

Jesse Tree

- The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which can help tie Old Testament scripture and prophecy to the birth of Christ. The ornaments represent the people, prophecies, and events leading to His birth. Jesse was the father of King David. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."
- You can make your own ornaments, or find ornaments already made. Each family will receive several die cuts of some of the symbols. You can write the verse on each and use year to year. Families may also like to make their own ornaments.
- The Jesse Tree is typically a bare branch tree, but any tree can be used. You may decorate at once, or place one ornament at a time focusing the entire story each time.

Apple—Adam and Eve, [Genesis 3:1-15](#)

Ark—Noah, [Genesis 6](#)

Lamb—Isaac, [Genesis 22:1-19](#)

Knife—Abraham, [Genesis 22:1-19](#)

Ladder—Jacob, [Genesis 28:1-22](#)

Coat—Joseph, [Genesis 37:1-4](#)

Burning Bush—Moses, [Exodus 3](#)

Harp—David, [I Samuel 16:14-23](#)

Crown—Solomon, [I Kings 1:22-48](#)

Whale—Jonah, [Jonah 1-2](#)

Dove—Elisha, [II Kings 5:1-27](#) (spirit of healing)

Rose—Isaiah, [Isaiah 35:1-2](#)

Heart—Ruth, [Ruth 1:15-18](#)

Wheel—Ezekiel, [Ezekiel 1:15-21](#)

Lion—Daniel, [Daniel 6:1-24](#)

Lily—Mary, [Luke 1:26-28](#)

Hammer—Joseph

Camel or Star—Wisemen, [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Chi Rho (an X with a P through the middle of it)—Jesus

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Making a Soft Spot for Jesus

Build a simple (popsicle stick) manger. Get a large bag of cotton balls. Each evening, reflect on the day with your little ones and see if they were good examples of Christ's love for others. If so, they get to add a cotton ball to the crib, and make it a little softer for Baby Jesus. Then on Christmas, you can put Baby Jesus in the soft crib that they helped to make.

****** Make sure you take a set of sticks home to craft your manger.**

