

BIBLE STORY

LUKE 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem where Jesus is born in a stable, for no rooms were available.

SAY THIS

WHY IS JESUS SPECIAL?
JESUS IS GOD'S SON.

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month, count down to Jesus' birthday (Christmas day) by saying, "Good morning, [child's name]! It's ___ days until Jesus' birthday!"



DRIVE TIME

As you drive, play a game where every time you see Christmas decorations you yell, "Happy birthday, Jesus!"



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You that Jesus was born so long ago. Thank You that He grew up to show us how to love others. Please help me teach [child's name] about Your great love and that Jesus, Your Son, wants to be his/her friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



BATH TIME

Add bubble bath to your child's bath. Help him/her make lots of bubbles and then tell your child to make a pretend birthday cake for Jesus with the bubbles. Next, sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus together. At the end of the song, blow the pretend candles out and watch the bubbles fly!

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3 WAYS TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS CHRISTMAS

By Jon Acuff

Christmas is about 7 minutes long when you have kids. One minute it's Thanksgiving, and the next you're putting away your ornaments. Nothing moves as fast as the holidays, and it's no wonder that so many people find this time of year stressful. How do you make sure you make the most of your Christmas?

Here are three simple ways.

1. DO ONE LESS THING

I'm terrible at being still. On Saturdays, I often ask my wife, "What are we doing today?" She'll look up from a book or knitting and say, "This, this is what we're doing. The kids are playing. You've built a fire. This is enough." Maybe you overstuff your calendar like me, especially during Christmas. Well this year, do one less thing. Don't try to fit it all in. Look at your list of activities and remove one. Leave some room around the edges of your calendar and give the rest of what you'll do some breathing room.

2. PUT THE PHONE DOWN

Your phone isn't just a phone, it's also an escape pod. Whenever you want, it offers you the chance to mentally disappear from a moment. Part of the reason we miss the holidays is that we're stuck on our devices. This year, be deliberate about taking a break. Leave it

in a drawer. Put it back in your bedroom during a dinner party. Throw it in the glove compartment when you drive to grandma's house. Something that small can make a big difference.

3. START A NEW TRADITION

Sometimes, we speed through the holidays because we don't have any traditions. A good tradition is like a speed bump. It slows you down and reminds you of years gone by. It pauses you and quiets the moment. It doesn't have to be massive. One of ours is that we let our kids get up early on Christmas morning, but they have to wait at the top of the stairs before they come down. They think it's torture but also secretly love the anticipation. That's our tradition. What new one can you start?

It will be January before you know it. The new year will be here and you'll have a million things to do. Until then though, slow down. Laugh more. Take a deep breath. Relax a little bit.

God didn't give us Christmas to make us crazy.

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