

BASIC TRUTH

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.

**SAY
THIS**

**WHO IS ALWAYS WITH ME?
GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME!**

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month, say, "Good morning [child's name]! Are you ready for a great day? I know you are, because God is always with you!"



FEEDING TIME

At meals this month, say, "God loves [child's name] and is with [him/her] wherever [he/she] goes. God is with [child's name] at the [place name]. God is with [child's name] at the [place name]." Continue naming places.



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, Your word says in Joshua 1:9 that You are with us wherever we go. I pray that [child's name] will grow up remembering that you are always by [his/her] side. Amen."



BATH TIME

Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It" while bathing your child: "God is always with you. Yes, He is. (clap, clap) God is always with you. Yes, He is. (clap, clap) In the morning, in the night, you are always in His sight. God is always with you. Yes, He is. (clap, clap)"

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MESSY ONE-YEAR-OLDS

By Sherry Surratt

I'm not sure what captivates me more . . . the spontaneous belly laugh or the drool-mouthed wonder on their angelic face. I can fall in love with a one-year-old faster than they can stink up a room with a saggy diaper. The cherub cheeks and adorable fat thighs draw me in, almost enough to make me overlook their incessantly snotty nose and the jelly they just smeared in their wispy new hair. Almost.

It's the mess that gets me. Their little fingers are drawn like magnets to anything breakable. The moment their hands become sticky-gooey, an internal signal screams somewhere in their little bodies, "Wipe yourself on something clean and white. Right now."

Sitting at the dinner table, I see the same look on my granddaughter Mollie's face that I saw on her daddy's face so many years ago. It's the look of curiosity that drives a toddler to snatch and smear, squish, then shriek with delight.

Sweet discovery is what this phase is made of. It's what makes patience and endurance such prized commodities for the parents of this age. You're helping your one-year-old navigate the mess of discovery. During this phase, your brilliant bundle of exhaustless energy will climb her first stairs, say her first sentence, and test her independence—

independence illustrated with piercing shrieks, and that vehemently spoken word: "No!"

But within the mess is an indescribable joy. He just toddled his first Frankenstein steps, three in a row, boasting the proud look of an astronaut landing on the moon. She just grabbed a crayon and scribbled her first work of art. Your darling can identify his nose and eyes and ears on command, and you're certain he has the makings of a brain surgeon.

Sweet joy and pride so big it hurts—this is what wells up in the hearts of moms and dads as they watch their one-year-old develop into a little person with opinions and intellect and personality. And as you gaze, you begin to realize what this really means. Not only do you get to watch the beauty of potential form right before your eyes, but you get to help influence, train, and build who your child will become. Just remember: There will come a day when your once-helpless baby bathes and dresses and feeds himself, but the journey to get there comes with a little mess along the way.

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