



WEEK THREE

THE COMING BIRTH OF JESUS • LUKE 1:26-56



SAY THIS:

YOU CAN HAVE JOY
BECAUSE GOD IS WITH YOU.



REMEMBER THIS:

"Always be joyful because
you belong to the Lord.
I will say it again. Be joyful!"
PHILIPPIANS 4:4, NIV



DO THIS:



What does it mean to you when
someone says, *God is with you*?
Even though Mary faced an
unexpected situation, she knew the
stories of God's faithfulness, and
trusted that He would be with her.
Because God sent His Son, Jesus,
we can trust that God is with us
every day, too. Pray that you will
have joy knowing God is with you.

JOY:

FINDING A WAY TO BE HAPPY,
EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY



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10 MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

By Jim Burns

Traditions are important for families because they provide opportunities to keep your family legacy going. From the simple to the silly to the sentimental, traditions can create meaningful memories. Don't hesitate to try out some new traditions this Christmas season and see what works and what doesn't for your own family. Here are a few ideas:

- 1. Letters to Jesus.** Before opening your Christmas presents, write thank-you letters to Jesus. Collect them and make them available every Christmas. Keep adding new letters annually.
- 2. Live out an annual family version of The Twelve Days of Christmas.** First identify a friend, relative, or neighbor to receive all the "gifts." Then create a unique gift for each day of the song (i.e., five golden rings could be five glazed donuts) and place the gifts on the recipient's front porch.
- 3. Go Christmas caroling.** Take a walk around your immediate neighborhood and stop at homes and sing Christmas carols.
- 4. Visit a Nursing Home.** There are usually a lot of lonely people living in nursing homes—especially during the Christmas season. Prepare some Christmas cookies and take your family to visit a nursing home—and spread the love of Jesus.
- 5. Help at a food bank or soup kitchen.** Try spending Christmas day helping the needy at a local food
- 6. Celebrate your family's ethnic heritage(s).** Sometime during the Christmas season, prepare a family meal(s) that celebrates your family's ethnic heritage. This is a great way to connect with your family roots.
- 7. Ice skating on Christmas Eve – day.** Gather the family and head out to an ice rink or local (frozen!) pond for some time on the ice. It's a great way to spend some family time and it keeps the kids active.
- 8. Attend a local community Christmas event.** This tradition can really take hold if the community holds the same event annually.
- 9. Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus on Christmas Day.** After all, it is Jesus' birthday that we celebrate.
- 10. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2.** Whether you open your gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, try having someone from your family read the Christmas story out loud before opening gifts.

For more ideas, check out theparentcue.org/20-memorable-family-christmas-traditions/

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