

THE JESSE TREE

LEVEL 4

We all love to decorate our Christmas trees as part of our preparation for this wonderful time of year. But, did you know that there is another kind of tree that we can decorate as we prepare for Christmas. It's called the Jesse Tree and it is decorated with ornaments illustrated with pictures of the key people and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The Jesse Tree tells the story of God's love for God's people from the very beginning right up to the moment that God's Son, Jesus, the Messiah, is born among us. We call this salvation history. The name comes from Jesse, who was the father of King David. Jesse and King David were ancestors of Jesus. In Isaiah 11: 1 we read "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." The symbols on the Jesse Tree remind us how long the people of God waited for a king. We know that Jesus is the king that God promised to send. We use the Jesse Tree to remind us of God's promise.



MAKING A JESSE TREE FOR THE CLASSROOM

Jesse trees are usually made using a dead branch, but you can also use a Christmas tree, or draw the outline of a tree, like the one in the picture, on a poster sized page. Symbols can be hung every day and the accompanying piece of scripture can be read. This could also be done weekly at a school assembly where the fifth/sixth class children might explain the symbols and tell some of the stories to the rest of the classes.

MAKING SYMBOLS FOR THE JESSE TREE

GROUP ACTIVITY

In the table on the next page you will find a scripture story for each day of Advent.

Divide the children into 4 groups and assign a week of stories to each group

Tell them to read each of the stories. Their task is to

- decide on a suitable symbol for each story and write it into the table
- Design and make an ornament for the Jesse Tree using the symbol

Printable ornament templates can also be downloaded from many sites on line including

<http://theroadtochristmas.com/jesse-tree-symbols>, <http://paperdali.blogspot.ie/> (payment required)

<http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/19971201/FRIDGE/FRIDGE1.HTM>

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Creation Genesis 1, 2:1-3	Noah Genesis 6:9	The Call of Abraham Genesis 12: 1-5	Abraham and Isaac Genesis 22:1-14	Jacob's Dream Genesis 28:10-22	Joseph and his brothers Genesis 37: 1-9	God calls Moses Exodus 3: 1- 6
SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:
The Israelites Exodus 12:1-11	Commandments Exodus 24:12-18	Joshua Joshua 6:1-5	Deborah Judges 4: 4-9	Samuel 1Samuel 3	David 1Samuel 3 6:10-13	Solomon 1Kings 3: 9-14
SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:
Isaiah Isaiah 6:8	Jeremiah Jeremiah 1:11-13	Daniel Daniel 6	Joel Joel 2:1-14	Jonah Jonah 1:2- 4, 12, 15-17	John the Baptist Mt 3:1-6	Mary Luke 1:26- 38
SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:
Elizabeth Lk 1:39-56	Joseph Lk 2:1-4	Shepherds Lk 2:8-20	The Magi Mt2:1-12	Manger Lk2:7		
SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:	SYMBOL:		

