

“Craft Swap” Advent Jesse Tree

***The Jesse Tree represents Jesus’s family tree.
It takes us through that first long Advent
which lasted from the Fall to the Incarnation
with a collection of Scripture meditations to prepare
for the coming of Christ at Christmas.***

The Jesse Tree is a wonderful Advent tradition to prepare your family for Christmas! There are many ways to make a Jesse Tree. Some families just draw pictures on paper, cut them out, and hang them up as ornaments on a stick or small tree. This year we will have a “Craft Swap” where we pool together to make a nice set of ornaments that can be used year after year.

There are 28 symbols, so we need 28 people to sign up for one symbol each. Then each person makes 28 copies of the same ornament and we trade on the first day of Advent so that we each have one complete set of Jesse Tree ornaments.

The corresponding Bible verses will be e-mailed, or snail-mailed, to each person.

**A Jesse Tree set could also make a great (homemade, edifying) gift for family members, godchildren, and friends. If you would like to end up with more than one set, just sign up to make more than one symbol. You make 28 of each kind of ornament (symbol) that you sign up for. The number of symbols that you sign up to make is the number of sets you will have at the end.*



**The
Jesse Tree
is an Advent tradition
named after Jesse,
the father of King David.
Biblical symbols representing the
ancestry of Jesus,
either in faith or bloodline,
are added one by one onto a tree.
As each ornament is
added, a Bible verse is read to
explain the symbol. There is one ornament
for each
day in
Advent.**

RULES:

1. **WAIT** Don't buy materials or start making the ornaments until I contact you to let you know that we filled the whole signup sheet. We can only do this project if we have someone for each symbol, so we end up with a complete set. Nov. 12 is the signup deadline.
2. **SMALL** Try to keep your ornaments relatively small (approximately 1-3 inches). Large or heavy ornaments may be difficult for some people to hang on a small tree.
3. **HANG** Be sure to include a way to hang the ornaments on a tree. Each ornament should include a hook or loop or some other way to hang it up.
4. **FUN** If you find an easy way to make your ornaments but feel like it's cheating, do it anyway. The neatest "Earth" Jesse Tree ornament I've ever seen was a hollow rubber bouncy-ball Earth with a hook stuck in the top! It was probably cheap and very easy. On the other hand, if you have a good idea for a hand-made ornament, great! Either way, the main goal is for it to be something that kids and families have fun hanging on their Jesse Tree each year.
5. **LASTING** Make ornaments that will last for many years. Materials ideas include: wood shapes, foam, felt, clay, baker's clay, dry pasta, nuts, beads, sticks, etc. Come see the sample Jesse Tree set (*insert your date, time and location here*). The ornaments you make do not have to look exactly like the sample — it's just to give you ideas.
6. **BIBLE** Please read the Bible verses that correspond to your ornament *before* making the ornaments, just to clarify. However, the ornaments do not have to be very detailed, and for some symbols you may have to take some artistic license (for example, "Fiery Furnace"). You do **not** need to write the verse or the number on your ornaments.
7. **FINISH** Get the ornaments done on time. Remember to make 28 of them. We will meet on Dec. 3 to swap ornaments so that everyone has a complete set. If you have any questions (*insert your contact information here*).

Family Jesse Tree General Instructions:

Each day of Advent, hang up an ornament and read the corresponding Bible verses. There are 28 symbols because that is the maximum number of days in Advent. In years with fewer days in Advent, you will get to choose which of the optional symbols to include. On years with 23 days in Advent, the minimum number of days, you will leave out all of the optional symbols (numbered with halves).

If you don't want to leave any out, you could do more than one symbol on some days. You might also want to switch the order as you see fit. For example, you may like to do the Mary symbol on Dec. 8 each year.

Here is a quick overview of all the symbols. Circle the one(s) you signed up for so you remember: (Be sure to also put your name on the official signup list.)

Earth
Apple & Snake
Mary
Ark & Rainbow
Camel & Tent
Lamb
Colorful Coat

Doorway With blood
Tablet With 10 Numbers
Cluster of Grapes
Stick With bronze serpent
Whale
Sheaf of Wheat
Slingshot
Scroll
Stump With Leaf
Lion & Lamb together
Dove & Crown
Shepherd's Staff
Cross
Heart With Writing
Bethlehem
Fiery Furnace
Brick Wall
Star
Candle or Light
Angel
Baby in Manger