



# Our Family Jesse Tree

The Jesse tree is like the family tree of Jesus. Its name comes from Jesse, who was the father of King David. Jesse and King David were ancestors of Jesus. The Jesse tree shows us more of the important people in the Old Testament. It shows us how long they 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.

## CAN YOU FIND JESUS' ANCESTORS IN THE BIBLE?

Look in your Bible to find the names of Jesus' family. Write each name in the spaces below. Then match the person to the symbols at the side.

Genesis 3:20	
Genesis 7:1	
Genesis 22:1	
Exodus 19:20	
Ruth 2:2	
2 Samuel 5: 3	
Luke 3:16	
Matthew 1:24	
Luke 1:38	
Matthew 2:2	



## Make a Jesse Tree of your own

There are as many options for Jesse trees as there are families. It costs almost nothing to make. Some use "real" trees, some families use their regular Christmas tree for their Jesse tree ornaments. Some families who place only the Jesse tree ornaments on their Christmas tree. The nice thing about a regular tree is that you have lots of places to hang ornaments with string or hooks, and it's a normal-looking decoration. A little potted evergreen would make a wonderful Jesse tree, too.

Some people place a couple of bare branches in a vase full of marbles and hang their ornaments on those.

Some make Jesse trees completely out of paper, cardboard, or poster board and we've even seen a few made out of felt or fabric. The idea is the same for all of these flat trees: you hang the whole thing on a wall and attach the ornaments with pins, velcro, or tape.

You can use the symbols above and even add more! You can download most of the symbols from

<http://images.rca.org/docs/discipleship/jessepatterns.pdf>

Cut them out and colour them in, and then attach a string or coloured ribbon to hang them from the branch.

## Make an ornament for your Jesse Tree each day up to Christmas

This can be a great way to prepare as a family for Christmas and maybe get to know the whole story more. Advent can be as long as **28 days** when Christmas falls on a Sunday. This year, 2017, it's only 22 days. On years like that just leave a couple out. You can choose which ones you keep and which ones you leave out. Maybe leave out the ones least meaningful to you personally. Although You probably shouldn't leave out Creation or Jesus!

For each of the days there is the **Central Character**, the Theme for the day, the **Ornament**, the Scripture reading and a **short prayer**

