



Mom2Mom newsletter

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The Christmas Story for Every Age by Kelli McAnally

Babies and Ones

As you interact with your child, say simple, factual statements about

Jesus' birth:

- Jesus was born.
- Mary was Jesus' mother.
- Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in soft cloths.
- She laid Him in a manger bed.
- Shepherds hurried to see Baby Jesus.
- The shepherds thanked God for Jesus.
- Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds were happy that Jesus was born.

Twos

Mary, Joseph, and many other people walked and walked until they reached Bethlehem. The inns (hotels) were all full. Mary and Joseph did not have a place to rest. Joseph found a place where he and Mary could rest.

Soon Jesus was born. Mary gently wrapped Him in soft cloths to keep Him warm and comfortable. She laid Baby Jesus in a manger bed. Mary and Joseph took special care of the tiny baby Jesus.

Shepherds came to see Baby Jesus. They thanked God for the special baby. Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds were happy that Jesus was born.

Threes and Fours

Joseph and Mary were waiting for her baby to be born. At this same time, all the people had to be counted. People had to go to their hometowns and put their names on a list.

So Joseph went to his family's hometown, Bethlehem. Mary went with Joseph. Bethlehem was crowded with people. Every room in the town was taken. So Joseph and Mary stayed in a place where animals were kept, a stable. That night Baby Jesus was born.

Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in soft cloths. She laid this special baby in a manger filled with hay. The manger was a box where hay for the animals was kept.

In a field nearby, shepherds were taking care of their sheep. An angel appeared to the shepherds. They were afraid. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I have good news for you. God has sent a special baby. He was born in Bethlehem. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. They found Baby Jesus lying in the manger, just as the angel had said. When the shepherds left, they told everyone they saw about the special baby who had been born in Bethlehem.



10 Ways to Serve Others Over the Holidays by Darcy Kimmel

1. Participate in a clothing/coat/blanket drive or have your own.
2. Take cards and flowers to a nursing home or veteran's hospital.
3. Help your kids save and earn money for Toys for Tots or Angel Tree.
4. Fill a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child.
5. Choose a gift from the World Vision Gift Catalog.
6. Sponsor a child through Food for the Hungry.
7. Write a letter to a soldier, send a free postcard to soldier, or email to soldier.
8. Sponsor a soldier's family for the holidays.
9. Clean out your closets, toy chest and cupboards for a food/clothing bank.
10. Make any of the above the beginning of a way of life for you and your kids.





It's a Crafty Christmas!

by Kelly Jackson

Looking for a DIY (Kid-friendly) gift idea for the grandparents? Look no further. Kelly shares an idea that is easy for even the non-DIYer!



This year, I'm trying to teach my children the joy of giving. My 3 and 5 year old are always so eager to share their crafts with my husband and I – so I wanted to channel that energy into experiencing the joy of giving towards their grandparents.

So here's a great project that's easy for preschoolers of any age – Crazy Birdhouses!

It's simple to make, just grab the following items from any craft store:

- Unfinished wood bird houses (\$5 at Michaels)
- A Jar of Crafts (\$10 at Michaels)
- Lots of different paints (usually around \$1 each)

Make sure to cover the surface of the table they are working on- this ain't a washable Crayola craft! Let the kids paint the houses however they like and don't forget to have them do their handprint on the bottom (once it's dry, write their name and age by the hand). Let the paint dry for a day, then break out the jar of crafts and let them go to town. There are

puff balls, buttons, stickers, glitter, etc – it's a lot of fun to see what they can come up with! I try to help, but not hover, we want this to be decorated purely by them.

Once all the paint, glue and glitter is set in it's place, let them pick out a bag from the \$1 store and voila- A gift your children will be ecstatic to give!



The Herb Box

Ladies... take note...this could very well be one of my top five valley eateries!!! Seriously...

Since opening in 2001, The Herb Box (two locations: DC Ranch and Old Town) is a bit of a local success story. Everyone likes a small business success story these days, right? And what's great is that The Herb Box's achievements have happened due to word of mouth. Us momma's know about that!

Pre-Baby I was introduced to The Herb Box by a friend, and boy am I glad we met! I've only been to the Shea location in the Agua Caliente shopping center. It's what I'd call a little gourmet hide-away. Although it's tucked away, that doesn't keep it from being one of the hottest spots around! This Scottsdale eatery, catering company and market offers creative salads, scrumptious pizzas, delicious sandwiches and specialty desserts. Some of my favorites include the Housemade Sweet Potato Chips, the White Bean Chicken Chili, the Corn & Goat Cheese Flatbread Pizza, the Enchiladas, and so much more.

Go to www.theherbbox.com for more info!

Christmas Corinthians 13

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

- Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
- Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.
- Love is kind, though harried and tired.
- Love does not envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.
- Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way.
- Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.
- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But giving the gift of love will endure.

Suggested Reading for Mommies

Need new reading material? Here are a few good reads...

