

JESSE TREE

The Jesse tree is a traditional Advent symbol that is rich in history and exciting to make. It is an ideal activity for the family or for children in the classroom. It represents Jesus' genealogy. The name is taken from the prophet Isaiah (Is 11:1), who refers to Jesus' rising from the stump of Jesse, the father of David. Just as we normally decorate our trees with a variety of Christmas ornaments, the Jesse Tree is decorated with ornaments representing people and events leading up to Jesus birth.

How do you make it? Use a real tree, or a representation of a tree. Decorate it with symbols of Biblical persons or events, as suggested below. Look on the internet for several examples of how it can be done. Have fun!!

Jesse Tree Scripture Suggestions with symbols

Event/Person	Reference	Symbols
Creation	Genesis 1-31	Earth, sun, moon, stars, etc
Adam & Eve	Genesis 2: 7-9	Tree, apple
Noah	Genesis 6, 7, 8	Ark, rainbow, dove
Abraham	Genesis 12: 1-7	Tent
Isaac	Genesis 22: 1-14	Ram
Jacob	Genesis 25 & 28	ladder
Joseph	Genesis 37 - 50	Multi-coloured coat
Moses	Exodus 2 - 4	Baby in a basket, burning bush
10 commandments	Exodus 19 - 20	Two stone tablets
Joshua	Joshua 6: 1-20	Ram's horn trumpet
Jesse	1 Samuel 16: 1-13	Shepherd's staff
Ruth	Ruth (all)	Sheaf of corn
David	1 Samuel 16 & 17	6 pointed star
Solomon	1 Kings 3 & 6	Temple, scales of justice
Jonah	Jonah (all)	Whale
John the Baptist	Mark 1: 1-8	Shell
Joseph	Matthew 1: 18-25	Hammer, saw, angle, etc
Mary	Luke 1: 26-38	White lily
Elizabeth	Luke 1: 39-56	Mother & child
Zechariah	Luke 1: 57-80	Pencil & tablet
Shepherds	Luke 2: 8-20	Fluffy sheep
Wisemen	Matthew 2: 1-12	Star, 3 crowns
Jesus	Luke 2: 1-8	Baby in a manger