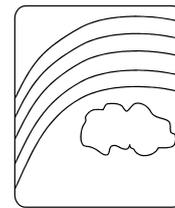
1. **Central character: God** Theme: Creation of the Earth & humans **Ornament: Earth** Reading: Genesis 1: 26-31  
**Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for making our wonderful Earth.**
2. **Central characters: Adam & Eve** Theme: Sin and sadness **Ornament: Apple with snake**  
Reading: Genesis 3: 1-19 **Prayer: Dear Lord, please help us to do the right thing**
3. **Central character: Noah** Theme: Promise **Ornament: The ark and rainbow.**  
Reading: Genesis 6:11-14, 7:17-8:3, 9:8-13 **Prayer: Thank you, God, for keeping all your promises to us**
4. **Central character: Abraham** Theme: Faithfulness **Ornament: Tent and camel.** Reading: Genesis 12:1-7  
**Prayer: Help us to obey You, even when we can't see Your great plan.**
5. **Central character: Sarah** Theme: Answered prayers **Ornament: Baby cradle.** Reading: Genesis 21:1-7  
**Prayer: Thank you, God, for answering our prayers.**
6. **Central character: Isaac** Theme: Protection **Ornament: Ram.** Reading: Genesis 22:1-14  
**Prayer: We praise You, dear God, for looking out for us every day, in every situation.**
7. **Central character: Jacob** Theme: God is always with us. **Ornament: Ladder.** Reading: Genesis 28:10-22  
**Prayer: Remind us each day, God, that You are with us, even when we feel alone**
8. Theme: A Light to guide us **Ornament: Candle.** Reading: Isaiah 9:1  
**Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to us to light up the world.**
9. **Central character: Joseph** Theme: Forgiveness **Ornament: Coat of many colours.** Reading: Genesis 37:1-36  
**Prayer: Dear Lord, please help us to be kind and forgive generously.**
10. **Central character: Moses** Theme: Rules **Ornament: Ten Commandments.** Reading: Deuteronomy 5: 1-22  
**Prayer: Loving God, thank You for giving us rules to guide us and keep us safe.**
11. **Central character: Rahab** Theme: Courage **Ornament: Rope.** Reading: Joshua 2:1-21  
**Prayer: Dear God, please give us courage to help others, especially when it is not easy.**
12. **Central character: Ruth** Theme: God takes care of us. **Ornament: Wheat.** Reading: Ruth 1:15-2:13  
**Prayer: Dear God, thank You for taking care of us. Look after my family in the months and years to come.**
13. **Central character: Jesse** Theme: Patience **Ornament: Tree stump with new shoot.** Reading: Isaiah 11:1-2  
**Prayer: Lord, please help us to be patient while we wait for Christmas day.**
14. **Central character: Samuel** Theme: God has a plan for us. **Ornament: Horn with oil.** Reading: I Sam 16:1-13  
**Prayer: We thank You, God, that You have a great plan for each of us. Help us to trust in You**
15. Theme: Hope **Ornament: Watchtower.** Reading: Habakkuk 2:1-4  
**Prayer: Lord, please be with us while we wait for Christmas day.**
16. **Central character: Esther** Theme: God has a special job for each of us. **Ornament: Sceptre or tiara.**  
Reading: Esther 4 **Prayer: All-knowing God, open our eyes to the special plans you have for us.**
17. **Central character: David** Theme: Kings and Shepherds **Ornament: Crown.** Reading: II Samuel 5:1-5  
**Prayer: Thank You, God, for giving us the Good Shepherd, Your Son, to watch over and care for us.**
18. **Central character: Elijah** Theme: Praising God **Ornament: Altar with fire.** Reading: I Kings 18:17-39  
**Prayer: We praise You, powerful God, for all You have done for us**
19. **Central character: Daniel** Theme: Trust in God **Ornament: Lion.** Reading: Daniel 6  
**Prayer: God, it is not always easy these days to put you first. Help us to trust & honour You each day.**
20. **Central character: Ezekiel** Theme: God's Word is food for our souls. **Ornament: Scroll.** Reading: Ezek 3:1-11  
**Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your Holy Word. Give us Your understanding and help us to stay close to You**

21. **Central character: Isaiah** Theme: Truth **Ornament: Rose.** Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8  
**Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your truth, and those who have been entrusted with it.**
22. Theme: Peace **Ornament: Wolf and lamb lying down together.** Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9  
**Prayer: Loving God, help us find ways to bring peace to our world.**
23. **Central characters: Zechariah & Elizabeth** Theme: Faith **Ornament: Zechariah & Elizabeth.** Reading: Luke 1:5-2  
**Prayer: Almighty God, thank You for the gift of our faith. Help us to share it with others.**
24. **Central character: John the Baptist** Theme: Prepare **Ornament: Seashell.** Reading: Matthew 3:1-6  
**Prayer: Holy God, forgive us when we do things that displease You. Make our hearts ready for Jesus.**
25. **Central character: Joseph** Theme: Goodness & kindness **Ornament: Hammer & saw.** Reading: Matthew 1:18-  
**Prayer: God, help us to hear Your voice act and be courageous when You call us.**
26. **Central character: Mary** Theme: Purity **Ornament: Lilies in heart.** Reading: Luke 1:26-38  
**Prayer: Thank You, Lord, that nothing is impossible with Your help.**
27. **Central character: The Journey to Bethlehem** Theme: Guidance **Ornament: Town.** Reading: Luke 2:1-5  
**Prayer: Guide our journeys, wherever they take us, Holy God.**

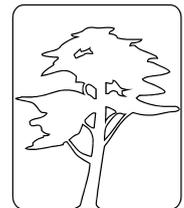
## Ornaments You'll Need

1. Earth
2. Apple & snake
3. Ark & rainbow
4. Tent & camel
5. Baby cradle
6. Ram
7. Ladder
8. Candle
9. Coat of many colours
10. 10 Commandments
11. Rope
12. Wheat
13. Tree stump with new shoot

