

**The Jesse Tree: Isaiah 11.1**

(Some bare branches in a vase would also be effective. The ornaments can then be attached with string or yarn.)

Here's a simple activity that everyone can participate in during Advent. Decorate a "Jesse Tree" to focus on God's promises throughout the centuries. In Isaiah 11.1 we read that "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse" (NIV). This is an Old Testament prophecy of Jesus' coming.

On this sheet, we've listed some of our favorite Bible stories and drawn some pictures that you can copy or cut and color.

Here's what you do:

1. Cut out the tree from the preceding page, leaving a small margin around it. Paste it to a poster board or other large sheet of paper.

2. Each day, choose a Bible story. Read it from the Bible, tell it in your own words, or use a favorite Bible Story book.

3. Color, cut, and paste an ornament symbolizing the story.

As you and your family make the ornaments, talk about how God keeps His promises. Discuss how the story points to the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

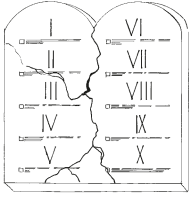
You don't have to "finish" this tree in a year. Keep building on it and perhaps it will become your family's favorite Advent tradition.

You will need:

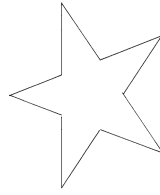
- scissors
- glue
- coloring pens, pencils or markers

Central Figure	Events/ Themes	Scripture	Suggested Symbol: <i>(symbols preceded by letters are included on this activity sheet)</i>
Introduction of the Jesse Tree		1 Samuel 16.1-13, Isaiah 11.1-10	<b>a.</b> Large Tree
God	Creation	Genesis 1.1-2.3	<b>b.</b> Day/night
Adam and Eve	The First Sin	Genesis 2.4-3.24	<b>c.</b> Tree with Fruit
Noah	The Flood	Genesis 6.11-22; 7.17-8.12; 8.20-9.17	<b>d.</b> Rainbow or Ark
Abraham	The Promise	Genesis 12.1-7; 15.1-6	<b>e.</b> Stars
Isaac	Offering of Isaac	Genesis 22.1-19	<b>f.</b> Ram
Jacob	Assurance of the Promise	Genesis 27.41-28.22	<b>g.</b> Ladder
Joseph	God's Providence	Genesis 37; 39.1-50.21	<b>h.</b> Coat
Moses	God's Leadership	Exodus 2.1-4.20	<b>i.</b> Burning Bush
Israelites	Passover and Exodus	Exodus 12.1-14.31	<b>j.</b> Lamb
God	10 Commandments at Sinai	Exodus 19.1-20.20	<b>k.</b> Tablets
Gideon	Unlikely Heroes	Judges 2.6-23; 6.1-6; 11-8.28	<b>l.</b> Clay Water Pitcher
David	A Shepherd for the People	1 Samuel 16.1-23-17.58, 2 Samuel 5.1-5; 7.1-17	<b>m.</b> Harp
John the Baptist	Repentance	Luke 1.57-80; 3.1-20; 7.18-30	
Elizabeth	Joy	Luke 1.39-56	
Zechariah	Anticipation	Luke 1.57-80	Pencil and Tablet
Joseph	Trust	Matthew 1.19-25	Carpenter's Square or Hammer
Jesus	Birth of the Messiah	Luke 2.1-20	<b>n.</b> Manger
Christ	The Son of God	John 1.1-18	

k. Ten Commandments



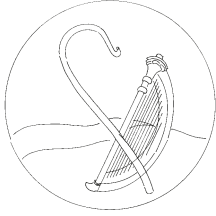
e. Abraham's descendants shall be as numerous as the stars



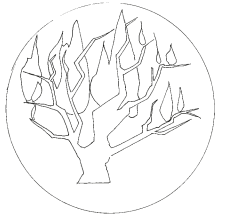
j. Passover Lamb



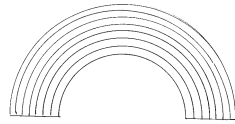
m. David, Shepherd King



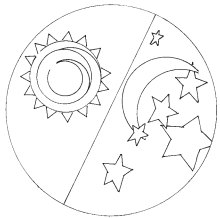
i. Moses & Burning Bush



d. The Flood: Rainbow



b. Creation: Day and Night



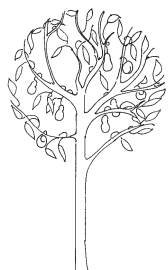
h. Joseph



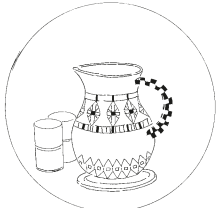
f. Abraham's offering



c. Adam & Eve: Tree



l. Gideon



n. Jesus' Birth



g. Jacob's Dream

