

Making a Jesse Tree An Advent Craft for the Whole Class!



A Jesse Tree is used to depict the lineage of Jesus Christ, beginning with creation and ending with his birth. It is a beautiful and meaningful symbol of advent... and a fun way to involve your students as we wait for the coming of our Lord.

Materials needed:

- Tree branches Construction paper, felt, cardboard, or wood.
- Ornaments Construction paper, felt, or wooden "tree cookies"
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencil.

Directions:

- 1 Build a bare tree using your selected material. The Jesse Tree is most accurately depicted having a large trunk with a small shoot emerging from it. This is based on scripture.
- 2 Assign each member of your class one of the days of December leading up to Christmas.
- 3 Have them read the appropriate Bible verse (see below) and create a Jesse Tree ornament using the recommended symbols.
- 4 For each day leading up to Christmas, read the appropriate Bible verse as a class and discuss the meaning.
- 5 Hang the ornament for that day on the Jesse tree

JESSE TREE SCRIPTURES

These symbols are only suggestions. If your students are able, they may be creative with their designs, but the designs should be grounded in scripture.

December 1 Creation: Gen. 1:1-31; 2:1-4 Symbols: sun, moon, stars, animals, earth

December 2 Adam and Eve: Gen. 2:7-9, 18-24 Symbols: tree, man, woman

December 3 Fall of Man: Gen. 3:1-7 and 23-24 Symbols: tree, serpent, apple with bite

December 4 *Noah*: Gen. 6:5-8, 13-22; 7:17, 23, 24; 8:1, 6-22 *Symbols*: ark, animals, dove, rainbow

December 5 Abraham: Gen. 12:1-3 Symbols: torch, sword, mountain

December 6 Isaac: Gen. 22:1-14 Symbols: bundle of wood, altar, ram in bush

December 7 Jacob: Gen. 25:1-34; 28:10-15 Symbols: kettle, ladder

December 8 *Joseph:* Gen. 37:23-28; 45:3-15 *Symbols:* bucket, well, silver coins, tunic

December 9 Moses: Ex. 2:1-10 Symbols: baby in basket, river and rushes December

10 Samuel: 1 Sam. 3:1-18 Symbols: lamp, temple

December 11 Jesse: 1 Sam. 16:1-13 Symbols: crimson robe, shepherd's staff

December 12 David: 1 Sam. 17:12-51 Symbols: slingshot, 6-pointed star

December 13 *Solomon:* 1 Kings 3:5-14, 16-28 *Symbols:* scales of justice, temple, two babies and sword

December 14 *Joseph*: Matt. 1:18-25 *Symbols*: hammer, saw, chisel, angle **December 15** *Mary*: Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38 *Symbols*: lily, crown of stars, pierced heart

December 16 John the Baptist: Mark 1:1-8 Symbols: shell with water, river On December 17, the Church begins to intensify the preparation for Christmas with the use of the "O" Antiphons during the Liturgy of the Hours. The symbols for the Jesse Tree from December 17 to 23 are based on the "O" Antiphons.

December 17 Jesus is Wisdom: Sirach 24:2; Wisdom 8:1Symbols: oil lamp, open book

December 18 Jesus is Lord: Ex. 3:2; 20:1 Symbols: burning bush, stone tablets

December 19 Jesus is Flower of Jesse: Isaiah 11:1-3 Symbols: flower, plant with flower

December 20 Jesus is Key of David: Isaiah 22:22 Symbols: key, broken chains

December 21 *Jesus is the Radiant Dawn:* Psalm 19:6-7 (in older Bibles this will be Psalm 18) *Symbols:* sun rising or high in sky

December 22 Jesus is King of the Gentiles: Psalm 2:7-8; Ephesians 2:14-20 Symbols: crown, scepter

December 23 *Jesus is Emmanuel*: Isaiah 7:14; 33:22 *Symbols:* tablets of stone, chalice and host

December 24 Jesus is Light of the World: John 1:1-14 Symbols: candle, flame, sun

