

**RUTH 1-2**  
Boaz helps provide food  
for Ruth and Naomi.

**SAY THIS:**  
Who can you thank  
for everything?  
**YOU CAN THANK GOD  
FOR EVERYTHING.**

 **DO THIS:**



### MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month, say, "It's morning time! Where's my [child's name]? There he/she is! I am so thankful God gave you to me!"



### DRIVE TIME

As you drive, take turns saying, "Thank You, God, for [something you see out of the window]."



### CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, We have so much to be thankful for. Your goodness is everywhere we look! We see Your goodness in the sunshine, beautiful flowers, fresh air, birds singing, yummy food, good friends, and family. Thank You for all the things You have given us! We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."



### BATH TIME

Add several foam hearts to the bath water. Give your child a plastic bowl, and encourage him/her to put ALL of the hearts in the bowl. You can skip the bowl and line ALL of the hearts up along the edge of the tub. Emphasie the word "ALL" as you talk about the hearts. Each time your child does this, say, "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart." Psalm 111:1.

**BASIC TRUTH:**  
**GOD MADE ME.**

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# HOW TO READ BETTER BEDTIME STORIES

By Robert Carnes

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When I became a new parent, the thing I looked forward to most was reading bedtime stories with my child. Now that I'm a dad, that's my favorite way to connect with my daughter. Here are a few ways I've learned to make the most of this opportunity:

### Make Reading Part of the Routine

Bedtime stories can help to establish a healthy bedtime routine. Even from a young age, this can help your child sleep better. Having a set routine each night signals to your kid that it's time to start winding down. It helps takes their mind off of the day and ignites their imagination.

### Pick the Right Books

There are lots of children's books out there—both good and bad. But the best indication of the right book for your child is whether it's developmentally appropriate. Many factors can go into deciding what's age appropriate—from the complexity of the word, to the colors in the illustrations. Doing your homework is important.

### Do the Voices

What you're reading is important, but so is how you're reading it. One of the best ways to get your kid to understand the context of what's happening in the book is from your delivery. They're depending on you to be their emotional translator. Try giving each of the characters silly

voices. And make sure to do all of the sound effects. Children's writers put those in there on purpose.

### Get the Kid(s) Involved

One of the biggest benefits of reading to your child is promoting their own literacy. The more you read to your child, the more they'll understand and appreciate the importance of reading. And what better way to do that than by involving them in the process?

As they get older, let them start picking out the books to read. As they develop favorites, they might want to try reading aloud to you. Encourage them and gently guide them when they make mistakes. As you read, ask them questions about the book, like "And then what happened?"

Right now, my daughter is only five-months-old. So she's some time away from reading books for herself. I get her involved by letting her hold on to the pages of the book, which she inevitably attempts to eat. At least I can say she's been consuming literature from a very young age. (I'm sorry for the bad pun, but I have a quota of dad jokes to hit.)

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