

## ***Parent Promise* is more than an event.**

It is an opportunity for you to take time at the beginning of your journey as a parent to think about what will matter the most in the life of your child; to really talk together and decide what you value and what you can do today that will have the greatest impact on your child's future.

No one will have more influence on your child than YOU! We believe that what happens at home is more important than what happens at church. It is our prayer that we can partner with you from the very beginning. We want to be your biggest fans, your strongest supporters and your trusted guides as you raise your child to know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In order to participate in the *Parent Promise* ceremony you must be a member of our church, have completed the *Parent Promise* class and submitted an application. We feel that these are important as a first step for you as parents to understand what we believe and for us to truly be able to partner with you in the spiritual development of your child. One critical aspect of modeling the Christian life for children is parents committed to each other in the covenant relationship of marriage. This does not exclude the single parent who is raising their child alone.

## ***Parent Promise* Classes**

You can choose to attend one of two *Parent Promise* classes offered in the spring, or one of the two *Parent Promise* classes offered in the fall.

We have created a class that we feel will help you build a strong foundation to do the things that will matter the most to you and your child in the future. These early years are incredibly important. Attending this class will be an investment of time that you will never regret.

## What to expect at the *Parent Promise* ceremony

- You will have an opportunity to share your decision from your homework assignment from the *Parent Promise* class.
- We will lead you in a prayer of commitment.
- Following the ceremony we will have a reception in honor of the new life in your family and ours.
- The event will last about an hour.

### Requirements:

- The *Parent Promise* ceremony is so much more than an event. You must attend one of our *Parent Promise* classes before the *Parent Promise* ceremony registration is confirmed.
- You must be a church member to participate in the *Parent Promise* ceremony.
- There is no time limit to completing the requirements.
- The only time limit you need to consider is that the ceremony is designed for families with children under two years of age.

Space is limited for the *Parent Promise* ceremony. This event is offered twice a year. It is very likely that the next available opening could be six months from the time that you sign up.

### Not Infant Baptism:

This event is not infant baptism. We believe that when people are old enough to understand what it means to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they should have the opportunity to make that choice for themselves. A preschooler is not able to understand sin, forgiveness, the sacrifice our Savior made for us, and what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This event is about your commitment as a parent to lead your child into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, so that as they get older, you are able to guide them and to help them understand what baptism means.

## **The *Parent Promise* ceremony is really just the beginning.**

Once you have completed the requirements, we would love for you and your family to participate with us in a time of COMMITMENT and CELEBRATION.

The *Parent Promise* ceremony is a commitment to put God first in your home and to trust in Him as your source of direction as you lead your family and parent your child. It is also a time for you to share with your closest friends and family what is most important to you and to ask them for their prayer and support.

Our desire is that you will surround yourself with family and friends who will pray for you, support you, give you good advice, listen to your struggles and when life gets tough, help you remember what matters most.

It is also a time of CELEBRATION! A new baby has been born. God has created a new life in this world and that is definitely something to celebrate! You will enjoy cake and punch, and take lots of pictures to mark this moment in time.

We want you to create an unforgettable memory of the promise that you've made to lead your child in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ with the people who are there to pray for you and support you as you raise your child.