

DECEMBER  
2011



**Parent  
Cue**

**PARENT  
TIME**  
(Especially for baby  
& toddler parents)

The tree is lit. The presents are wrapped. It's Christmas Eve. Your child gathers his own family into the living room to hear the Christmas story as told in the book of Luke. Later, as the Christmas dinner dishes are being stacked, your child enters smiling, holding a birthday cake that says, "Happy Birthday, Jesus." He then leads the family in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. This is what you hope for your child—a lifetime of celebrating the true story of Christmas.

How do you get your child, the sweet thing that snuggles on you in his footie pajamas, to that day when he leads his own family in celebrating the birth of our Savior? How do you help him to grow his faith? The first thing is to realize that you can't do it alone. As your child grows out of his footie pajamas and into tennis shoes and then football cleats, he will be surrounded by others who will influence him. Your role is to guide him into the right relationships. Your role is to surround him with leaders who love him and love God. Your role is to widen his circle of influence and let God work through you all.



Carey Niewhof challenges us in this month's Parent Link Live to help our children spend time with other key adults. He gives several practical tips to help encourage these relationships. You can find this terrific podcast on [www.OrangeParents.org](http://www.OrangeParents.org).

 **first look**  
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