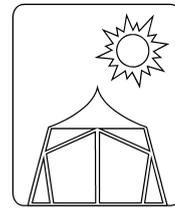
14. Horn of oil
15. Watchtower
16. Sceptre or tiara
17. Crown
18. Altar with fire
19. Lion
20. Scroll or Bible
21. Rose
22. Wolf & lamb lying together
23. Zechariah & Elizabeth
24. Seashell
25. Hammer & saw
26. Lilies in a heart
27. Town



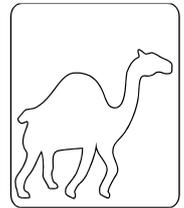
Noah



Abraham



Sarah



Rebekah

Why not fill in your own family tree and say/write a prayer for each person beside their name.  
(maybe have fun making a symbol that represents them) as you enter their name! See how far back you can go!!

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## My Family Tree



# A little Bible history with some of the Jesse tree Characters

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
 In 1:1

**CREATION**

**THE FALL**

**RIGHTEOUS ABEL & CAIN**

**RIGHTEOUS NOAH & THE ARK**

**JOB THE LONG SUFFERING**  
2100 BC

**THE TOWER OF BABEL**

**GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM**  
2085 BC

**HAGAR & ISHMAEL**

**SARAH & ISAAC**

**ISAAC & REBEKAH**

**ESAU & JACOB**

**JACOB'S 12 SONS**

**JOSEPH SOLD INTO SLAVERY**

**JOSEPH'S ELEVATION**

**ISRAEL & SONS GO TO EGYPT**  
1875 BC

**ISRAELITES IN SLAVERY**

**MOSES**

**BURNING BUSH**

**MOSES, PHAROAH & THE 10 PLAGUES**  
1446 BC

**CROSSING THE RED SEA**

**MANNA FROM HEAVEN  
WATER FROM A ROCK  
IN THE WILDERNESS**

**10 COMMANDMENTS  
& THE GOLD CALF**

**BRONZE SERPENT**

**THE ARK OF THE COVENANT**

**JOSHUA & THE 12 SPIES**

**RAHAB & JERICHO**  
1406 BC

**THE PROMISED LAND**

**FALSE GODS**

**THE JUDGES LEAD THE PEOPLE**  
1300-1100 BC

**RUTH**  
1140 BC

**HANNAH**  
1100 BC

**PROPHET SAMUEL  
THE LAST JUDGE**

**KING SAUL**

**SAMUEL ANNOINTS DAVID**  
1024 BC

**KING DAVID**

**WISE KING SOLOMON**  
987 BC

**BAD KINGS**

**KING AHAB & JEZEBEL**  
874 BC

**PROPHET ELIJAH**  
863-851 BC

**PROPHET ELISHA**

**BOY KING JOASH**  
835 BC

**PROPHET JONAH**  
760 BC

**PROPHET HOSEA**

**PROPHET MICAH**

**PROPHET JOEL**

**ISRAEL EXILED**

**KING HEZEKIAH OF JUDAH**  
716 BC

**PROPHET ISAIAH**

**BOY KING JOSIAH**  
640 BC

**PROPHET JEREMIAH**

**PROPHET EZEKIEL**

**JERUSALEM FALLS TO BABYLON**  
586 BC

**DANIEL IN CAPTIVITY**  
582 BC

**THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS IN THE FIERY FURNACE**  
585 BC

**DANIEL & THE LIONS**  
539 BC

**PROPHET ZECHARIAH**

**QUEEN ESTHER**  
478 BC

**EZRA GOES BACK TO JERUSALEM**  
457 BC

**NEHEMIAH HELPS REBUILD**  
444 BC

**MALACHI**  
430 BC

**PRIEST ZACHARIAH**  
6 BC

**ANNUNCIATION TO MARY**

**MARY VISITS ELIZABETH**

**RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH**

**JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
5 BC

**ANGELS BRING GOOD NEWS TO SHEPHERDS**

**MAGI FOLLOW THE STAR**

**FLIGHT INTO EGYPT**

**SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS**  
4 BC

The Word became  
**Flesh**

