



DEDICATION Milestone

"I'm a parent. Now what?"

Giving Our Children Back to God

*"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of God."*

Mark 10:14

Contents:

1. What is a Baby Dedication?
2. HFFBC Student Ministries Overview
3. What Your Child Can Know About God... NOW
4. Dedication Milestone Gifts
5. The Invitation From the Church to You

A Letter to New Parents

Celebration, Excitement, Encouragement & Hope

Welcome to parenting! Whether this is your first go-around having a child or not your first rodeo, we know that these years can prove to be challenging. But we also think that parenting a child (or multiple children!) can be, and are meant to be, some of the most celebratory, exciting, encouraging, and hopeful times in your life. So as a church here at HFFBC, that is what we are writing to you with today!

First of all then, we **celebrate** the wonderful occasion of you having a new child in your family and life! What an amazing gift from the Lord! There is simply nothing like bringing a new life into the world - this is a time for celebration! Secondly, not only do we wish to celebrate you having a new child, but we also want to communicate genuine **excitement!** While, yes, our independent feathers get ruffled a bit having a new person in our lives to care for, these are some of the most exciting years of life. Your life will never be the same because of _____ who is now in your life! We as a church are excited to come alongside you. Thirdly, no matter how old or young your child is, I'm sure you've already experienced bouts of hopelessness, discouragement, and exhaustion. We are writing to you today to communicate to you **encouragement**. You are not alone! We are a body together who desires to come alongside you and help nurture not only your child, but also care for you as the parent(s). Be encouraged - the church here at HFFBC is with you and the founder of the Church global - Jesus - is with you too.



And lastly, this packet is an extension of **hope** and **partnership from HFFBC to your family**. This is us, the church at-large and student ministry of the church, reaching out to you and letting you know that you are not alone in the raising up of your child to be more like Jesus. We desire nothing more than to come alongside you and invest in your son or daughter's spiritual journey, and in your spiritual journey as a parent. We hope you as the parent and your child will dive deep into the life of the church and take the chance that Jesus is all of who He says He is and that He has deep and meaningful plans for your life. We pray that you will take advantage of the opportunities and resources that God has gifted us with here at HFFBC to care for you and your family.

The Bible teaches that parents are the primary spiritual caregivers of their families (see Deut. 6) and that the role of the father and mother in the spiritual growth and development of their child cannot be understated. You are the most important spiritual voice in your family and for your child. Pray with and for them, lead Scripture times with them, take them with you to serve, and pour into their lives deeply the truths of the Risen Savior. But the Bible also teaches us that we are all uniquely special creation's of God, and are His children. A major part of our parenting task then is to give our children *back to God*.



This packet includes several items that we hope will encourage you in both ways (taking up your parent responsibility & giving your child *back to God*). May God bless you richly in these years. We look forward to seeing you often!

In Christ,

Steven White, Pastor of Student Ministries
e: swhite@hffbc.org | c: 865.323.4439

I. What is a Baby Dedication?



A baby dedication is one of the most spiritually significant occasions in the life of the church! But it also can easily be one of the most mis-understood occasions in the life of the church too, if not properly communicated. So below is what is what a Baby Dedication is supposed to be:

1. A powerful, public affirmation that every child is created in the “image of God”

The Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is the One God who created all things (Gen. 1) and He is the Father of every person. And when He created us, He did not do so just happenstance-ly or randomly, but He created us “in His image” (Gen. 1:26-27). Therefore, at a Baby Dedication ceremony we are powerfully declaring before a congregation that God is the creator of the world and of every person, including the children here in front of us! At one time that child was not, but now, as a created soul, he or she is eternal. He or she will exist forever.



2. A reminder that we are now all born sinful

But, though all things were originally “very good” (Gen. 1:31), including all created humanity, when sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, we are all now fallen and our original righteousness has been eradicated. This includes the children in front of us during a baby dedication ceremony. They are *not* pure or sinless, yet to be tainted by a rough and tough world. They are born sinners and are not any less sinful than we are (Isa. 45:21; Rom. 3:10). They are now part of the fallen race of humanity. Therefore, a baby dedication ceremony must hold points #1 and 2 in tension. But the ceremony is...



