

## The Jesse Tree is an Advent Tradition

The Jesse Tree is a representation of the prophecy of Isaiah 11:1-2:

*"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord."*

The Jesse Tree tells the story of the people and major events in the Old Testament, leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. The Jesse Tree is like Jesus' family tree. The ornaments have symbols on them that portray each major event, or story in the Old Testament until the birth of baby Jesus at Christmas. It is a perfect way, to "Keep Christ in Christmas" during the advent season. If Advent has already begun and you want to still participate in this tradition, you can start on the correct day of Advent and continue the daily ritual until Christmas. The Jesse Tree tradition is flexible and can be adapted to the number of days in advent each year too.

To make a Jesse Tree, you can use any materials for a small tree that you have, like tree branches, a miniature Christmas tree or any materials that you can form into branches. Just make sure there is room for the 28 symbols of advent. Then make the ornaments using the symbol for each of the days of advent, using the list below. It can be as simple as round circles of construction paper colored with crayons or as elaborate miniature works of art.

Once the ornaments and tree are created, we suggest you create a family ritual by setting aside a specific time of day to put the ornament on the tree and read the related scripture verses as a family. A suggestion might be to do this just after dinner or just before bed each night. Simply read the bible passage for each day below and place that day's ornament on the Jesse tree.

1st Day of Advent	Explain the Jesse Tree	Tree	1 Sam 16:1-13
2.	The Birth of Life	World with Tree	Gen 1: 24-28
3.	Adam and Eve	Snake & the Apple	Gen 3:1-24
4.	Noah and the Flood	Ark	Gen 6:11-22; 8:6-12
5.	Abraham	Tent & Camel	Gen 12:1-7; 13:2-18
6.	Isaac & the Ram	Agnus Dei	Gen 22;1-14
7.	Jacob & His Dream	Jacob's Ladder	Gen 27;41 – 28:22
8.	Symbol of Prophecy	Advent Rose	Isa 9:2-7
9.	Joseph	Coat of Many Colors	Gen 37: 1-36
10.	Moses	Ten Commandments	Exo 20: 1-17
11.	Blessing of Aaron	Benediction	Num 6:22-27
12.	Samuel & Word of God	Lamp	1 Sam 3:1-21
13.	David	Harp	1 Sam 16:14-23
14.	Shepherds	Candle & Staff	Psalms 23
15.	Wisdom of Solomon	Crown	1 Kings 3:3-28
16.	Elijah	Raven	1 Kings 17:1-16
17.	Elisha	Dove & Hand	2 Kings 5:1-27
18.	Isaiah	Scroll & Candle	Isa 6:1-8
19.	Jeremiah	God's Word	Jer 31:31-34
20.	Nehemiah the Builder	Church	Neh 13:10-22
21.	Angels	Angel with Candle	Heb 1:1-14
22.	Zechariah & Elizabeth	Altar	Luke 1:5-25
23.	Virgin Mary	Lily	Luke 1:26-38
24.	Magnificat	Mary Kneeling	Luke 1:39-56
25.	Birth of John the Baptist	Baptismal Font	Luke 1:57-80
26.	Joseph of Nazareth	Carpenters Tools	Matt 1:18-25
27.	Bethlehem	Candle & Star	Matt 2:1-12
28.	Birth of Jesus	Madonna & Child	Luke 2:1-20