

Bethlehem Tree

(Idea taken from Debbie McSwain US Army DRE; revised by an unknown blogger, and revised to this adaptation by US Army DRE Cindy Cline)

This activity involves telling the story of Jesus' birth and early life through the ornaments used to decorate it. It begins on 12/24 and goes through 1/8, and doesn't coincide with the liturgical calendar. It provides an opportunity to revisit the events leading up the birth of the Savior, and to contemplate the events afterward. You can couple the reading of the scripture with a search for sacred art or music that depicts the event. There is some beautiful artwork out there! I have altered this activity to lead you all the way to the flight into Egypt. Just cut out the ornaments, and affix them to the tree each day.



1. 12/24- Caesar's decree. Lk 2: 1-3
2. 12/25- Mary & Joseph. Lk 2: 4
3. 12/26- Mary & Joseph travel to Bethlehem Lk 2:5
4. 12/27- No Room Lk 2:6
5. 12/28- The Savior is born! Lk 2:7
6. 12/29- Shepherds in the field. Lk 2:8
7. 12/30- An Angel appears. Lk 2:9-12
8. 12/31- A Choir of Angels. Lk 2:13-15
9. 1/1- Shepherds worship Jesus. Lk 2:16-20
10. 1/2- Jesus is presented in the Temple. Lk 2:22-40
11. 1/3- Magi come from the East. Mt 2:1
12. 1/4- The Magi see Herod. Mt 2:2-10
13. 1/5- The Magi worship Jesus. Mt 2:11-12
14. 1/6- Joseph has a dream. Mt 2:13
15. 1/7- Flight to Egypt. Mt 2:14-15
16. 1/8- Jesus the Light of the World! Jn 1:1-4; 14