3. A reminder that the “image of God” still remains in sinful humanity

The “image of God” though still persists in us, and in these children, despite our rebellious turn to sin (Gen. 9:6; James 3:9). “Every child still bears the “image of God” and thus holds vast eternal potential. And this wondrous potential ought to inform the church’s dedications of every baby - the possibility of eternal ignominy or eternal glory, living out the colossal fullness of the image of God in Christ for all eternity (Col. 1:15:2:9-10).”



4. A powerful illustration of the Gospel

In the act of bringing your newborn baby to the church, before God’s people, to be dedicated, as an “image of God” bearing, yet still sinful little person, you are turning over the control of their eternal destiny to the hands of God and His people. While you still will have the primary spiritual role in raising your child to know Christ, knowing that your child will *not* be “saved” because of being dedicated in the church (he/she still must make that decision for themselves later), by dedicating them to the Lord, you are releasing the reigns and asking that God’s grace be poured out. You recognize that it’s not in your own strength that they will find favor, but only by His grace and love. And only by the cross of Jesus will they have and experience true life, now and forevermore. What a marvelous beginning to life!



5. A chance for the church to take up its responsibility

Lastly, you are giving the Church the opportunity to be the Church - to be the ones who encourage, love, teach, instruct, lift up, pray for, and celebrate your child as they grow in spiritual understanding. As they covenant with you in the ceremony, look around and give thanks to God for the gift of the church!





What the Bible Says About Dedicating Babies:

“The Shema” — Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Samuel — 1 Samuel 1:20-28

“Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel...And she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh...And she said, ‘...I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition...Therefore I have given him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.”

Psalms 127

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”

Jesus — Luke 2:22-40

“When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord... When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.”

Mark 10:13-16 - Blessing

“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and **blessed** them, laying his hands on them.”

Discussion:

- Read through Mark 10:14-16 above.
- Why do you think the disciples rebuked the people for having children brought to Jesus? Did they think children were a bother to him?
- How does Jesus' response encourage you as a parent? What does it show you about how Jesus views children?
- What does Jesus teach us about what we can learn from children? What might it look like to “receive the kingdom of God like a child”?
- When Jesus blessed the children, what do you think he did? How do you desire Jesus to bless your child?

Psalm 139 - Dependence

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.

19 If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

children

parents

Psalm 139 Discussion

- Read through Psalm 139 aloud from the previous page.
- How do the orange parts describe the ways a child interacts with God?
- How do the aqua parts describe the ways a parent often interacts with God?
- All parents are also still children of somebody (once little children!). How does the sudden shift in the text at verse 19 describe what it's often like to be a parent?
- How then finally can verses 23-24 summarize and empower us as parents to be all that God designed us to be?

Proverbs 22:5-6 - Dedication

“Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked; whoever guards his soul will keep far from them. **Train up** a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Discussion:

- Read through Proverbs 22:5-6 above.
- How do the two verses contrast? What’s the comparison being drawn for us?
- What do you think of when you read the phrase “train up”?
- Do you think 22:6 is a “guarantee” verse (if you do ____, then _____ will definitely happen)?
- Another way to translate 22:6 is “**Dedicate** a child according to what his way demands...” How does that affect the way you understand this verse?

Read the enclosed article “Train Up a Child in the Way He Should Go” by Jason DeRouchie for some helpful insights to Prov. 22.

What the **Dedication Milestone** is & what it leads to:

The “**Dedication Milestone**” is the first Milestone of our Student Ministries at HFFBC. If you were to be born as a baby into HFFBC today, Lord willing, you would walk through 7 different unique, and intentional faith “Milestones” in the next 18 years of life before arriving at the final pinnacle milestone — “Commission.” So if this is the beginning, then what is this Milestone and what is it leading *up to*?

The 1st and Beginning Milestone —> Laying a Foundation for Faith

- The “Dedication” milestone then is all about laying the proper foundation, in our family, in our heart, and in our practices that puts God and His Kingdom first for this young person’s life. This is about rooting our family in the church and under God’s guiding, and about parent’s rooting their identity in Christ so that a child can have every opportunity trust Christ for themselves over the course of your childhood & adolescence. It is about parent’s dedicating themselves to raising their children to be like Jesus, the church dedicating itself to come alongside the family to spiritually nurture the child in faith.



