

**SAY THIS:**

How do we know God loves us?
GOD GAVE US JESUS.

**DO THIS:****MORNING TIME**

When you go into your baby's room, say, "Merry Christmas! It's Jesus' birthday! A long time ago, Jesus was a baby, just like you!" Touch your baby's nose or tummy when you say "you."

**FEEDING TIME**

While feeding your baby this month, say, "God gave us [name of food]. God gave us [name of drink]. God gave us Jesus!"

**CUDDLE TIME**

Cuddle with your baby this month and pray, "Dear God, this time of year can get busy with a lot of good things, just maybe not the most important things. Help me focus on you giving us Jesus and what that really means. I want [baby's name] to grow up celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. I love You, God, and I am thankful for Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

**BATH TIME**

Add a baby doll to bath time. Pretend it is baby Jesus and sing, "Happy Birthday" to Jesus while you bathe your baby.

BASIC TRUTH:

GOD LOVES ME.

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CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR BABY

By Kristen Ivy

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 may be one of the best holidays to create some family traditions. Whether your traditions remain constant or change with the phases, go ahead and try a few this year and make your baby's first Christmas one to remember.

Four Gift Ideas: If you are wary of too many gifts for one little baby, or you don't want your home filled with loud noise makers and bright plastic obstacles to trip over, ask doting friends and relatives to choose gifts that fit in one of four categories: something they want, something they need, something they wear, something they read.

One Gift Tradition: Start a tradition of new Christmas pajamas on Christmas Eve, a special Christmas ornament to put on the tree, or a Christmas book to read before bed.

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

A Christmas Keepsake: Commemorate "baby's first Christmas" by making (or purchasing) something special this year that you will bring out every Christmas. Make a handprint. Get a special ornament. Take a picture. Create a memory book. Do whatever fits your style.

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