



孩童奉献礼 CHILD DEDICATION

— 孩子是上帝赐予我们的礼物 —



Dear Parents,

A Letter to Parents about your Child's Spiritual Needs

We rejoice with you in the gift of your child. We are especially happy that you are concerned about the spiritual well-being of your child. We share your concern.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

- Mark 10:14

Jesus loves your Child...and so do we!

What is the proper way for your child to "come to Jesus" for His blessing? What role do you as parents have in bringing them?

亲爱的父母们

致家长的一封信关于孩子灵命需求的信

我们为上帝赐予你孩子而欢喜快乐，尤其因为你注重孩子的灵命而感到高兴。我们愿意和你一起关注你的孩子。

耶稣说，“让小孩子到我这里来，不要禁止他们，因为在神国的，正是这样的人。”

- 马可福音10:14

耶稣爱你的孩子，我们也爱你的孩子！

然而，带你的孩子到耶稣面前接受他的祝福的正确方式是什么呢？在这件事上，作为父母，你要扮演什么样的角色呢？



First of all, how do we get to know God?

We must read and listen to His Word, God speaks through the Bible.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

- Psalm 119:105

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? . . . faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

- Romans 10:14-17

What is wrong between God and me?

When you think about God, you probably feel some discomfort, some guilt and shame. We all do. There are many things we have done that are not right. Our wrongs have strained our relationship with God. Perhaps you have no relationship with Him at all. The Bible speaks frankly about our need.

首先，我们该如何去认识神？

我们必须阅读并聆听神的话语，神透过圣经向我们说话。

我和上帝之间究竟是怎么一回事呢？

“你的话是我脚前的灯，是我路上的光。”

- 诗篇119:105

“然而人未曾信他，怎能求他呢？未曾听见他，怎能信他呢？没有传道的，怎能听见呢？。。。可见信道是从听道来的，听道是从基督的话来的。”

- 罗马书 10: 14-17

我和神之间存在什么问题？

当你想到神的时候，你或许会有些不安、内疚和羞愧。我们每个人都会有这样的感觉。我们都曾犯过许多错误，而这些过错阻拦了我们与神之间的关系。或许你和神还未建立任何关系，但圣经很清楚地指出我们对这个关系的需要。

“...your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”
- Isaiah 59:2

“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- Romans 3:23

The wonderful news is that despite what you have done, God loves you!

The Bible teaches the amazing love of God for sinners like me and you. For some reason that we will never fully know, He has chosen to love us freely.

“When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.”
- Titus 3:4-5

“Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”
- 1 Peter 3:18

These and many other verses in the Bible teach that God gives forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ. His death on the cross is the greatest expression of the love of God.

“...你们的罪孽使你们与神隔绝”
- 以赛亚书 59:2

“因为世人都犯了罪，亏缺了神的荣耀”
- 罗马书 3:23

最奇妙的是无论你做过什么，神爱你！

你我都是罪人，但圣经告诉我们神爱所有人。虽然我们可能无法完全理解这种爱，但神以他丰盛的慈爱来爱我们。

“但到了神我们救主的恩慈和他向人所施的慈爱显明的时候，他便救了我们，并不是因我们自己所行的义，乃是照他的怜悯。”
- 提多书 3:4-5

“因基督也曾一次为罪受苦，就是义的代替不义的，为要引我们到神面前。”
- 彼得前书 3:18

以上的经文和圣经中其他很多经文教导我们，神透过耶稣基督赦免我们的过犯，并赐给我们新的生命。他被钉死在十字架上神大爱最极致的表现。

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16

Jesus' resurrection from the dead shows we can enter into a loving relationship with the living God.

“This grace was given us in Christ Jesus . . . who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

- 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Followers of Jesus are Changed People

This change is gradual but will one day be complete. As we grow in faith we are made more like our Savior, more clearly reflecting His goodness.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

- 2 Corinthians 5:17



“神爱世人，甚至将他的独生子赐给他们，叫一切信他的，不至灭亡，反得永生。”

- 约翰福音 3:16

耶稣从死里复活使得我们可以与永生神建立一个爱的关系。

“这恩典是万古之先在基督耶稣里赐给我们的....他已经把死废去，藉着福音，将不能坏的生命彰显出来。”

- 提摩太后书 1:9-10

跟随耶稣基督的人，生命必得改变

我们生命的改变是循序渐进的，但有一天必将完成。当我们在信仰中不断成长，我们便会更有耶稣的样式，更能把他的美善彰显出来。

“若有人在基督里，他就是新造的人，旧事已过，都变成新的了。”

- 哥林多后书 5:17

We are now free from sin's penalty and are gradually being freed from sin's power. God's desires become our desires as we grow more fully in Him.

"Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart."

- Psalm 37:4

Have you as a parent begun to experience this new life in Jesus Christ? This change must happen before you are ready to dedicate your child to Jesus. We cannot introduce our children to someone we do not know.

What does it mean to dedicate my Child to Jesus?

There are two examples in the Bible of parents dedicating their children to God; Child Samuel by Elkanah and Hannah (1 Samuel 1:21-28) and Child Jesus by Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:21-24). Notice three important things about their dedications:



如今我们已从罪的刑罚中得释放，并逐渐从罪的权势中得自由。当我们更多在神里面活出丰盛的生命，他的心愿就成为我们的心愿。

“又要以耶和华为乐，他就将你心里所求的赐给你。”

- 诗篇37:4

作为父母，你是否已经开始体验这种在耶稣基督里的新生命了？在你准备把孩子奉献给耶稣前，你首先要经历这种生命的改变。我们不会把孩子介绍给我们自己都不认识的人。

把孩子奉献给耶稣是什么意思？

圣经中记载了两个关于孩童奉献给神的例子：一个是以利加拿和哈拿的孩子撒母耳（撒母耳记上1:21-28）；另一个是约瑟和马利亚的孩子耶稣（路加福音2:21-24）。关于这两个孩子的奉献，我们注意到以下三个重要的事情：

1. Both parents have a strong faith commitment.

The Old Testament book of 1 Samuel records the faith of Samuel's parents. His mother Hannah said,

"My heart rejoices in the LORD...There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you."

- 1 Samuel 2:1-2

The faith of Jesus "parents" is well known. The Virgin Mary sang,

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46 & 47).

Joseph, the earthly father (not the natural father), of Jesus was a "righteous man" (Matthew 1:19)

From these two examples we learn the Bible teaches that parents who bring their children for dedication must first dedicate themselves to the Lord. They were not perfect people or perfect parents. Yet their sincere desire was to love God and keep His commandments. This desire was known publicly, they were actively involved in the believing assembly. Are you known by others for your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ?

Just as these parents knew the importance of their relationship with God, through this act of Dedication they were asking God to give their children this eternal relationship in His time and plan. No loving parent would neglect food necessary for their child's health. But do we take sufficient precautions for their spiritual health? Our bodies are for this life, our soul's live eternally.

一、父母双方都有坚定的信心

旧约圣经中有一卷书－《撒母耳记上》，该书记载了关于撒母耳父母的信心的故事。他的母亲哈拿说：

“我的心因耶和华快乐...只有耶和华为圣，除他以外没有可比的。”

- 撒母耳记上 2:1-2

有关耶稣“父母”的信心也是众所周知的。童贞女利亚唱道：

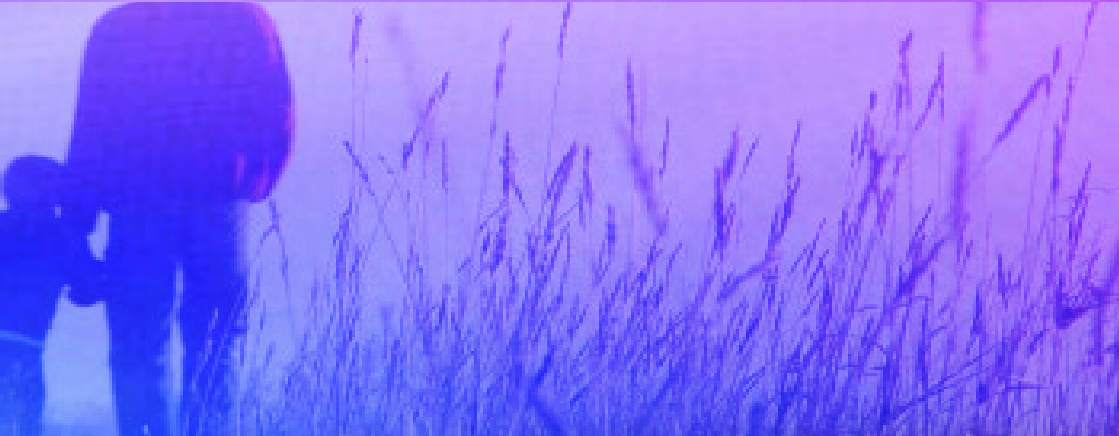
“我心尊主为大，我灵以神我的救主为乐。”