Dedication
(0-2 years)

The Middle 6 Milestones —> Building a Faith that Lasts a Lifetime

- The middle 6 Milestones are aimed specifically at building up a young person’s faith in Christ, at key development and spiritual junctures in a kid’s life, so that they can trust in Jesus as their Savior and then grow to be full person disciples of Jesus - one who learning and coming to understand what means to be a **knowing, growing, and going** person for Christ and active participants and worshippers in His multi and inter-generational, global Church.



Foundation
(Preschool)



Bible
(1st Grade)



Communion
(5-6th Grade)



Step-Up
(7 & 9th Grade)



Discipleship
(10th Grade)



Baptism
(11th Grade)

The 8th and Pinnacle Milestone —> Sending that Faithful Person into the World

- The goal and aim then of the final Milestone, “Commission” is sending that faith that has been building in these young disciples during their childhood and adolescence out into a world that so desperately needs to hear the love of Jesus. In short then, the “Commission Milestone” is about **sending missionaries** of Jesus Christ out into the world with a church full of prayer warriors and faithful encouragers behind them.



Commission
(12th Grade)



HamptonFalls
BAPTIST CHURCH

How we do Baby Dedications at HFFBC

Therefore, out of the biblical understanding of “dedication”, at HFFBC we dedicate babies in a two-step process. And we do this two-step process twice a year (once in early June and once in early December)

1. “Dedication Milestone” class

(for parents of the child)



This class takes place on a Sunday morning, during the Sunday School hour. The point of this class is to provide the new parents of our church a place to come and learn about what a baby dedication is, how and why we do it at HFFBC, and to be intentionally given a space to connect with the church about the beginning phase of raising of their children. Parents are:

1. Given age-appropriate **intentional gifts & resources** that are meant to encourage and spur them on to intentional and loving spiritual care of their children.
2. Connected with the **HFFBC Nursery Ministry** and introduced to its vision for children.
3. **Prayed** for.
4. Connected with a **Mentor Couple** who has raised children and can provide prayer, guidance, and conversation as needed.

2. Baby Dedication Ceremony

(for parents and child, and any extended family)



The following Sunday then is the actual Baby Dedication Ceremony, which takes place during one of the Sunday morning worship services, usually towards the very beginning. Parents and children come to the front of the church and stand before the congregation. It is a 5-minute ceremony that consists of the following parts.

1. Introduction to the congregation - what a baby dedication is and is not
2. Introduction of Parents and Child to be dedicated
3. Prayer of blessing on each individual child by name
4. Parental Covenant - questions asked to parents with responses
5. Family & Caregiver Covenant - question asked to caregivers with response
6. Congregational Covenant - question asked to whole congregation with response
7. Prayer

A certificate commemorating the dedication will be given to parents on this day.

Why we don't do baby baptisms at HFFBC:

This is a really good question and a great time to be asking it! In short, as a baptist church we believe that baptism is reserved for believers in Jesus Christ who are old enough to understand what salvation means and who are able to articulate their faith in a public and professing way. Therefore, *though this a Scripturally disputable matter*, with infants we choose to perform baby dedications and not baptisms because we want to reserve the celebration and symbolism of baptism for those who wish to publicly display their profession of faith in Christ. Though we teach about baptism throughout our children and youth ministries, we begin an *intentional conversation* about believer's baptism with families and students in the 11th grade Milestone.

Basic Baptism Positions Here at HFFBC:

**The below info on this page is taken from the HFFBC New Member classes packet.*

BAPTISM IS A SIGN, NOT A SEAL OF SALVATION

A. Baptism is a sign of what has already taken place in your life because of the grace of God experienced by faith.

1. Baptism is a symbol of what Spirit Baptism is the reality (Titus 3:5-6)
2. You can't be a Christian without being baptized by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9-14)

B. Is water baptism essential to salvation?

Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Mark 16:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

1. Consider the cultural context and note that baptism was synonymous with commitment to Christ.
2. Consider the Scriptural context that clearly shows baptism to be the result of God's saving work, not ours!

