

# THE JESSE TREE

## What is a Jesse Tree?



A Jesse Tree represents the family tree of Jesus Christ. Each ornament represents a story from the Bible that tells about God's people before Jesus was born. Each Story shows God's salvation plan and tells how He guided humanity to prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to the middle ages. The name "Jesse Tree" comes from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." Jesse is the father of King David. The saviour was to come from David's family line.

## What is the tradition?

During the Advent season, a Bible Story is read which relates to Jesus' family or God's people. After the Bible story is read and discussed, an ornament is placed on a tree - the Jesse Tree. This was often done from the beginning of Advent to Christmas Day.

## How to Make Jesse Tree Ornaments

Each day of Advent, many families hang an ornament that symbolises a different story about someone on Jesus's family tree. This popular take on the Jesse Tree Advent tradition helps you trace how God's plan for Jesus to arrive on earth unfolded over many generations. Making your own Jesse Tree ornaments is a great way to deepen your engagement with each Bible story. As you make Jesse Tree ornaments, you'll naturally reflect on the story each ornament symbolizes and how it relates to God's big story.

## Materials:

- Printer
- Paper/card (8.5" x 11")
- Colouring utensils (markers, crayons, coloured pencils, etc.)
- Scissors
- Twine or ribbon
- A Jesse Tree - a tree branch, a felt tree, or a mobile (or a regular Christmas tree!)
- Single hole punch
- (Optional) 25 three-inch blank wood circle ornaments
- (Optional) Glue
- The Jesse Tree Story: A Family Advent Devotional

1. Print the ornament patterns

2. Colour and decorate your ornaments

3. Prepare your ornaments for your tree. Cut out your decorated ornament design.

Then punch a hole in the ornament design for hanging.

Complete your ornament by tying ribbon or twine through the hole and hang it on your Jesse Tree.

# Jesse Tree Symbols and Bible Stories

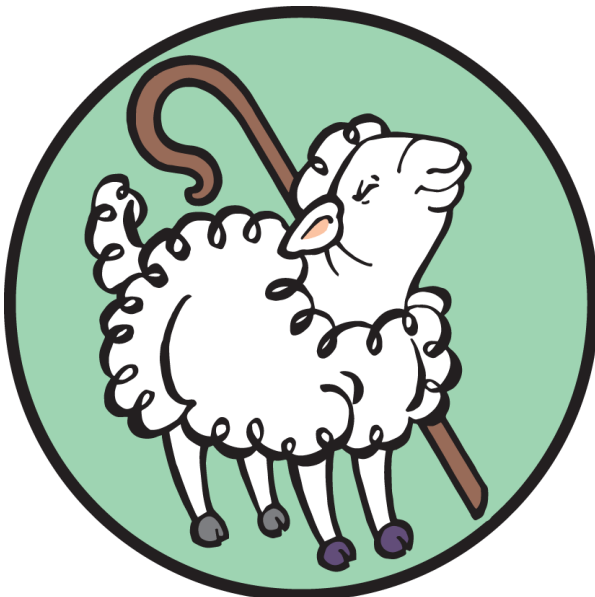
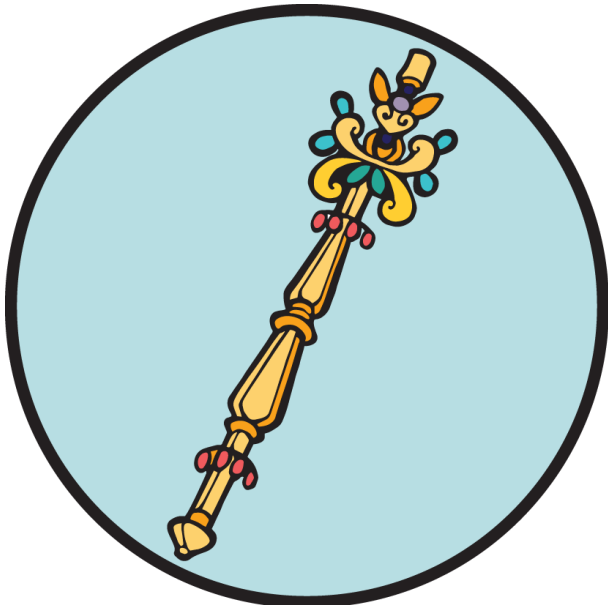
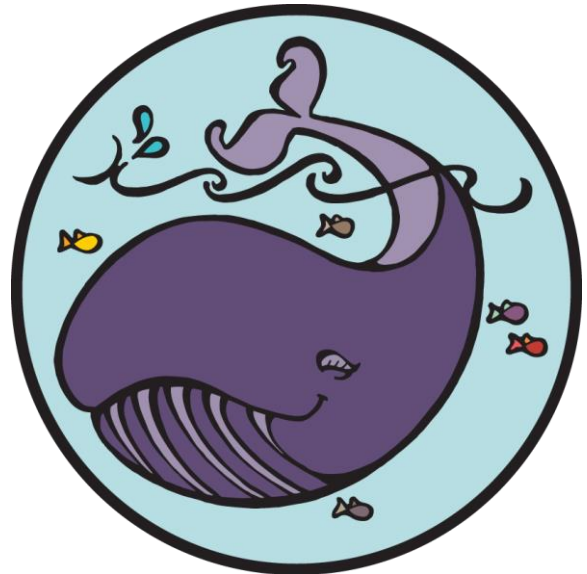
Here's a complete list of Jesse Tree symbols and the Bible stories that they represent. There are enough Jesse Tree symbols here to cover each day from December 1 through December 25.

