

Baby thanksgiving: What is it all about?

1. Is it Biblical?

Yes, when this type of prayer for babies as a special occasion covers areas such as :

- an expression of thanks for our children.
- we recognise that the child first belongs to God, even before the parents.
- the church, as the family of God, commits to encouraging the parents to raise their child in the ways of God.
- the parents commit to being Godly parents, and ask God for parenting wisdom.
- we ask God for His protection and blessing for the child.
- we ask God to save the child when they are at an age old enough to personally commit

Note: Make sure that you are clear on what this event means. It does not make the child a Christian. Baby Thanksgiving is not a "dry christening", nor does it mean we can shirk our parental responsibility, or our responsibility as the community of faith. It is simply a time when we as a church thank God for these new babies, where we ask for parenting grace, welcome the babies into our community, and offer the parents our support etc. So don't be disappointed that it is not the focal point of the service.

2. How can we ask for our baby to be prayed for?

Speak to your life group leader who will find out when the next opportunity for this will occur. Baby Thanksgiving will be announced during the notices and you will be able to sign up for Baby Thanksgiving at the information desk after the morning and evening services or email Bronwyn at bronwynv@jubilee.org.za with your details and those of your new baby.

3. Is this a Life Group Outreach Opportunity and How?

Yes. Spend time in the works section of the life group meeting planning your outreach celebration with the family of the parents. E.g. make sure that as many family members are invited to attend (forward planning is necessary). Get your life group to sit together on Sunday AM, leaving seats open for family members to sit with you.

*There will be a **tea** hosted by Jubilee after the service in the Jik room. You and your guests are welcome to attend. Please tell rsvp to Bronwyn before the Sunday of the Baby Thanksgiving by emailing bronwynv@jubilee.org.za or phoning 021 447 3630 for catering purposes.*

4. What if my family is unsure or objects?

Speak to your life group leader and find out their advice.

5. What about my unsaved marriage partner - won't they feel excluded?

Pray and ask for wisdom. e.g. include you partner from the earliest possible stage. Most parents will not object as they want the best for their children. Use the opportunity to introduce your unsaved spouse to the life group as well.