

Advent Jesse Tree

What is Advent?

Advent, which includes the four Sundays before Christmas, is a time spent reflecting on the coming of Jesus. Advent means arrival! We see this both in the birth of Jesus and in Jesus' promise to come again.

What is the Jesse Tree?

The Jesse Tree is a visual representation of the lineage of Jesus, usually depicting a symbolic tree or vine with spreading branches. The name comes from a prophecy about Jesus in the book of Isaiah.

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots, a Branch will bear fruit."
Isaiah 11:1

Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. Jesus is descended from the line of David, and he is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. This is a message of hope. The idea of a family tree originated from the Jesse Tree. Visual representations of the Jesse Tree in Christian art date to the Medieval period. Jesse Trees are used to help tell the story of the Bible from Creation to the Christmas Story. We invite you and your family to join us during December as we take this journey through the Bible to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Celebrate Advent with a Jesse Tree:

There are many different types of Jesse Trees, but our study aligns with a delightful book entitled *The Advent Jesse Tree: Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas* by Dean Lambert Smith. This book contains 25 readings for adults and children making it a wonderful resource for families. During each day of Advent, read the Bible passages for that day and hang an ornament from this packet symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you and your family will see how God prepared for Jesus to be born.

Options for making a Jesse Tree:

1. Choose a tree branch without leaves, about two to three feet long, with a main branch with lots of smaller branches attached to it. Place the branch in a bucket of dirt or rocks and cover the bucket with fabric, felt, or paper.
2. Cut a tree with branches from brown felt. Glue it to a piece of green felt, 24" x 36". Glue on small wooden pegs to hang the ornaments or attach Velcro® to the backs of the ornaments for attaching to the felt Jesse Tree.
3. Make a mobile using a tree branch. Use fishing line to hang the branch from the ceiling. You'll need to make sure the symbols are balanced when you hang them on the branch so that the branch will remain level.
4. Use a Christmas tree. A small tabletop or standing tree can make a great Jesse Tree, or you can add the Jesse Tree ornaments to your decorated Christmas tree.