C. Why then should a person be water baptized?

1. Command (Matt. 28:19)
2. Following the example of Christ (Matt. 3:13-17)
3. Testimony to yourself and to the world that you are with Christ

D. Why do some churches baptize infants and others, like us, only baptize adults?

1. The idea that infants should be baptized comes from the idea of Old Testament circumcision.
 - a. Circumcision was a covenant sign, but never intended to be a seal (Gen. 17:11; Deut. 30:6; Jer. 4:4; Rom. 2:28-29)
 - b. Circumcision was applied to male babies who were part of Israel.
 - c. Conclusion - If circumcision is the sign of the community of faith of the Old Testament and it was applied to infants, so also should the sign of the New Testament community of faith, baptism, be applied to infants.
2. Why is baptizing only adults a stance we choose to distinctively make as a church?
 - a. Circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Abraham. No direct relationship between that covenant and the new covenant.
 - b. No record of infant baptism in the New Testament.

II. HFFBC Student Ministries Overview

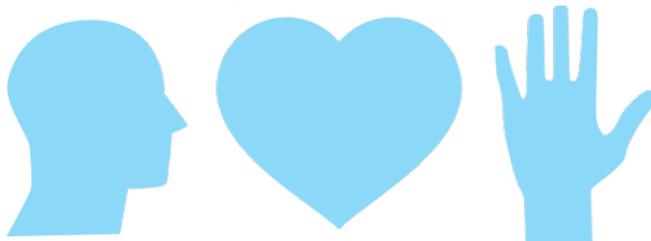
Beginning at birth, your child is now part of our Student Ministry at HFFBC! Therefore, below gives you a primer and vision already for what we do as a Children's & Youth Ministry here at HFFBC. We look forward to partnering with you!

HFFBC Student Ministries

Our Purpose Statement:

*"To partner with families and students in **knowing** Jesus, **growing** to be more like Jesus, and **going** to serve and tell the world about Jesus."*

A visual way to view this **know, grow, go** purpose and progression in student ministry is through the **head, heart, hands** visual. It is our goal and purpose here at HFFBC to develop full-person disciples of Jesus Christ, who are healthily balanced and prepared to leave home with a lifetime of genuine and bold faith in Christ ahead of them.



Our Vision - what we want things to look like if God blesses our efforts:

"Our vision is for this generation's students to come together at HFFBC and then become the next generation's Church and culture leaders, who are characterized by their **deep love** of Jesus, their **joyful obedience** to His Word, and their **missional living** in His world."

Our Mission - what we'll do everyday to advance the vision God has given us:

"Our daily mission is to **invite** students to know and experience God in Jesus, to walk alongside those students in **love**, and to **instill** in them a lifelong love for His Word and His world that would then **compel** them to participate in God's mission of redeeming all of life back to God through Jesus."

The First Two Years

As we talk about our vision of developing students who are full-person disciples of Jesus, where do we begin when a new baby is born? Out of our terms used above - head, heart, hands & know, grow, go - for the first two years of life especially (and even into most of the elementary school years) we as a student ministry at HFFBC are most intentional about the **HEART** of a child.



While we are certainly interested in teaching about understanding things (head knowledge) and the importance of serving (using our hands), the first and primary important thing of student ministry is about having students fall in love with Jesus with their full heart. Jesus teaches adults in the New Testament that they should have faith like a child (Matt. 18:1-3) and so we believe that children have an enormous potential to know and love Jesus with a full heart, the kind of full faith that can even change and impact us as adults!

Notice what God in the Old Testament and then Jesus in the New Testament emphasize first when talking about which commandment is most important?

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your **heart**."
(Deuteronomy 6:5-6)*

*"The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (Mark 12:29-30)*

Therefore, the first step towards building a beautiful house that reflects the beauty and glory of its Creator is laying the proper foundation. And the **heart** that loves Jesus deeply and fully is the foundation we want to lay first in our young people.

"Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

"For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45)

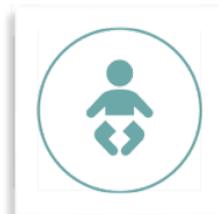
We want children in the nursery, then in preschool, elementary, and even up through their teenage years to always have the constant love of Jesus first on their hearts, because that is what unlocks the **growing, and going** and the **head, and the hands**.



About the HFFBC Nursery (0-2 Years)

“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14

Age cut-off: If your child turns 2 by September 30th, he or she will attend Sunday School in the preschool area during 1st service. They are welcomed back in the nursery for 2nd service.



What is the HFFBC Nursery Ministry? The purpose of the nursery is to provide a safe, loving, and nurturing environment for children ages 0-2 so that parents may participate in the ministries of the church without concern for the well-being of their children. At this stage, it is understood that the basic faith development is the result of learning to trust that when there is a need that the need will be met by a loving adult. The nursery worker ministers in the nursery by providing child care in the context of Christian songs and tender conversations about Jesus.

What do we hope to accomplish through our Nursery? That parents will experience peace of mind whenever they entrust their children to the care of the nursery workers. That children will experience a safe environment of contentment and security, will develop familiarity with music and words of testimony from nursery workers that love Jesus, and will have their hearts filled with the love of God the Father in Jesus, through the Spirit.

Other things to note about the Nursery:

- The nursery will always work to have a low staff ratio of at least one adult to every three babies.
- Nursery workers will follow cleanliness and safety policy that covers procedures for care.
- Pagers are available for parents so that if needed, they may be reached during services.
- Only authorized persons are allowed in the nursery and only authorized people, parents, or guardians (approved in writing each week) will be allowed to pick up the babies.
- If babies are ill or become ill, parents will be contacted and the child will be separated from the others.
- Toys, furniture, linens and clothes will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- When appropriate, music that provides comfort and instruction in Christian truths will be played.

Mother's Room:

A mother's room is provided and will be reserved for nursing mothers who wish to attend worship and still care for their babies. It is located on the right side of the balcony across from the nursery. There is a television located in the room so you can watch, listen to, and participate in the worship service. We would like to encourage you to bring your active baby to the nursery as this room is not sound proof.

When is it offered? The nursery is offered during Sunday morning worship services throughout the year (only 10:00am service in summer)

Questions? If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Nursery Ministry Director, **Nancy Cressy**, at 603.778.0161 or ncressy@aol.com

