



baby dedication guide

FTD month
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Baby Dedication Guide:

Celebrating new life has been a practice that many churches have done for a long time. They might be baby dedications, christenings or baptisms. Your church may have a well-established guide for how to lead these moments. This resource contains just a few ideas that you can choose if or how to use. This is not intended to replace what you do, but rather how to connect your existing practices with your first thousand-day ministries and plans. It is not a script, but rather a few things to consider when leading a moment like this in your church.

Affirm the value of young children's lives

In line with the theme for this year's FTD Month, remind parents and congregants that children are valuable to Jesus. Using Luke 18:15-17, you can share how Jesus calls little children to himself. God is paying attention to young life long before we do! Young life is valuable to God long before they can do anything for him. Sharing this kind of messaging can help congregants check their own hearts and whether they value, and embrace young lives.

Help congregants and parents see the importance of the first thousand days

For many people, they are unaware of how baby's brain is developing in this crucial stage of the first thousand days (conception to the age of two). There are many facts that one could share about the brain development and you can find out more on the Sikunye resource page for the FTD month. But what is important to help everyone understand is that the kind of care that baby receives in the first thousand days is really important for baby's wellbeing – as a baby, as a child and even as an adult. The early years really matter.

Call the congregation to support and be the village around parents

Because God values young life and because the first thousand days is really important, the congregation has a great opportunity to support and care for parents. For babies to do well, parents need to be providing responsive, nurturing care. The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" holds much truth and baby dedications are useful moments to call the congregation as a whole to be supportive of families.

This could be done by asking the congregation a question like: Do you commit yourselves to creating a community of love and support around this family and their children?

Conclusion: ✨

Baby dedications provide a powerful opportunity to emphasise the love that God has for children, and how that influences how we all have a part to play in caring for young lives, as well as supporting parents. Prayerfully discern how you can integrate the ideas above with your existing practices.