

# F I R S T Christmas @ H M E Affirmation Ornament

An activity for the family during the Christmas season. Each Christmas we set up our trees and breakout Christmas ornaments. What do your ornaments mean to you? Do they tell a story? The following activity starts a family tradition around decorating your tree and looking at your ornaments different each year.

Read John 8:12 as a family.

Ask: 1. Christmas is full of lights, stars, and hope, pointing to Jesus as the light of the world. Why is light so important?

2. We decorate our tree with lights and ornaments. What are some of your favorite ornaments? Why?

Sit down together and reflect on what has happened the last year that was significant for each family member (a notable achievement, developed a skill or character trait. Make a list for each family member. When out shopping look for a ornament that matches one of the significant moments for each member. Mom and Dad also look for ornaments for each other.

On Christmas Eve or a selected night, sit down as a family and present each family member with their Affirmation Ornament.

Examples: You made wise choices this past year (owl ornament)

You learned to swim (dolphin ornament)

You graduated (graduate ornament)

After presenting them to each other find a place on your tree to hang those ornaments. After a couple of years of this tradition, think of the stories that develop as you decorate your tree. Also as your children get to re-live the significant events of their lives.

You are beginning to start a legacy with your family that your kids can carry for years to come and develop great family memories. You can even invite grandparents each year to participate with you.

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