- 路加福音 1:46 & 47

约瑟，他是耶稣在地上的父亲（不是亲生父亲），是个“义人”（马太福音 1:19）

从上述两个例子中我们不难看出，圣经教导我们：凡是把孩子奉献给神的父母，首先他们必须把自己献给神。他们并不是完美的人，也不是完美的父母。但他们最诚挚的心愿是去爱神，并持守他的诫命。众信徒也知道他们的心愿，并积极地参与其中。你对耶稣基督的委身是否也让周围的人知道了呢？

由于这些父母深知他们和神建立关系的重要性，所以在他们把孩子奉献给神的时候，他们就祈求神按照他的时间和计划赐予他们的孩子这种永恒的关系。我们知道，父母为了孩子的健康是不会忽视接种疫苗的重要性，但是我们对孩子的灵性健康是否采取了足够的预防措施？我们的肉体只是今生的，灵魂却是永恒的。



2. Both parents understood their act of child dedication.

In both examples the parents were following the traditions of the Law of God. They were expressing their thanks and “giving the child back” to the Lord. According to the Law, all first-born children were “returned” to God, dedicated to His service. Through this ceremony they were saying, “Lord, we want this child to know, love, and serve you. You gave him to us, and we now give him back to You so that he would follow You.” They understood dedication was not an act of magic or manipulation. Nor did they think this ceremony would be a guarantee against any future harm or trouble. They knew God is good and committed to their best interests. They were not trying to chase away evil spirits and gain good luck. The pagan nations lived in such fear and superstition, but not the people of God.

This was a public ceremony was to both encourage the faith of the community and to be supported by the faithful of the community. We are not alone, but part of God’s family of faith. As we witness your Dedication, we are all reminded to pray for you and your child through the challenges and choices of their life.

二、父母双方都晓得孩童奉献的意义

在上述两个例子中，家长们都遵守神的律法。他们表达了对神的感谢，并将孩子奉献给他。根据律法，所有头生的孩子都要“归还”给神，奉献给神以服侍他。通过这样的仪式，他们表达出：“主啊，我们希望这孩子能认识你、爱你、服侍你。你把他赐给我们，现在我们把他归还于你，好使他能跟随你。”这些家长们懂得奉献的仪式既不是一种邪术，也不是一种操控。他们清楚知道这种仪式不能保证孩子未来可以免于困难或灾祸。他们相信神是良善的，而神知道什么是对他们孩子最好的。他们也不是要驱赶邪灵，祈求好运给孩子。许多异教国家的人们会生活在这样的恐惧和迷信中，但是神的子民却不会。

这是一个公开的仪式，目的是鼓励会众的信心，同时也能得到信徒的支持。我们并非形单影只，而是神大家庭的一分子。在我们一同见证这一仪式的时候，我们也同样会记得为你和你的孩子祷告，因为他们未来必将经历挑战和面临抉择。

3. Dedication is just the beginning

These faithful parents prayed for their child even before they were born. Now at this young age they are introducing their child into the family of faith. This was the beginning of a life with God amidst the community of God's people. These parents sought to follow the advice of Moses.

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

- Deuteronomy 6:5-8

For these parents, God was central in every area of life. Their desire was for their children to acknowledge the Lord God in all they did and said. How Samuel's parents must have rejoiced when,

"The boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men."

- 1 Samuel 2:26

In a similar way Joseph and Mary were blessed to see "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

And the pleasure of His Heavenly Father was great, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

We pray that in God's time your child will make their own decision to receive the Lord Jesus. By this Dedication, you as parents are starting them off in the right direction.