HFFBC Student Ministry Programs

What your child will grow into

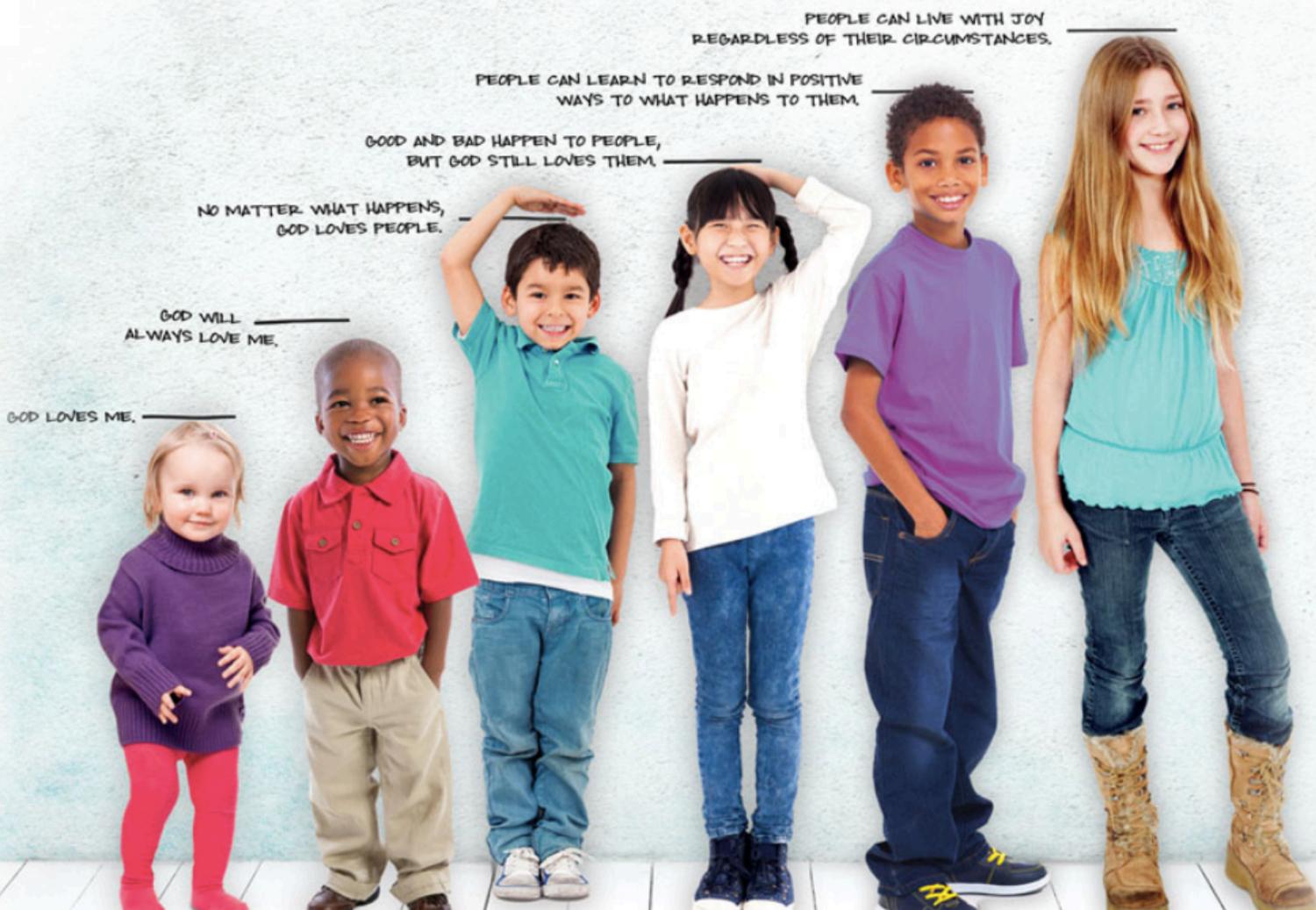
(all offered from September to June)

	Sunday Mornings	Wed. Nights	 Emphasis
Preschool (ages 2-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am • Preschool Wing • Age-specific classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
Elementary (grades 1-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am • Downstairs Elem. Area • Age-specific classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30-8:00pm • Young Bereans (grades 1-4) • Plugged-In (grades 5-6) 	
Jr. High (grades 7-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am • Youth Sunday School class (grades 7-9) meets in Sr. High Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30-8:00pm • Jr. High Youth Group (grades 7-8) 	
Sr. High (grades 9-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am or 10:45-11:45am • Grades 10+ open to attend any adult Sunday School class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30-8:00pm • Sr. High Youth Group (grades 9-12) 	

III. What Your Child Can Know About God... NOW



As Kids **GROW**, their understanding of **FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS** grows with them.



Learn more at LifeWay Kids. Go to www.lifeway.com and search for "Levels of Biblical Learning."

YOUNGER PRESCHOOL



Younger Preschool are:

- developing a sense of trust as needs are met consistently
- sensing attitudes and expression of love
- growing in trust of adults
- beginning to distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behaviors
- beginning to recognize simple pictures of Jesus
- singing simple songs about God and Jesus
- saying thank You to God
- listening to Bible stories

GOD

- God is good.
- God made you.
- God loves me.
- God hears me.
- God helps me.
- God loves people.

JESUS

- Jesus was born.
- God chose a family for Jesus.
- Jesus grew like me.
- Jesus learned about God.
- Jesus told people about God.
- Jesus helped people because He loved them.
- Jesus loves me.
- Jesus did everything God told Him to do.
- Jesus is alive.

HOLY SPIRIT

Concept statements from the God concept area lay a foundation

for later learning about the work of the Holy Spirit.

Examples of those statements are

- God helps me.
- God loves me.

BIBLE

- The Bible is a special book.
- The Bible tells about God.
- People in the Bible told about God.
- The Bible tells about Jesus.
- The Bible helps me know what to do.

