



BASIC TRUTH

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY
FRIEND FOREVER.**

SAY THIS

**WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?
I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.**

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go into your baby's room this month, say, "Good morning, [child's name]! I hear your sweet voice." Look your child in the eyes and say, "I'm so glad God gave you to me!"



FEEDING TIME

Sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot" while feeding your baby: "I can follow Jesus - every day - while I work - while I play. - When He loves others - hear Him say - 'Follow Me - I'll show the way.'"



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your baby this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You for choosing me to be [child's name]'s [mommy/daddy]. Help me lead [him/her] to follow Jesus so [he/she] can know You and live with You forever. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



BATH TIME

As you bathe your baby this month, say, "Mommy is your friend. Daddy is your friend. Grandma is your friend. (List other family members.) And Jesus is your friend!"

WHAT YOU HAVE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?

by Gina McClain

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 them 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. And 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.

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