

Sample Service Outline

Welcome

- Welcome the family (use names of parents and all children)
- Welcome extended family and other special friends who might be visiting the service
- Make mention of those who can't join us today (or those linked via Skype or FaceTime)

Introduction

- Explain this section of the service
 - We are dedicating these children to the Lord and praying that they would come to know and serve him
 - We are dedicating these parents to the Lord and praying that they be given wisdom, understanding, knowledge and ability to raise this child in the way of the Lord
 - We are dedicating ourselves as a church family to be the village that helps to raise this child

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for the gift of this child
- Thanksgiving for the family who will nurture the child

Readings

- Two or three Scripture readings
 - These may be read by the pastor (possibly with brief comment)
 - These may be read by the parents (with personal reflection as to why passage was chosen)
 - These may be read by significant others (family friends, kids' church leader, etc)
- Other optional readings may include a letter to the child from the parents, or a story about why this particular name was chosen for the child.

Questions & Responses

- Parental Promises
- Congregational Promises

Prayer of Dedication & Blessing

- Prayer dedicating child to God's care
- Prayer dedicating parents to fulfil responsibilities
- Prayer dedicating church family to encourage and support the family.

Presentation

- The family is presented with a Dedication Certificate and/or gift (e.g. a Children's Bible)

Invitation to Morning Tea

- The family and the church family continue the celebration over morning tea or lunch.

Example:

Welcome

- Today we welcome John and Heather, their son Thomas, and their new daughter, Lucy Jane.
- We also welcome Grandparents Jack and Joan, who are unable to be with us in person today, but have joined us from London via Skype. It is wonderful that you can be part of this dedication service.

Introduction

- Today John and Heather have come to give thanks for Lucy. We will be dedicating Lucy to the Lord, praying that she would come to know and serve him. We also dedicate John and Heather to God, asking that he would give them wisdom, understanding, knowledge and ability to raise Lucy in the way of the Lord. As a church we dedicate ourselves to setting a godly example for Lucy so that she might one day come to trust in Jesus as her Lord and Saviour.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- *A prayer of thanksgiving for Lucy and her family is made by a close family friend.*

Readings

- Psalm 139
- Deuteronomy 6:4-7

A letter is publicly read to Lucy from John and Heather.

Questions & Responses

To the parents:

- John and Heather, do you recognise that Lucy is a gift from God and both thank God and glorify God for the gift of your daughter?
(We do)
- Do you accept the joys and the responsibilities of parenting, promising to give proper love and care to Lucy throughout her life?
(We do)
- With the help God provides, do you commit to teach Lucy the fullness of God's Word and demonstrate through your own example and witness what it means to love God with all your heart, soul and strength?
(We do)

To the congregation:

- Will you offer your ongoing love, support, prayers and encouragement to John and Heather in their role as Lucy's parents?
(We will)

- Will you also be faithful in praying for Lucy, and, as much as you are able, help teach and set a godly example for her so that she might one day come to trust in Jesus as her Lord and Saviour?

(We will)

Prayer of Dedication & Blessing

- *A prayer of dedication and blessing is made by the pastor.*
- Lucy, may the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Presentation

- On behalf of the church family, we'd like to present you with a certificate of dedication, as well as a gift to remember today's dedication.

Invitation to Morning Tea

- We invite you to continue giving thanks for Lucy over morning tea following the service.