



DECEMBER 2017



BIBLE STORY:

LUKE 2:1-7

Jesus is born in a stable.

SAY THIS:

How do we know God loves us?

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH: God Loves Me

DO THIS:



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month say, "Good morning! There's my [special name you call your child]." Cuddle them into your arms/lap and say, "Tell me, who does

God love? God loves [child's name]!"



DRIVE TIME

As you drive, tell your child to look out his/her window for anything that looks like Christmas, and when they see something say, "Happy birthday, Jesus!"



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. Help us remember that Christmas is all about His birthday. You are the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus' name, amen."



BATH TIME

Sing to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" as you bathe your baby: "God has given a Son to us, Son to us, Son to us. God has given a Son to us. Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Repeat.

From Parent Cue:

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR NEW BABY

This is an excerpt from the book *One and Two* by Kristen Ivy and Reggie Joiner

What you do every week matters.

And what you do every week matters more when it happens over time.

But there are some moments that only come around seasonally, annually, or once in a lifetime. And the way you celebrate those moments have a different kind of impact.

Over the next eighteen years with your child, some moments will . . .
create a shared experience.
mark a significant milestone.
begin an annual tradition.

Christmas is one of the best holidays to have a few family traditions. Whether your traditions remain constant or change with the phases, go ahead and try a few this year to embrace the faith, joy, and energy your toddler will bring to Christmas.

Four Gift Ideas: Your toddler probably doesn't have a long wish list—but you might. Ask doting friends and relatives to help by choosing gifts that fit into one of four categories: something they want, something they need, something to wear, something to read.

Nativity Story Time: If you have a nativity in your home, show your toddler the different pieces as you set up the scene. Talk about the characters and tell the story as you put the pieces in place.

Christmas Traditions: Continue or establish other traditions like:

- New pajamas on Christmas Eve
- A keepsake ornament for the tree
- A visit to Santa (even if they cry when you hand them to the bearded stranger)
- A drive through the sparkling lights
- A special Christmas book to read before bed

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