

**SAY THIS:**

Who can you follow?
YOU CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

DO THIS:**MORNING TIME**

When you go into your baby's room, say, "Good morning, [baby's name]!" Cuddle your baby and say, "Jesus loves you (*point to baby*) and Jesus loves me (*point to self*). I love you (*point to baby*) and you love me (*point to self*)!"

**FEEDING TIME**

While feeding your baby this month, tell your child some of the ways Jesus showed people He loved them while He was on Earth. Look your baby in the eyes and say, "Jesus loved people by listening to them. Jesus loved people by healing them. Jesus loved people by forgiving them. Jesus loved people by giving them food. Jesus loved people by teaching them."

**CUDDLE TIME**

Cuddle with your baby this month and pray, "Dear God, the one thing Jesus tells me to do in order to show the world that I follow Him is love people the way He loves me. Help me to show the same grace and kindness and generosity to others that Jesus has shown me. I pray the same for [baby's name]. I want him/her to love others the way Jesus loves him/her. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

**BATH TIME**

Sing the following words to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb as you bathe your baby: "I can follow, yes I can, yes I can, yes I can. I can follow, yes I can. I can follow Jesus."

BASIC TRUTH:

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

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WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?

By Sue Miller

When you have a baby, your world changes in an instant, and you may begin to wonder WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?

We all start out with a picture of what we think family should look like. Then we actually have a family. And we discover it's not exactly like we thought it would be.

Parenting is complicated. You constantly feel like a rookie playing in the World Series, and the stakes are immeasurably high. Once you think you have it figured out, the game changes. But there are no do-overs, no first pancakes. You get only one shot at each child, and you don't want to mess up.

That's a lot of pressure. Maybe this job should have come with a ten-page application, references needed. Or at least an instruction manual. But there really is no book on how to do this. No ONE perfect way . . .

You will make mistakes as a parent. You might . . .

bribe, bargain and threaten just to get in the car faster. forget that it's Pajama day at school. order oddly-shaped nuggets from the drive-through a few too many times. let them hold onto their pacifiers, bottles, and wubbies a teensy bit longer than they should.

But that's okay! It really is. Embrace the imperfection by saying out loud, "My child will not be perfect and neither will I! And that's okay!"

It's okay because you're not in this for an Instagrammable life. So, back to the question, what have you gotten yourself into?

A RELATIONSHIP. Your relationship with your child is more important than getting everything right. So loosen up a little. Be easier on yourself. Let go of whatever image you're trying to protect.

Maybe you should stress less and play more, cuddle more, laugh more. . . .

Just remember—kids get messy. And, so does family. Kids don't need perfect parents to turn out great. What they do need is for you to invest in your relationship with them above all else.

This is going to take some time—years in fact. But, time is on your side right now. The good news is that you haven't made any many mistakes yet. This will be the only time as a parent you will be able to say this. So celebrate this moment.



For more blog posts and parenting resources, visit: **ParentCue.org**



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