COMMUNITY AND WORLD

- God made people.
- God helps people.
- People tell others about God and Jesus.
- People can talk to God.
- God cares about other people and me.

SALVATION

- God loves us.
- God cares about us.

CREATION

- God made day, night, plants, sky, sun, moon, stars, animals, water, birds, fish, and people.
- God made people.
- God made food for people and animals.
- God planned for people to care for the things He made.
- God wants me to enjoy the things He made.
- God wants me to thank Him for the things He made.

CHURCH

- People learn about God and Jesus at church.
- People at church love me.
- People at church help me.
- People at church sing, talk to God, and listen to Bible stories.

PEOPLE

- God made me.
- God made me special.
- God created me to make choices.
- God helps me learn.
- God loves for me to talk to Him.
- God helps me grow like Jesus grew.
- God wants me to be a friend.
- God loves me.
- God has plans for me.
- God helps me.
- God helps me learn about Jesus.

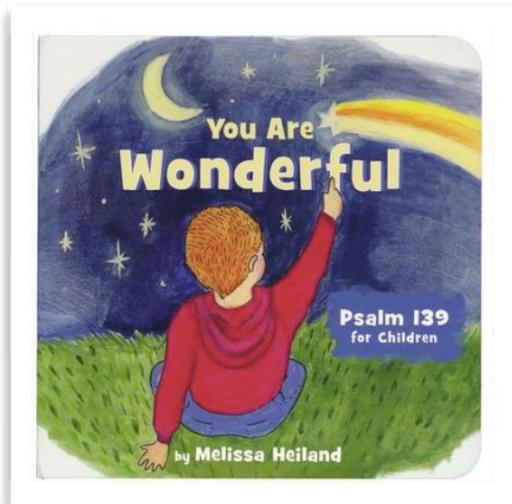
FAMILY

- God made families.
- Families love one another.
- God gave me a mommy and daddy to help me.
- My family tells me about God.
- God made families.
- God loves families.

YOUNGER PRESCHOOL

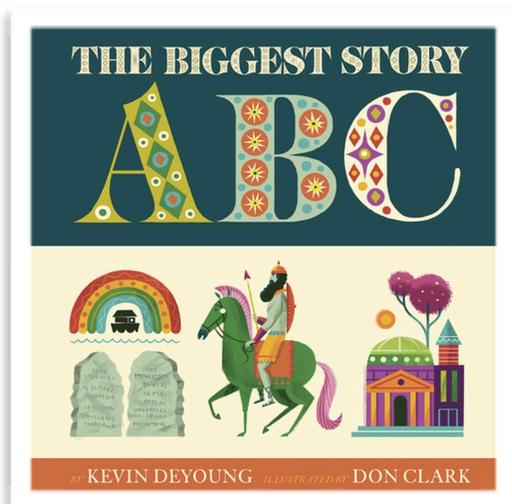
IV. Dedication Milestone Gifts

Board books for your child



You are Wonderful
by Melissa Heiland

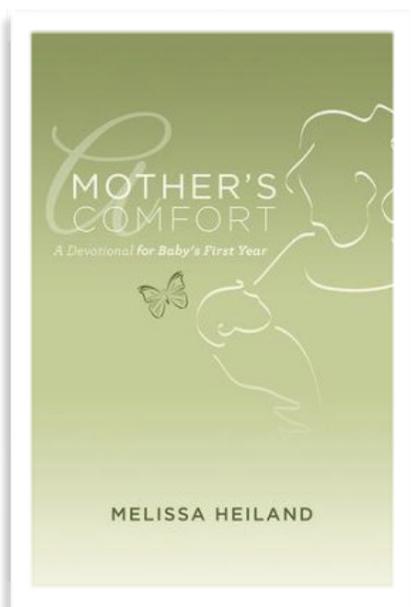
This is a sweet and simple board book for young children and toddlers. Through heartwarming illustrations and simple language, *You Are Wonderful* guides little ones through Psalm 139. The charming drawings of little boys and girls playing, brushing their teeth, lying in bed, and looking at the stars will assure children that the Lord is with them every single day.



