1. Lillian Vernon cheap items from when they were itty bitty
* Christmas blocks
* Advent calendar – boys still put theirs up; odd/even days
* Advent Wreath – will you share readings? Will you use prayers that change each week or each day? Who gets to light the candles? Right before dinner?
* You never know what will resonate with your children; be thoughtful about what your traditions say about what you prioritize and care about
1. Decorating the tree
* Emphasizing family time together vs. the tree looking just like you want it to
* How many of you moms move the ornaments around after the family has decorated it?
* Giving the boys an ornament each year (marked) so that they’ll have a collection to start with when they have their own homes. They often have to do with an activity they’re in or a place they’ve gone or a milestone they’ve reached. But it might just be something I think they’d enjoy or find quirky.
1. Making Christmas cookies – Mitchell still comes to do them with me
* Other special foods that you only do at Christmas
* For Christmas and Easter, we prepare a breakfast casserole that we heat and eat Christmas/Easter morning
1. Music During Advent
* Andrew Peterson “Behold the Lamb of God”
* City on a Hill “Sing Alleluia”
* City on a Hill “It’s Christmas Time”
* Come Let Us Adore Him: A Christmas Worship Experience
1. Keeping Holy Week – craft family can create together and then use over the years
2. Understand that all traditions have seasons; as your children become adults they will choose their own traditions; hold them loosely and give thanks for the season that you had – and welcome the *new* season with its traditions.
3. What family traditions do you recall from growing up that are meaningful for you?
4. What are the type of family traditions that you would like to cultivate in your family? Why? What do you believe they will foster in your children and family?
5. What tradition desires do you differ on? How might you negotiate these traditions so that you can both support and participate in them?