三、孩童奉献只是一个开始

这些敬虔的父母在孩子未出生前就开始为他们祷告了。在孩子还小的时候，父母就把他们带入一个有信仰的家庭中，继而带入到神的子民当中，开启这一建立与神同在的生命的旅程。这些父母愿意努力按照摩西的建议来行事。

"你要尽心、尽性、尽力爱耶和华你的神。我今日所吩咐你的话都要记在心上，也要殷勤教训你的儿女，无论你坐在家里，行在路上，躺下，起来，都要谈论。"

- 申命记 6:5-8

对于这些父母来说，神是他们整个生命的中心。他们渴望孩子的所言所行都能称颂耶和华。可以想象当撒母耳的父母看到他的成长是多么的欢喜快乐的。

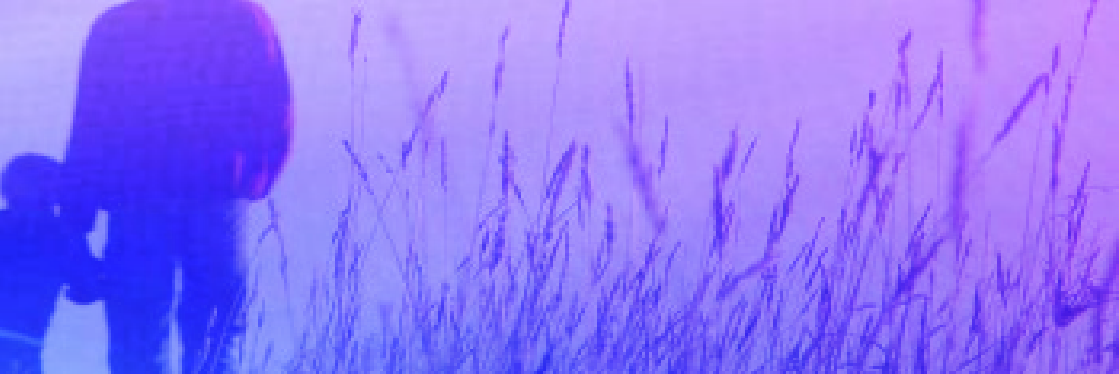
"孩子撒母耳渐渐长大，耶和华与人越发喜爱他。"

- 撒母耳记上 2:26

同样地，约瑟和马利亚也很高兴，因为看到 -- "耶稣的智慧和身量，并神和人喜爱他的心，都一齐增长。" - (路加福音 2:52)

天父极为喜悦，他说："你是我的爱子，我喜悦你！"
- (路加福音 3:22)

我们一同向神祷告祈求，按他的时间，你的孩子将作出接受耶稣基督作他们救主的决定。孩童奉献的意义是：作为父母，你们正在带领他们往正确的方向启航。



Three Life-Changing Questions

1. Do you love the Lord and desire to follow Him sincerely?
2. Do you understand what the Bible means to 'dedicate' your child?
3. Will you follow the ceremony of dedication with a life of teaching your child about the Lord Jesus by your words and deeds?

If your answer to all three questions is an unqualified 'yes' you should seek to have your child dedicated. If you're unsure, you should continue seeking the Lord through His Word and prayer. You are always welcome to BICF — you are an important part of our family. But it would be best to know clearly what dedication means, and fully dedicate yourself to Jesus, before making these public promises to God. Do not take this Dedication lightly. It is not just a ceremony it is a solemn commitment.

We urge you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him as Lord of your life. We invite you and your family to grow in faith with us through the ministries of BICF.

"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

- Acts 2:39

三个改变生命的问题

- 一. 你是真诚地爱主并渴望跟随他吗?
- 二. 你了解圣经里提到“奉献”你的孩子的意义吗?
- 三. 你愿意在奉献礼后, 通过你的言行和举止, 用一生来教导你的孩子关于耶稣基督的真理吗?

如果你对上面三个问题的回答是坚定不移的“是的”, 那么你应该将你的孩子奉献给神。如果你不确定, 那么你应该继续通过读经和祷告寻求神。你是我们大家庭的一个重要成员, BICF教会永远欢迎你! 然而, 在你公开对神作出承诺前, 最好清楚了解孩童奉献礼的意义, 并完全将自己奉献给耶稣。千万不要轻易地作出奉献孩子的决定, 因为这不仅是一个仪式, 更是一个庄严的承诺。

我们迫切地希望你相信耶稣基督, 并一生跟随他。我们也诚邀你和你的家庭通过参加BICF的事工, 与我们在信心的路上一同成长。

“因为这应许是给你们和你们的儿女, 并一切在远方的人, 就是主我们神所召来的。”

- 使徒行传 2:39

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孩童奉献礼

CHILD DEDICATION