



rites of spring



Week 4 – Child Dedication

RITE: (noun)

a formal or ceremonial act or procedure prescribed or customary in religious or other solemn use.

C COMMUNITY

C CONSECRATION

C COMMITMENT

C CONTEXT

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12

⁹ *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:*

¹⁰ *If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.*

But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

¹² *Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.*

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...

We are MORE together.

We are to live SET APART.

CONSECRATION:

:: To regard as set apart or dedicate

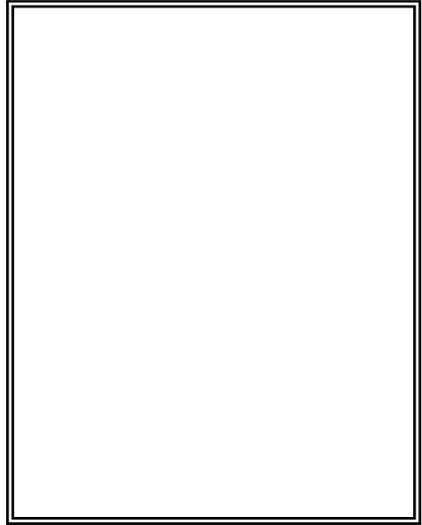
:: to devote or dedicate to some purpose

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

We are to be ALL IN.

Create a context for
FLOURISHING.



1 Corinthians 3:6-8 (NIV)

⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.

SO WHAT?

C HRIST

Colossians 3:16-17 (NLT)

¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Who

How

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

NOTES:

These are the questions that we are asking the adults, who are raising the children being dedicated today, to affirm. These are great questions for all of us to consider as we commit to making a positive impact in the lives of the children and young people in our spheres of influence.

- *Do you commit to passionately pursue Jesus as an example for your child(ren)?*
- *Do you commit to prioritize connecting your child with God, other Christ followers, and their purpose?*
- *Do you receive this child as a gift from God and dedicate them before God and His church today?*



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life.
In Your name, Amen.***

For Further Reflection:

:: The questions we asked the adults, who are raising the children dedicated this weekend, to affirm are great questions for all of us to consider. As we live in relationship to God and make our own commitment to being a positive influence in the lives of the children in our spheres of influence, take a few moments to discuss and consider the relevance and priority of those questions in your own life.

:: 1) Do you commit to passionately pursue Jesus as an example for your children?

:: What are practical ways we can represent Jesus to those around us?

:: Share one area of success or struggle for you in your life.

:: 2) Do you commit to prioritize connecting your child with God, other Christ followers, and their purpose?

:: Why is it important to invest in the next generation?

:: Identify some tangible ways we can live out Hebrews 10:24 & Proverbs 22:6.

:: 3) Do you receive this child as a gift from God and dedicate them before God and his church today?

:: What are some of the gifts you've received from God?

:: What is one thing God is asking you to do this week to steward those gifts more fully?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – March 9 & 10, 2019

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