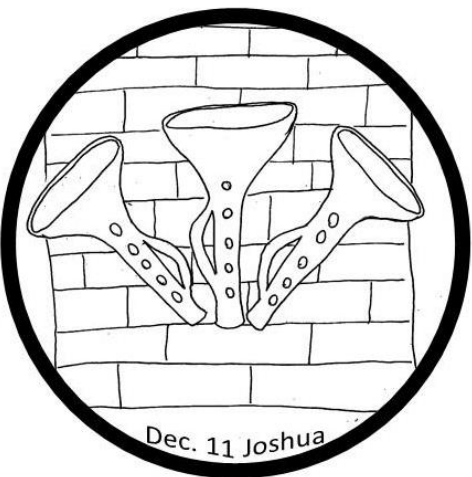
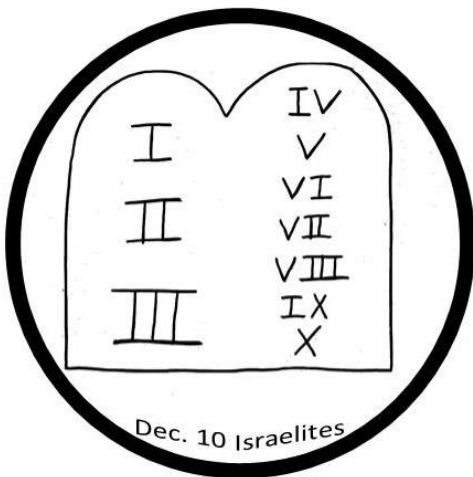
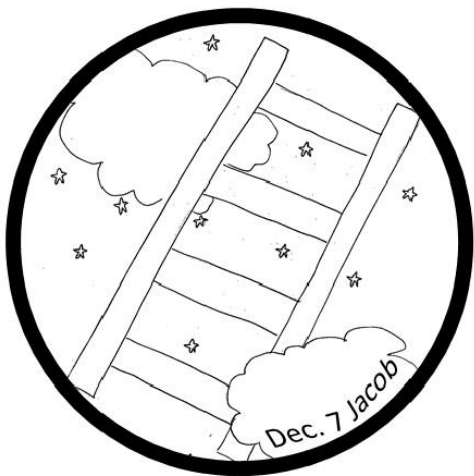
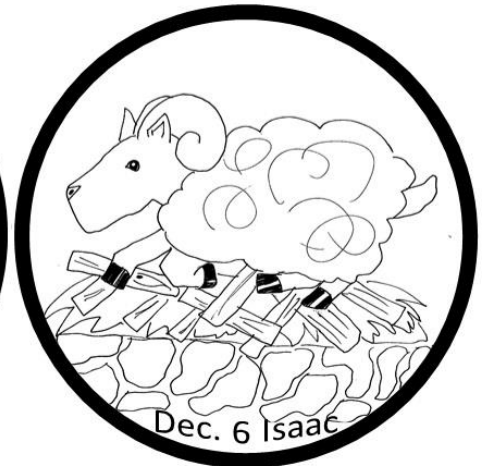
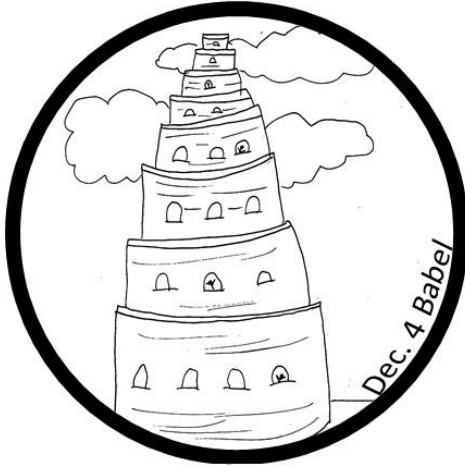
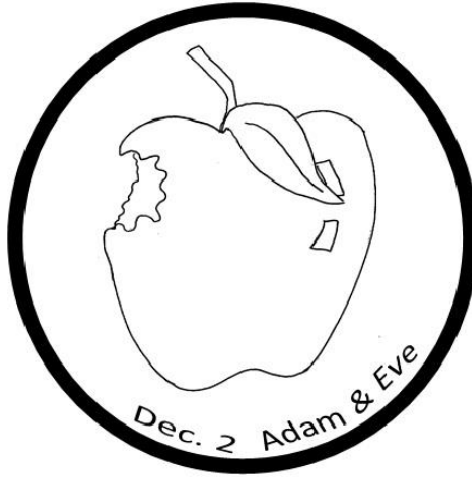
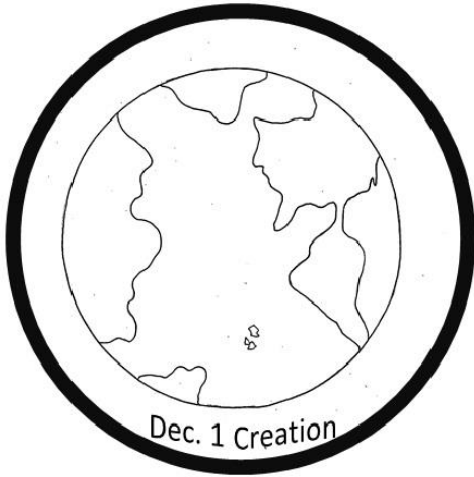
December 1	Creation: <i>Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1-4</i>	Symbol: earth
December 2	Adam and Eve: <i>Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25; 3:1-24</i>	Symbol: apple
December 3	Noah: <i>Genesis 6:5-19; 7:16-24; 8:1, 6-11, 15-22</i>	Symbol: ark
December 4	Babel: <i>Genesis 11:1-9</i>	Symbol: tower
December 5	Abraham: <i>Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-6</i>	Symbol: mountain / night sky
December 6	Isaac: <i>Genesis 22:1-14</i>	Symbol: ram on altar
December 7	Jacob: <i>Genesis 25:19-34; 28:10-18</i>	Symbol: ladder
December 8	Joseph: <i>Genesis 37:23-28; 45:1-15</i>	Symbol: tunic
December 9	Moses: <i>Exodus 3:1-10</i>	Symbol: burning bush

