatest impact on your child.

At TPC we encourage parents to be a member of our church, a member of a community group, and to serve with us as a volunteer on one of our ministry teams. We feel like these criterion are important as a first step for you as parents to understand what we believe and for us to truly be able to partner with you in the spiritual development of your child.

For more information on becoming a member, joining a group or serving please email me at Cindy@forestpointe.org or call me at 704-214-1395.

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The Pointe's First Steps Class will use three parenting messages that we feel will really help you start right now, at the beginning, to do the things that will truly matter the most to you and your child in the future. These early years are incredibly important. Listening to this series and talking about it together with your spouse will be an investment of time that you will never regret.

MESSAGE 1: You are the spiritual leader in your home and your child's greatest guide in understanding what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

MESSAGE 2: The most important relationship in your home is your marriage and its one that will lead to your child's emotional health and confidence in life.

MESSAGE 3: When your children walk out your door to face their futures as adults, what are the values you will have instilled in them? This message will encourage you to really think with the end in mind.

BONUS Track: These early years are unique in that they require your intentional love and attention. We know that parenting is not for the faint of heart, so we wanted to share what we think it takes to raise great preschoolers.

This is by no means the complete word on parenting preschoolers. But it is an opportunity, an opportunity for you to be INTENTIONAL, an opportunity for you, at the very beginning of this new life, to begin with the end in mind. What do you hope they know and never forget?

This is not a guarantee that you will raise perfect children, but a promise that time WILL pass and you will be looking into the eyes of adults some day. What will you wish you had said or done from the very beginning to give them all of the tools they needed?

We would like for you and your spouse to listen to each message, talk about it together, and complete the homework.



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The GRAND FINALE! Actually, it's really just the beginning. Once you have completed STEPS 1 and 2, we would love for you and your family to participate with us in a time of DEDICATION and CELEBRATION.

Baby Dedication is about a commitment to put God first in your home and to trust in Him as your source of direction as you lead your family and parent your child. It is also a time for you and your spouse to share with your closest friends and family what is most important to you and to ask them for their prayer and support.

Our desire is that you will surround yourself with family and friends who will pray for you, support you, give you good advice, listen to your struggles, and when life gets tough, help you remember what matters most. We also hope that you will partner with us every Sunday by encouraging your child to fully participate with us as we create environments to lead him or her into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is also a time of CELEBRATION! A new baby has been born. God has created a new life in this world and that is definitely something to celebrate! You will enjoy cake and punch and take lots of pictures to mark this moment in time.

We want you to create an unforgettable memory of the promise that you've made to lead your child in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ with the people who are there to pray for you and support you as you raise this child.

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What do I need to do prior to Baby Dedication?

- The day of the class, fill out the First Steps Registration form and return to Cindy Horneman.
- Send 5 pictures of your child to Cindy (cindy@forestpointe.org) to be shown in service, on the screen during your child's dedication.
- There will be seats reserved for you and your family/friends on the day of Dedication. Please send the number of people you are expecting for the reserved seats.

What you can expect the day of the Dedication

- Seats will be reserved in the front of the church.
- We will be taking family pictures (immediate family) before the service, and we will take a few pictures of your child's dedication. You will also be able to take pictures.
- There will also be a video made available of the entire dedication.
- You need to arrive 15 minutes before the start of service. Additional family members who come to celebrate can go ahead and sit at this time.

This event is not infant baptism. We believe that when people are old enough to understand what it means to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they should have the opportunity to make that choice for themselves. A preschooler is not able to understand sin, forgiveness, the sacrifice our Savior made for us, and what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This event is about your commitment as a parent to lead your child into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, so that as he gets older, you are able to guide him and to help him understand what that means.



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Baby Dedication

Step 1: Go to the Website

Go to www.kidzpointeonline.org click on "Next Steps." On this page you can download this Baby Dedication packet, along with the 3 messages referenced below. Please listen to the messages, discuss them together, and complete the following homework.

Download and Listen to Message 1: "The most important decision your child will ever make is to place his or her trust in Jesus Christ. No one will have more influence in your child's spiritual life than you."

Homework 1: Make a commitment to pray consistently for your child's salvation. Write a letter letting him know that you are praying for the day he will accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. Save that letter for the day you celebrate his decision to trust Christ or for the celebration of his baptism.

Download and listen to Message 2: "The health of your marriage is one of the most significant influences on the health of your child."

Homework 2: Decide what practical things you will do to make sure your marriage is the priority. Maybe it's committing to an early bedtime for your little one so that you have time to reconnect every day.

Download and listen to Message 3: "Imagine what you want your child to know and who you hope she will become, and decide on two new habits you are going to put in place in your home to ensure that your child is learning what matters most to you."

Homework 3: Make a list of five things that you value and want to pass on to your child. Then decide on two new habits you are going to put in place in your home to ensure that your child is learning what matters most to you.

Step 2: Attend a 30---minute orientation.

Step 3: Attend a Baby Dedication Celebration.