

Prepare Your Heart as You Journey Through the Season of Advent to Christmas

Advent Activities, Prayers & Resources for Your Family

Create a Jesse Tree – A Special Project for the Whole Family



Jesse was the father of the great King David, of the Old Testament. He is often looked upon as the first person in the genealogy of Jesus. Each “branch” of the Jesse Tree tells a story about the heritage of Jesus through writings from the Old Testament.

Each day throughout Advent, an ornament is hung on the tree and a correlating scripture verse is read. To create a Jesse Tree of your own, you may visit the “*Catholic Inspired*” website by clicking on the following link. A history of the Jesse Tree, instructions for creating one and free printable ornaments for downloading (and laminating, if desired) are all included on this site. This is a great way to get the whole family involved in your preparations for Christmas.

Visit: <https://www.catholicinspired.site/jesse-tree.html>
Click on “Download PDF”

Jesse Tree Scripture Verses

Prayer to Begin Advent:

Thank you, God, for the blessing of family. As we journey through the Advent season, help us prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus’ birthday at Christmas. As we decorate our Jesse Tree and learn about Jesus’ family, teach us to love Him more and more, and help us to love our own family more. Amen.

As you hang an ornament on your Jesse Tree each day, read the scripture verses listed for that particular day by clicking on the links provided. The scripture verses are then followed by a special prayer.

December 1 – Creation (*Symbol: earth*)

Genesis 1:1-31

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A1-31&version=NIV>

Genesis 2:1-4

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A1-4&version=NIV>

Prayer - Day 1:

God, thank you for this day! Thank you for all the birds of the air, the animals, the flowers and the trees, the rivers and the streams, and the sun that rises and sets over all of your creation each day. Thank you for the life we live and for making each person different and special. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for us so that we can go to heaven one day. What an awesome God you are! In Jesus’ name, Amen.



December 2 - Adam and Eve (*Symbol: apple*)

Genesis 2:7-9

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%092%3A7-9&version=NIV>

Genesis 2:15-25

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%092%3A15-25&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 2:



Thank you, God, for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Help us to stay strong when we are tempted to do wrong. We know that only You are perfect and that we will sin from time to time; so, when we do something wrong, teach us to be sorry and to ask for Your forgiveness. Amen.

December 3 – Noah (*Symbol: ark*)

Genesis 6:5-19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+6%3A5-19&version=NIV>

Genesis 7:16-24

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+7%3A16-24&version=NIV>

Genesis 8:1

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+8%3A1&version=NIV>

Genesis 8:6-11

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+8%3A6-11&version=NIV>

Genesis 8:15-22

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+8%3A15-22&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 3:

Dear God, thank you for the gift of life that you promised to us when you sent a beautiful rainbow to Noah after the flood! Teach us to be like Noah and to do what you ask of us. Help us to remember your promise each time we see a rainbow. We give thanks to you, especially for the new life you have promised us in Jesus. Amen.



December 4 – Babel (*Symbol: tower*)

Genesis 11:1-9

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%0911%3A1-9&version=NIV>



Prayer – Day 4:

Dear God, help us to remember that all gifts come to us from you. We did nothing to deserve them, but you give them to us out of love. Teach us to use our gifts to help others. Amen.

December 5 – Abraham (Symbol: mountain/night sky)

Genesis 12:1-7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+12%3A1-7&version=NIV>

Genesis 15:1-6

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+15%3A1-6&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 5:



O Lord, help us to put our trust in you. Help us to follow the path that you have set for us. May we serve others so that they may see the face of Christ through our actions. Amen.

December 6 – Isaac (Symbol: ram on altar)

Genesis 22:1-14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+22%3A1-14&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 6:

Thank you, God, for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to live and die for us. Thank you for loving us that much. Help us to have the strength to do all that you ask of us, even if it is difficult. We want to do your will. Amen.



December 7 – Jacob (Symbol: ladder)

Genesis 25:19-34

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+25%3A19-34&version=NIV>

Genesis 28:10-18

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+28%3A10-18&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 7:



Dear God, help us to always open our hearts and minds to you. Help us to hear your Words when you speak to us through the Bible stories. In our dreams, our thoughts and our experiences, guide us to believe in your Words and your promises. By the Holy Spirit, may we not only hear your Word but may we do it. Amen.

December 8 – Joseph (Symbol: tunic)

Genesis 37:23-28

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37%3A23-28&version=NIV>

Genesis 45:1-15

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+45%3A1-15&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 8:

O God, help all nations and peoples to live together in peace. Help us to not give up when we think there is no hope but, instead, to look for the good in the world. Teach us to always trust in you and to share our faith with others. Amen.



December 9 – Moses (Symbol: burning bush)

Exodus 3:1-10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1-10&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 9:



Dear God, help us to never hesitate to serve you and do what you ask of us. May we always listen to your call and answer you. Teach us not to be fearful but, instead, to have confidence in what you ask of us. Amen.

December 10 – Israelites (Symbol: Ten Commandments)

Exodus 20:1-17

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+20%3A1-17&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 10:

O Lord, we thank you for giving us your commandments so that we will know how to live our lives according to your will. May we always remember that you, alone, are God and that there is no one else before you. Amen.