December 10	Israelites: Exodus 20:1-17	Symbol: Ten Commandments
December 11	Joshua: Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-20	Symbol: 3 horns and wall
December 12	Gideon: Judges 6: 11-12,16-23;7:1-22	Symbol: horn and torch
December 13	Samson: Judges 16:4-31	Symbol: hair and scissors
December 14	Ruth: Ruth 1:1-19; 2:1-20; 4:13-17	Symbol: wheat
December 15	Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-18	Symbol: lamp
December 16	Jesse: 1 Samuel 16:1-13	Symbol: sheep & shepherd's staff
December 17	David: 1 Samuel 17:12-51	Symbol: slingshot
December 18	Solomon: 1 Kings 3:5-28	Symbol: scale of justice
December 19	Elijah: 1 Kings 18:1-46	Symbol: fire & altar
December 20	Jonah: Jonah 1:1-16; 2:1-1; 3:1-10; 4:1-11	Symbol: whale
December 21	John the Baptist: Luke 3:2-19	Symbol: shell and water
December 22	Joseph: Matthew 1:18-24	Symbol: tools
December 23	Mary: Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-38	Symbol: Mary and lilies
December 24	Wise men: Matthew 2:1-12	Symbol: star and 3 men
December 25	Jesus: Luke 2:1-6	Symbol: baby Jesus

