



What is a Jesse Tree?

Jesse Trees are used to help tell the story of Salvation History from Creation up to the birth of Christ. It highlights key stories from the Bible. The name comes from Jesse who was the Father of the great Jewish King David. One prophecy in the Bible, in the book of Isaiah, says: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD and he will delight in the fear of the LORD" Isaiah 11:1-3.

A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings. Jesus was a descendent of King David and Christians believe that Jesus is this new branch.

The first Jesse trees were large carvings, tapestries or even stained glass windows put in Churches that helped illiterate people (people who can't read or write) to learn about the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story. You can use a normal Christmas tree, branch, or a banner in the shape of a tree. Each day through advent a special decoration or ornament is added to the tree and the corresponding Bible passage is read. You can draw your own symbols and add string to hang them or use Google to help you find pre-made cut outs.

Bible Story	Passage	Symbol
-Creation	Gen 1	The earth
-Adam & Eve	Gen 2:4, 3:24	Tree w/ fruit or an apple
-Noah & the Flood	Gen 6:9-9:17	A rainbow
-God's promise to Abraham	Genesis 12:1-7 & 15:1-6	A tent
-Isaac	Genesis 22:1-18	A ram
-Jacob's Ladder	Genesis 28:10-19	A ladder
-Joseph's Coat	Genesis 37 & 50	A Multicolored coat
-Moses	Exodus 2:1 - 4:20	A burning bush
-Israelites and the Passover	Exodus 12:1-42	A lamb
-The 10 Commandments,	Ex 19:1-20:20,	Two stone tablets
-Joshua and the fall of Jericho	Joshua 6:1-20	A ram's horn trumpet
-Ruth	Ruth (whole book)	Sheaf of corn
-King David.	1 Samual 16:1-3	Star of David
-Solomon's Temple,	1 Kings 6	The temple
-Elijah	1 Kings 18:16-39	A bonfire
-Jesse's prophecy	Isaiah 11:1-11	A tree stump w/ single branch
-Jonah & the whale,	Jonah (whole book),	A whale

Bible Story	Passage	Symbol
John the Baptist,	Mttw 3:13-17,	A scallop shell
Mary	Luke 1:26-38	A white lily
Elizabeth	Luke 1:39-56	A mother and child
Zechariah	Luke 1:57-80	A pencil and tablet
Joseph,	Mttw 1:19-25,	A carpenter's hammer
The Shepherds,	Luke 2:8-20,	A fluffy sheep!
The Wisemen,	Matthew 2:1-12,	A gold star or the three gifts
Jesus	Luke 2:1-8	A baby in a manger