



Faith Chest (Birth)
Discussion Guide Session Three

***Infant Dedication—Baptist/
Non-Denominational***

Warm-Up

(video segment 1:22 minutes/discussion time ____ minutes)

Discuss in your small group: Since last session, what have you done to deepen the spiritual atmosphere in your home? For example, did you have prayer or devotions with your spouse? What were the challenges you faced and what were the successes?



Legacy Point 1

The Purpose of Infant Dedication

(video segment 9:06 minutes)

1. Parents affirm or reaffirm their covenant relationship with the Lord.
2. Parents present their child to the Lord for God's purposes:

Psalm 127:3, "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD. The fruit of the womb is a reward."

- They acknowledge that their child is a gift from God.
- They acknowledge their responsibility to the child before the Lord.
- They call upon the spiritual power of God's help and grace to fulfill their charge of raising this child in the Lord.

Luke 2:22, "Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord."

1 Samuel 1:22, "... for she (Hannah) said to her husband, 'Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever.'"

3. The child is blessed.

Mark 10:13 & 16, "Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them... And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them."

- Eulogy—when God speaks a blessing to his people, he not only says good things, but he acts. He accomplishes his purposes through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Hannah reminded God of his promises to fulfill his part of the covenant. She called on the God of the universe to recognize his blood-bought relationship to the Christian and to honor his promises.



Let's Talk About It:

(discussion time ____ minutes)

- ❖ Recall a time you watched an Infant Dedication and discuss what touched your heart the most.



Legacy Point 2

What Does a Child Need Spiritually?

(video segment 9:47 minutes)

Parents that totally trust and depend on the Lord!

- This determines the atmosphere of the home.
- Parents model this by example.
- They need to help their children grow in the admonition of the Lord.

Parents that walk with God give benefits to their child...

1. The child grows up in a secure environment.
 - a) Receives forgiveness
 - b) Loved unconditionally

This provides the foundation of security that helps children learn to trust God.

2. The child patterns the action of his/her parent(s).
3. Hopeful spiritual destination: profession of faith and giving one's heart to the Lord and following him.

Even in infancy, parents need to be active in helping their child grow up in the fullness of Christ.



Let's Talk About It:

(discussion time ____ minutes)

- ❖ **What spiritual blessing would you like to give your child?**



Legacy Point 3

Components of an Infant Dedication Service

(video segment 11:14 minutes)

1. Welcome and introductory prayers
2. Parents given the charge reminding them of God's covenantal relationship
3. Presentation of each child to the Lord

Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you..."

This is a big "family affair" where the body of Christ gathers around and gives support to the child and his/her family.

The Faith Chest presented in the service is a symbol of the treasure of faith parents invest in their child's spirituality. Objects with spiritual significance can be kept inside the Faith Chest. Parents are also encouraged to speak a blessing over their child.



Let's Talk About It:

(discussion time ____ minutes)

❖ **Discuss what prayer or words of blessing you will say over your child.**

(See Appendix 1: Create a Blessing for Your Child)



Wrap-Up

(video segment 0:29 seconds)

Build not just a Faith Chest but also a legacy of faith in which the treasure of Jesus Christ is given to your child!

Assignment:

This week, finalize the blessing you will speak at the party / blessing event.

Closing Prayer: *(Form small groups again and encourage each person to pray for the following.)*

Ask God to bless your family's spirituality and your role in leading it.

Where do you go from here?

You have seen how beneficial it is to be in conversation and prayer with other adults in a similar life stage. This might be a good time to start or join a small group.