

## REAL PEOPLE, REAL FAITH

Abraham, Joshua:  
"Giving Your Child to God"

Giving your children to God is more than a one-time ceremony, it is an ongoing activity.

### I. ABRAHAM DEDICATED ISSAC TO GOD SIGNIFYING GOD CAME FIRST.

Genesis 22:1-2

Why did God ask him to dedicate his son?

1. To remind Abraham, and us, that our children are gifts from God. God. Ps 127:3.
2. To remind us that one day, God the Father would sacrifice His Only Son. John 3:16 3.
3. To test Abraham's priorities. Genesis 22:9-12

The trap of the poor parent is putting self first.  
The trap of the good parent is putting the child first.  
Your priorities should be God first, spouse second, and child third.

### II. JOSHUA DEDICATED HIS HOUSEHOLD TO SERVE GOD INSTEAD OF OTHER THINGS. Joshua 24:15

Joshua made a choice and set the example.

### III. JOSEPH AND MARY PRESENTED JESUS TO THE LORD. Luke 2: 22

## IV. PARENTS, ESPECIALLY FATHERS, ARE CALLED TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN FOR GOD.

Ephesians 6:4

1. Tank-filling.
  - Affection:
  - Affirmation:
  - Attention:
  - Acceptance:
2. Training:
3. Target:
4. Time:

Seven suggestions for effective family devotions:

- 1.) Keep it simple and short.
- 2.) Be age appropriate.
- 3.) Have realistic expectations.
- 4.) Enjoy it yourself.
- 5.) Use variety.
- 6.) Be encouraging.
- 7.) Be as consistent as possible.

5. Talk. Deuteronomy 6: 5-7

## VI. THE CHURCH FAMILY IS TO BE COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGING PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOWARD THE WAYS OF GOD.

Hebrews 10: 24-25