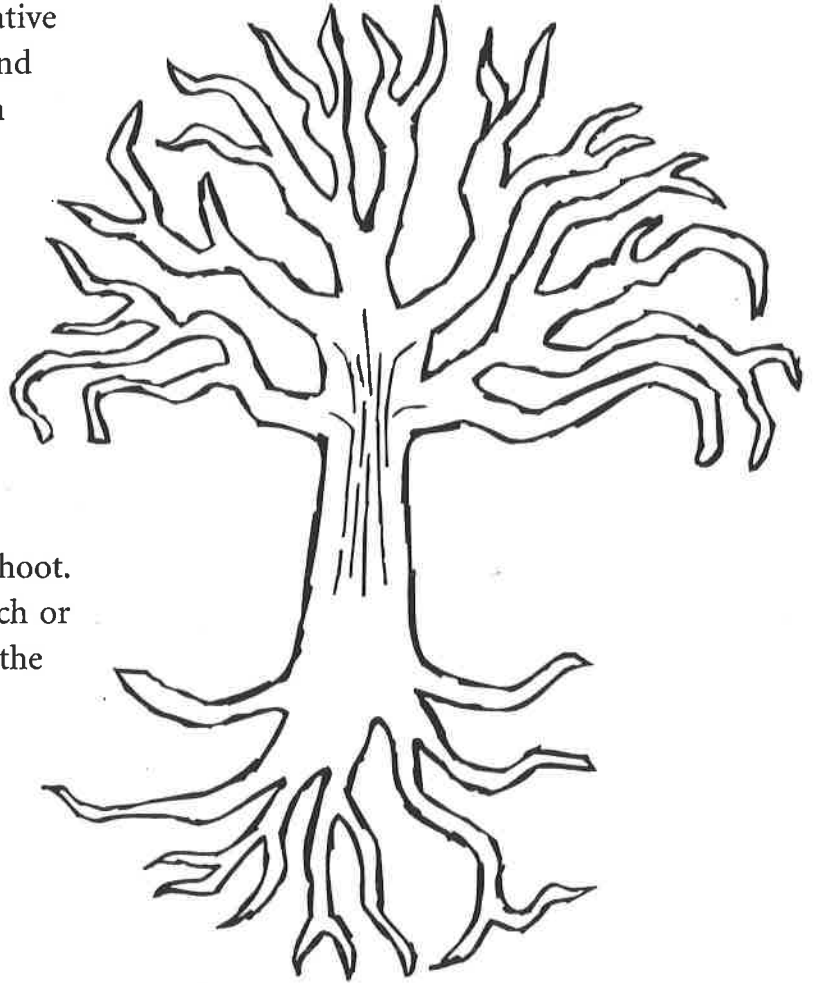


The Jesse Tree

Our ancestors, the people in our family tree, are often unique and interesting. The people who make up our “faith family,” ones who show us how we are related to Jesus, are also unique and interesting. For example, the Bible tells us that Jesus was the relative of David, Israel’s greatest king, and he was also related to Abraham, an early leader of the Hebrew people. Through these and many other faithful people, God took flesh as Jesus and lived among us.

The Jesse Tree is Jesus’ family tree. Jesse was the father of King David, and Isaiah wrote that a shoot (a branch) would come forth from the root of Jesse, meaning that Jesus would be this shoot. A Jesse Tree, made with a bare branch or small tree, holds symbols of some of the people from the Old Testament who waited and prepared for Jesus. It is an Advent custom to think about and pray to Jesus’ ancestors.



- Draw one strip from the envelope. Make the symbol of that person as suggested. Use some of the art materials.
- When finished, put a piece of string on the symbol and hang it on the tree.
- Take a list of the Jesse Tree names home with you. Make a different symbol for each day of Advent and hang it on a tree (branch) at home as you wait for Christmas. Read the assigned Scripture story for each symbol as well.

Note to Facilitator: When all have completed their symbols, place the tree where all can enjoy it during the Advent season.

Symbols for the Jesse Tree

Adam and Eve	tree of good and evil	Genesis 3:1–24
	fruit (apple)	Genesis 3:1–24
Noah	ark, boat	Genesis 6:13–17
	rainbow	Genesis 9:8–17
	animals	Genesis 6:17–22; 7:1–4
Abraham and Sarah	tent	Genesis 12:8–9
Abraham	stars	Genesis 15:5–7
Isaac	ram	Genesis 22:1–14
Rebecca	a well	Genesis 24:12–21
Jacob	ladder	Genesis 28:10–17
Rachel and Leah	baskets	Genesis 29:15–30
Joseph	coat of colors	Genesis 37:1–4
Moses	burning bush	Exodus 3:1–15
	Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1–21
Rahab	red rope	Joshua 2:1–21
Deborah	palm tree	Judges 4:4–7
Gideon	torch	Judges 7:16–18
Sampson	jawbone	Judges 15:14–17
Ruth	stalk of wheat	Ruth, Chapters 1–4
Samuel	oil	1 Samuel 16:1–13
David	stringed harp	1 Samuel 16:14–23
	slingshot	1 Samuel 17:42–58
Solomon	crown	1 Kings 3:4–14
	temple	1 Kings 6:4–14
Elijah	chariot	2 Kings 2:9–14
Jonah	whale	Jonah 2:1–10
Isaiah	root/branch	Isaiah 11:1–9
Ezekiel	bones	Ezekiel 37:1–14
Daniel	lion	Daniel 6:10–23
Elizabeth	home	Luke 1:39–45
John the Baptist	shell and water	Matthew 3:4–12
Joseph	hammer and saw	Matthew 1:19–21
Mary	manger	Luke 2:1–14