

Elder Home Visit for Child Dedication

The dedication of a child provides opportunities to personally connect with parents and strengthen the partnership between church and home for the discipleship of the next generation. My initial plan was to arrange for an elder to meet with each dedicating family prior to the dedication service. Since both churches I served averaged more than 80 dedicating families per year, adding home visits for every dedicating family was more than we could ask of our elders. Instead, we limited home visits to special circumstances. However, if church leaders have the margin, I recommend this practice. Prior to a home visit, elders would receive summary of the dedication process and a copy of the content currently available in *Dedicated to the Lord* (see Truth78.org).

Date of Visit _____

Location _____

Elder _____

Elder Companion _____

Parent/s Names _____

Child/ren Being Dedicated _____

1. **The checklist below identifies subjects that are relevant to the dedication of children and are what we hope can be explored during the visit. Please check all the subjects that you were able to cover.** (*Keep in mind that parental responses to your queries often raise other questions that should be asked and sometimes call for encouragement, counsel, exhortation, and follow-up of various kinds.*)

- Get to know parent/s and family.
- Understand their relationship to the church: *Are they members? Regular attenders? How long? Any difficulties with the church?*
- Understand the spiritual life of the family: *Are they believers? Are they praying together as a couple? As a family?*
- Pay particular attention to the father. *Is he leading? Is he accountable? Is he spiritually in touch with his wife and his children (if applicable)?*
- Discern the health of the marriage.
- Explore any concerns they have about their child/ren, their marriage.
- What is their support system? Extended family? Friends? Small group?
- Discern if there are ways that we as a church can pray for them, support them, and encourage them as they raise their child/ren.
- Give them an opportunity to ask questions about the dedication process and the dedication promises.

2. **Check the statements below that best fit the conclusions.**

- I heartily support proceeding with the dedication with no reservations.
- I support proceeding with the dedication and suggest that we follow-up as indicated in my comments below.
- I do not recommend that we proceed with the dedication at this time.

3. **The space below is for any additional notes, comments, or follow-up suggestions related to the dedicating parents.**