

Missing Christmas

[Lori Fairchild](#)

Today's Truth

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Friend to Friend

Have you ever noticed it's easy to miss Christmas?

I know you're thinking, "Is she crazy? Has she *been* to the mall, the grocery store or Wal-Mart lately? How can she miss Christmas? It's everywhere!"

I see the decorations and hear the Christmas carols that have been playing nonstop on the radio since well before Thanksgiving. I've done some shopping and made some Christmas cookies. Just like every other year.

But some years, I find that I miss Christmas. Oh, we head out to church on Christmas Eve and spend a few minutes celebrating the birth of Jesus. We celebrate the day with gifts and a big dinner. But I find I can sometimes go the entire month of December without turning my attention to the baby in the manger until Christmas Eve.

Ironic, isn't it, that an entire month of celebration is supposed to be centered on this precious baby who came to save the world, and the hustle and bustle and trappings of that celebration can keep us from truly celebrating His birth.

What is it that keeps us from focusing on Jesus? From celebrating the wonderful news the angels told the shepherds?

So many things pull at us during the holiday season. There's all the shopping to be done. There's children's pageants and school programs to see, there's work Christmas parties and there are the inevitable family issues to deal with. We're being pulled in 14 different directions, trying to fit all the activities and traditions that we can in the short weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We become so focused on the celebrating that we forget *who* we're celebrating.

To be honest, when I miss Christmas, my family misses Christmas, too. I'm the keeper of the schedule in our house. When our days are too full, my family misses the opportunity to bask in the joy of knowing that God sent His son to rescue them. They miss the wonder of knowing that God's plan for redemption started with a helpless baby in a dirty, smelly stable, of all places.

This is the season when it's easy to talk with your family about Jesus. He's everywhere. The reason for all those shiny ornaments, all those glittering lights and all those presents is to celebrate Jesus' birth. We can use the simple, everyday moments during the holiday season to put the focus on Jesus.

A comment about Christmas lights can lead to a discussion about how Jesus was the light of the world. Giving each member of your family an ornament that symbolizes a significant event in

his or her life this year opens up the opportunity to talk about how God has worked in your family throughout the year. Baking cookies and taking them to neighbors gives you the opportunity to share God's love with your neighborhood.

We have to make the effort to turn our everyday traditions and moments into meaningful ones. We want our family's memories of Christmas to focus on the love and joy found in Jesus' birth. To do that we have to take back the month. We have to make Jesus the priority. Because the reason for Christmas is this:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

That's good news and cause for celebration. And we don't want to miss it.

Let's Pray

Lord, I don't want to miss Christmas this year. Help me to look for opportunities to draw the focus of this season back to Jesus. Let me take everyday moments and traditions and turn them into avenues to share the joy of Jesus' birth with my family and friends. Amen.

Now It's Your Turn

Take a few minutes to look at your calendar and think about the things your family normally does during the Christmas season. Think about ways you can use those already existing traditions as an opportunity to focus your family's attention on the good news of Jesus' birth. You don't have to add anything to your overloaded schedule, just tweak the traditions you already have so they focus on Jesus.

More from the Girlfriends

Want to learn more about how to take everyday moments and turn them into opportunities to celebrate Jesus' birth with your kids? Check out Lori's new e-book, *Everyday Christmas: Helping your kids find Jesus in the everyday moments of the season*, for more practical ideas to focus your kids' attention on Jesus. Or visit her blog, [Everyday Truth](#), or the [Everyday Truth Facebook page](#). Each day until Christmas, you'll find suggestions for taking common traditions, decorations, songs and stories and using them to focus your kids' attention on Jesus' birth.