***The Biggest Story
ABC Board Book***
by Kevin DeYoung

From Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden to Zion and the new creation world, the Bible is telling one big story—the story of God’s promise to deliver his people. Kevin DeYoung has once again teamed up with Don Clark, an award-winning illustrator, to create a new board book to help kids ages 1 to 3 to make connections from Genesis to Revelation and from A to Z. Each page introduces a new letter of the alphabet with engaging and whimsical illustrations, retelling the biblical narrative in one continuous story—making it a fun way for parents to introduce their young children to the big story of the Bible.

Devotional for parents

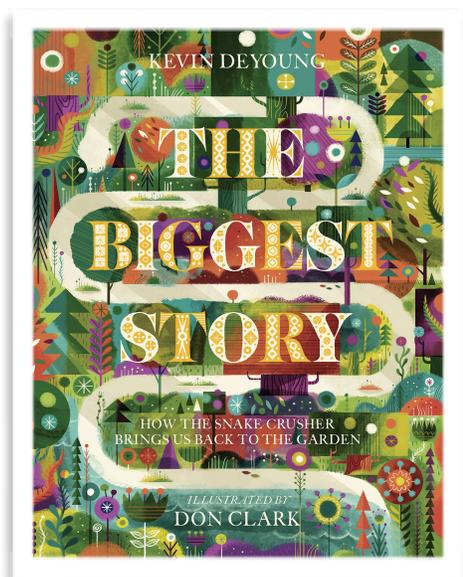


A Mother's Comfort by Melissa Heiland

This devotional, written for mothers during their babies' first year, ministers to women's hearts and reminds them that as they love and care for their new child, we have a Heavenly Father who loves and cares for us. For each week of her child's first year, there is a scripture reading, short devotional, and journal prompt.

Though written for mothers, this can easily be used by mom's and dad's together as well!

The Bible Story for your whole family



The Biggest Story by Kevin DeYoung

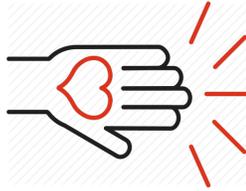
The Bible is full of exciting stories that fill children with awe and wonder. But kids need to know how all those classic stories connect to Scripture's overarching message about God's glorious plan to redeem his rebellious people.

The Biggest Story leads kids and parents alike on an exciting journey through the Bible, connecting the dots from the garden of Eden to Christ's death on the cross to the new heaven and new earth. With powerful illustrations by award-winning artist Don Clark, this imaginative retelling of the Bible's core message—how the Snake Crusher brings us back to the garden—will draw children into the biblical story, teaching them that God's promises are even bigger and better than we think.

Ages 5-8 (read to me)

Ages 8-11 (read to myself)

V. The Invitation from the Church to You



So, the invitation from the church here at HFFBC is to encourage you to jump into all that God has in store for you in these exciting parenting years. Take advantage of what our church here at HFFBC can offer your family during these wonderful, challenging, busy, and beautiful years.

Parents, it is our sincere hope and desire that you jump into our fellowship and community here at HFFBC, that you will lean on the church for guidance, community, encouragement, challenge and correction, and spiritual resourcing. May you trust and allow the church to shepherd your children to be more like Jesus, allowing them the freedom to grow as they gain independence and seek to find their own identity for the first time. But also, parents, it is our *prayer* that you also do not rely on us too much - but that you take up the mantle of spiritual oversight of your family and that you gently, yet boldly, guide your children towards Jesus in your home life. We invite you to all our church has to offer to adults to help you learn how to best do this and not feel like you're doing this all on your own.

So our challenge and invitation to you is this - take a chance on Jesus (that He is who He says He is) and on His instituted vessel, the church, to do and be for you what it is meant to be and do - to shepherd and lead you towards the Risen Christ.

During these early childhood years, when so much formation and nurture takes place, we pray that you will experience the fullness of who God is - the Blessed Three-in-One Trinity who loves His people, who desires us to pass along the pure faith of the Gospel of Jesus to the next generation with joy, and who gave everything to give us life. May you sense His presence with you during these years as you pour over the Scriptures, lean on His church, and seek His Spirit in prayer.