December 11 - Joshua (Symbol: 3 horns & wall)

Joshua 5:13-15

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3A13-15&version=NIV>

Joshua 6:1-20

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+6%3A1-20&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 11:



O, Lord, teach us to never question you, even if your will may not be our will. Help us to remember that in the Lord's Prayer that you gave to us, we say "thy will be done." You know what is best for us, even though we may not always understand. Amen.

December 12 – Gideon (Symbol: horn & torch)

Judges 6: 11-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+6%3A11-12&version=NIV>

Judges 6:16-23

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+6%3A16-23&version=NIV>

Judges 7:1-22

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+7%3A1-22&version=NIV>

Prayer Day 12:

Thank you, God, for leading us when our path is difficult. We know that you are always right beside us, guiding us. Thank you for the comfort of knowing you are there. Amen.



December 13 - Samson (Symbol: hair & scissors)

Judges 16:4-31

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+16%3A4-31&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 13:



Lord, give us the strength to stand up against those who would harm us and do evil. Help us to make right decisions and to follow your ways. Amen.

December 14 – Ruth (Symbol: wheat)

Ruth 1:1-19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+1%3A1-19&version=NIV>

Ruth 2:1-20

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+2%3A1-20&version=NIV>

Ruth 4:13-17

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+4%3A13-17&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 14:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for coming to earth to save all people. Help us to reach out in love to those people who are different from us. Amen.



December 15 – Samuel (Symbol: lamp)

1 Samuel 3:1-18

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+3%3A1-18&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 15:



Thank you, God, for teaching us, through the story of Samuel, that we must always be attentive and listening so that we may hear your words. We seek to do your will at home, at school and at work. Amen.

December 16 – Jesse (Symbol: sheep & shepherd's staff)

1 Samuel 16:1-13

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+16%3A1-13&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 16:

Dear Lord, help us to remember that it is not our outward appearance that matters most but, instead, it is our heart. May we always keep our hearts clean and pure for you. Amen.



December 17 – David (*Symbol: slingshot*)

1 Samuel 17:12-51

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+17%3A12-51&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 17:



Dear God, we pray for all those in authority, that they will have right judgment. Make them great leaders who are faithful to your will. Amen.

December 18 – Solomon (*Symbol: scale of justice*)

1 Kings 3:5-28

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Kings+3%3A5-28&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 18:

Lord, God, thank you for our church and for all the churches in the world. Help us to respect them as places where the Bible is taught and where you are worshipped. Amen.



December 19 – Elijah (*Symbol: fire & altar*)

1 Kings 18:1-46

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Kings+18%3A1-46&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 19:



Loving God, help us to never value other people or things more than you. May we always keep you first in our lives. Help us to be faithful in our worship of you. Amen.

December 20 – Jonah (*Symbol: whale*)

Jonah 1:1-16

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1%3A1-16&version=NIV>

Jonah 2:1-10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+2%3A1-10&version=NIV>

Jonah 3:1-10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+3%3A1-10&version=NIV>

Jonah 4:1-11

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+4%3A1-11&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 20:

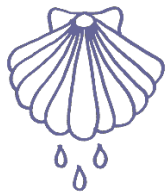
Dear God, Jonah learned when he was in the belly of the whale that he needed to obey you. Help us to always obey your will for us in our lives. Amen.



December 21 - John the Baptist (Symbol: shell & water)

Luke 3:2-19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+3%3A2-19&version=NIV>



Prayer – Day 21:

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Baptism. As we live each day as your children may we, like John the Baptist, prepare the way for Christ to come into the lives of others. Amen.

December 22 – Joseph (Symbol: tools)

Matthew 1:18-24

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1%3A18-24&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 21:

Dear God, we thank you for Joseph, the stepfather of Jesus. He took good care of Mary and Jesus. We thank you for all fathers who love and care for their families. Amen.



December 23 – Mary (Symbol: Mary & lilies)

Matthew 1:18-24

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1%3A18-24&version=NIV>

Luke 1:26-38

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1%3A26-38&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 23:



O God, we thank you for Mary, the mother of Jesus, who is also our heavenly mother. We thank you for all mothers and for the love that they have for their children. Amen.

December 24 - Wise Men (Symbol: star & 3 wise men)

Matthew 2:1-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+2%3A1-12&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 24:

Dear Jesus, may we always see your star shining through the darkness and follow its light. Help us to remember that Christmas is all about adoring you and thanking you for all the gifts and graces that you give to us each day. Amen.



December 25 – Jesus (Symbol: Baby Jesus)

Luke 2:1-6

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2%3A1-6&version=NIV>

Prayer – Day 25:



Lord God, we are filled with wonder and joy today because of your great love for us. Thank you for sending the Promised One, Jesus, to be our Lord and Savior. As we open our gifts, help us to remember that Jesus is the best gift of all. We praise His holy name. Amen.

Variations of the Jesse Tree

- Place a red or green gumdrop on a branch of a tree each day, and read the scripture verse for that particular day (listed above). On Christmas Day, read the Nativity story and celebrate by feasting on all the gumdrops!



- Grow plants to add to your nativity scene. Place lentils or chick peas on wet cotton in a small container. Add water every few days to make sure that the cotton stays moist. When the beans sprout, they will make perfect plants to tuck behind your nativity figures.