### Sample Discs











Dec. 13 Samson



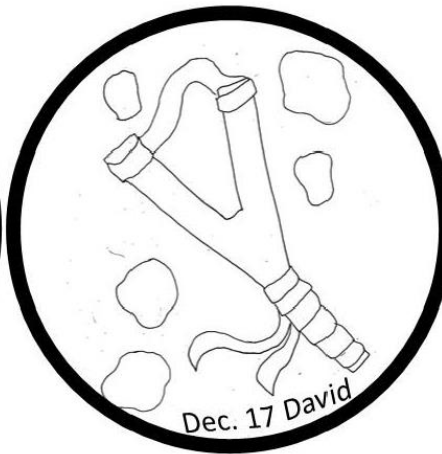
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Dec. 15 Samuel



Dec. 16 Jesse



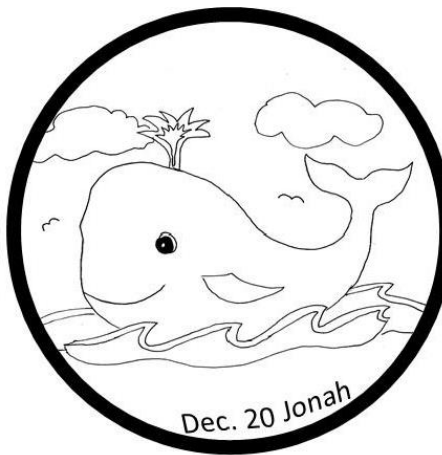
Dec. 17 David



Dec. 18 Solomon



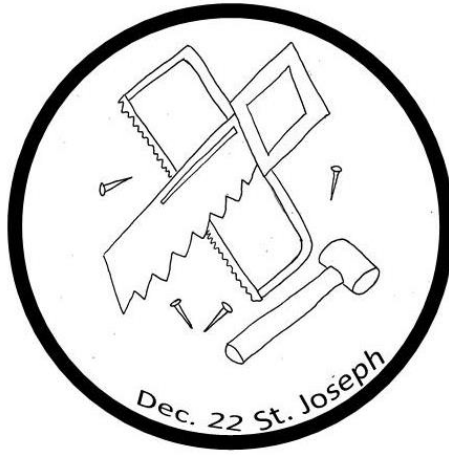
Dec. 19 Elijah



Dec. 20 Jonah



Dec. 21 John the Baptist



Dec. 22 St. Joseph



Dec. 23 Mary



Dec. 24

Wise Men



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