



*We exist to honour God
and make followers of Jesus
in Kelburn and beyond*

After your child's baptism – what then?

The commitments you make on behalf of your child in the Prayer Book service are to: “renounce evil” and “trust in Christ”.¹ More specifically this means nurturing (enculturating) the child in their spiritual development in Christ. Some ways you can do this are through:

- **Modelling the faith:** Parents and God-parents and the faith community modelling “the joy of the Lord”, through a real, personal lived out faith in Christ – see Psalm 71:23.²

The calling of parents and God parents is to model a passion for the Gospel which their child sees undergirds everything their parents think and do, and so how family life unfolds. This life of love for God, evidenced through love for family and others, is lived before the children “warts and all”, with love covering “a multitude of sins” and casting out anxiety regarding the children’s future in Christ.³

- **Teaching your child to pray:** Learning how to pray both teaches your child how to communicate with God and, when associated with other routine activities, helps the child associate faith in Jesus with the security and love of home. Good times and ways to pray to pray include:
 - family (bedtime) prayers – including the Lord's prayer
 - meal times ('grace')
 - other formative prayers: the grace, perhaps the prayer for purity, etc.
- **Making sure your child is familiar with the scriptures:** Being familiar with the over-arching bible story and key passages is important in shaping your child’s faith. A children's bible as well as bible story books can be useful in helping your child explore the whole bible story. This can be more or less comprehensive. It’s probably best to start with the life of Jesus and the birth of the early church – God’s family. Parts of the bible could include...
 - The story of Jesus
 - The life of the early church (Acts)
 - Genesis chapters 1-12
 - The story of God’s people: The Exodus and giving of the law to Moses; the

¹ New Zealand Prayer Book p.385

² See also Ephesians 5:19-20.

³ See 1 Peter 4:8 f.f.; 1 John 4:18

establishment of Israel as a nation; Israel's exile for disobedience (the prophets) and their return. Key parts of scripture need only be read to get the story flow. A good children's bible will have these stories.

Learning specific parts of scripture is also important. These could include..

- The 10 commandments: Exodus 20:2-17.
 - The greatest commandment: Exodus 6:5-9 and Matthew 22:36-39.
 - The new commandment: John 13:34-35.
- **Attending Sunday school and church** – apart from learning more about their faith, meeting others who share their faith is important because the child realises that “following Jesus” is normal since other mums and dads and kids do too.
 - **Developing a sense of service** to others as part of their witness to their life in Christ (Ephesians 2:10). When kids see mum and dad doing things for others and they know they do this because “Jesus came as one who serves”, then they will want to serve others too. This is a radically counter cultural thing in a society which is “all about me”?
 - **Encouraging your child to own their faith** for themselves as they grow towards making their own profession of faith.⁴ This is a special trust of both parents and God parents.

*Train up a child in the way they should go,
And when they are old they will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

⁴ Galatians 4:1-7. If we are given an inheritance, it is ours (even if we are children), but it is of no use to us unless we claim it for ourselves. Confirmation is the way the baptised are able to make this public profession for themselves. In a way it completes their baptism or. At least fulfils it.