



Connect: discussion guide

“Dedication to God”
24th August 2025

WELCOME: *We are interrupting our series on the ministry of the Holy Spirit to explore the concept of “Dedication to God” – both the dedication of a child and how we might support families and dedicating ourselves as Christians to God’s service.*

Read Luke 2:21–24

Mary and Joseph dedicate Jesus according to Jewish law.

- What does this reveal about their faith and obedience?

Read Leviticus 12:1–8 and Exodus 13:1–2

- How do these passages help us understand the Old Testament background for dedicating children to God?

Read Exodus 34:19–20

- Why did God command that every firstborn belong to Him?
- What does this teach about God’s ownership of life?

Read 1 Samuel 1:26–28

Hannah dedicates Samuel to the Lord.

- How does her story illustrate faith and surrender?

Read Psalm 127:3

- What does this teach us about how God views children?
- How does this shape the way parents should approach raising them?

Read Exodus 4:22

This refers to Israel as God’s ‘firstborn son.’

- How might this imagery deepen our understanding of dedicating children?
- How do these passages so far challenge us to view children—not just our own, but all children—in light of God’s purposes?
- What spiritual practices today can help parents dedicate their children to God (prayer, community support, family worship, etc.)?
- How can the church community come alongside families in fulfilling this calling?

Read Luke 2:25–38

Simeon and Anna were deeply devoted and expectant for God’s promises.

- What do their lives teach us about spiritual dedication in adulthood?
- How does their waiting and worship challenge or inspire your own spiritual journey?

Read John 8:36

This teaches says that 'if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'

- How does true freedom in Christ relate to dedicating your life to God?
- What are some areas in your life where God may be calling you to deeper surrender?

Read John 1:29–31,

John the Baptist points to Jesus as 'the Lamb of God.'

- How does His sacrifice invite us to live fully dedicated lives?
- How does understanding Jesus' dedication to the Father shape our response to Him?

Read 2 Peter 3:9

This shows God's patience and desire for all to come to repentance.

- How does God's heart toward people motivate us to live fully for Him?
- How can dedicating your life to God influence your relationships, priorities, and mission?

Practical Application

- What spiritual disciplines or practices (prayer, Bible study, fasting, service) help you remain fully dedicated to God as an adult believer?
- How can we encourage each other as a church community to live lives wholly dedicated to Him?

Pray together:

PRAYER of Dedication:

Father God, I thank you for the Good News that Jesus takes away the sin of the world
I acknowledge that I have failed, that I have "sinned" and not lived as I could, and I ask for forgiveness.

I believe Jesus Christ is God, that he lived, died and rose again and I want to trust him as my Saviour and Lord.

I want to dedicate my life to follow Jesus. God, guide me by your Spirit from this day on I pray.

In Jesus name. Amen.

If you prayed that prayer –for the first time or the thousandth time – and it had special meaning today please let your LIFEgroup leader know, or a Christian that you trust. We would love to pray with you, as together we acknowledge God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit – and dedicate ourselves to God to live an intentional life as a Christian.