



Special Edition Christmas Traditions

Any Christmas tradition is great as long as it is rooted in Christ. In our family our desire has been to create godly traditions that will center the day around Jesus and can pass that focus to future generations. Here's how we celebrate:

Christmas Eve

Make a "Happy Birthday" Cake for Jesus.

Prepare bags with oats and silver, red, green and gold glitter for the Christmas Eve poem. (The poem is on the following page.)

Attend a Christmas Eve Service.

After sunset read the Christmas Eve poem on the following page.

Christmas Morning

Wake up before the kids.

Light a fire and put on some Christmas music.

Eat a good breakfast.

Get your favorite drink—i.e., hot chocolate, egg nog, etc.

Read the Christmas Story from Luke 2:1-20.

Pray and give God praise.

Open gifts and remind your children that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

Christmas Lunch

Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

For lunch dessert, eat the "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Cake

Important Note: My family is sometimes asked what role we let Santa play in Christmas. We tell our kids that Santa is a fun story. So, yes, we watch "Rudolph" and have some Santa ornaments, but we always tell our kids that it's just pretend and not real and that Christmas is all about Jesus. This is just our conviction about how we desire to raise the children God has entrusted to us. If you would like to know more about why we hold this opinion, please feel free to ask.

Christmas Eve Poem

We will soon celebrate the Savior's birth,
Who became a man and came to earth.
But now that it is the night before,
Take this bag and go out your door.

The darkness you will see, represents our sin,
like a sickness that blinds the eyes of men,
And makes them feel worthless and low,
As if God did not love them so.

The oats in the bag represent your cares,
The questions you have and the burdens you bear.
Each little grain is another part,
For you to cast on a great God's heart.

The flakes of silver stand for the gifts that wise men brought,
When long ago a Savior they sought.

The flakes of red stand for that moment in history,
When Jesus gave His blood for you and me.

The flakes of green represent the new life you find,
When you takes Jesus as your Savior, and leave your sins
behind.

The flakes of gold stand for Heaven above,
Where you can live forever, with a God of love.

As you cast these oats to the wind,
Cast your cares on your Best Friend.
Confusion and grief,
Joy and relief,
Anger and fear,
The loss of someone dear,
Good times and bad,
And thoughts that are sad.
Glad news and peace,

And hurts that won't cease.
Take them all,
Every care,

And throw them up,
In the air.

Toss them now up on your lawn,
And the birds will eat them at the break of dawn,
Then open your eyes and you will see,
If God cares for birds,
How much more does he care for me.

*The Bible says, "Cast your cares on Him, for He cares for
you." 1 Peter 5:7*