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Happy birthday, Jesus!

SAY THIS

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



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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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BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

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DON'T PACK UP CHRISTMAS

By Autumn Ward

I love Christmas decorations. They have a way of making everything more beautiful. Even the most humble of homes becomes a breathtaking sight with just a few strands of twinkling lights.

Out of all our decorations, I do have a favorite. It's my wooden nativity. I display it right inside our front door. I love the beauty in the smooth wood and how it reminds me daily what we are truly celebrating. The true story of profound love displayed through everyday people like you and me.

The faith of young Mary, trusting in God's plan.

The obedience of Joseph, taking Mary as his wife.

The truth of Jesus, the Son of God, coming to take His place in the world He created, among the people He would die for.

The hospitality of the innkeeper.

The humility of the stable.

The praise of the angels.

The joy of the shepherds.

The seeking of the wise men.

Scripture being fulfilled in one holy night.

The nativity is a beautiful reminder of who God is and who He wants us to become. And even though December 26th marks the time when we begin rolling up the lights and putting away the nativity, it doesn't mean we have to pack up Christmas. As parents, we have

opportunities every day to lead the way and model for our children ways to keep the most beautiful parts of Christmas up all year long.

So yes, pack up Joseph, Mary, and the babe lying in a manger. Pack up the stable and the sheep, the angels, wise men, and shepherd. But don't pack up Christmas.

Keep faith on display as you trust in God's plan.

Keep obedience to God's Word, even when you don't understand.

Keep your belief in the truth of scripture, even when it doesn't make sense.

Keep hospitality active, as you open your home to others.

Keep humility in every room of your home as you put others first.

Keep praise on your lips, no matter your circumstance.

Keep seeking God, in all you do.

The good news is that no matter where you are in your parenting journey, even the most humble of homes can be a breathtaking sight when we choose to not pack up Christmas, but rather live it out in our everyday lives, and be the person we—and most importantly God—want our kids to be.

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