

The Jesse Tree Printable Ornaments: Reflections

<https://loandbeholdbible.com/resources/jesse-tree-advent/>

You can use this child-friendly set of reflections to help them to understand the meaning behind each of the Jesse Tree ornaments.

The Jesse Tree tells us the story of Jesus' family tree – and of how the Old Testament prophets spoke about his coming. It explains how he came to be born in Bethlehem, as a descendant of Jesse, the father of King David. This Advent, we are going to find out more about the ancestors of Jesus, as revealed in the Bible.

| Ornament picturing | Quotation | What this means |
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| 1. Adam and Eve | Just as in Adam all die, so all will be brought to life in Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:22) | Our ancestors Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought suffering and death into the world. Jesus came to earth to undo their mistake and to bring us eternal life. |
| 2. Noah | God waited patiently in the days of Noah during the building of the ark. In it only a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. (1 Peter 3:20) | In Noah's time, there was a great flood. He saved his family and lots of animals in a large ship called an ark. As a saviour, Noah is a symbol of Jesus. |
| 3. Abraham | God declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed." (Galatians 3:8) | God promised Abraham that through his family, the whole world would be blessed. Jesus was the person from Abraham's family who made this happen. |
| 4. Isaac | Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will be his God and the God of his descendants after him. (Genesis 17:19) | Isaac was the son of Abraham. God promised to always be with his descendants and repeated the promise he previously made to Abraham. |
| 5. Jacob | Jacob had a dream. There was a ladder resting on the earth with its top reaching to heaven. (Genesis 28:12) | Jacob was one of the sons of Isaac. The ladder between heaven and earth was a clue that one day, God would come down from heaven to visit us. This happened when Jesus was born. |
| 6. Judah | Judah was the strongest of the brothers and a ruler came through him. (1 Chronicles 5:2) | Judah was one of the twelve sons of Jacob. Both King David and Jesus belonged to the tribe of Judah. It was the tribe of the Jewish royal family. |
| 7. Ruth | Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. There she bore a son, Obed. (Ruth 1:22; 4:13) | Ruth was a foreign ancestor of Jesus. Like the Virgin Mary, she gave birth to a baby boy in Bethlehem. Ruth was the grandmother of Jesse. |

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| 8. Jesse | A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch will grow from his roots. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him. (Isaiah 11:1) | The Jesse Tree is named after this man, who was the father of King David and who lived in Bethlehem. Jesus was the branch that would later grow out of his family tree. |
| 9. King David | You will bear a son and name him Jesus. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. (Luke 1:31-32) | God promised King David that his royal family would last forever. When the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary she was to give birth to Jesus, he said that Jesus would become a king and rule forever. |
| 10. Queen Bathsheba | Solomon had a throne placed for the king's mother, so that she sat on his right hand. (1 Kings 2:19) | Bathsheba was the wife of King David. She gave birth to King Solomon and started David's royal family. She later became the queen mother. |
| 11. King Solomon | The queen of the south came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and now one greater than Solomon is here. (Luke 11:31) | The Queen of Sheba travelled from the south to meet King Solomon. Like the Three Wise Men, she brought gold and spices as presents. |
| 12. King Hezekiah | Hezekiah trusted in the Lord so much that there was no one like him among all of the kings of Judah. (2 Kings 18:5) | King Hezekiah (you say it 'He-za-kire' to rhyme with 'fire') was another ancestor of Jesus. He really trusted God. Hezekiah reminded his people that God is merciful. |
| 13. King Josiah | Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and he followed in the ways of his ancestor David. (2 Chronicles 34:2) | Josiah was the great-grandson of Hezekiah. He was a good king and led the nation back to God. Josiah died fighting in battle. |
| 14. Zerubbabel | I will take you, Zerubbabel, my servant, and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you. (Haggai 2:23) | Zerubbabel (you say it 'Ze-rubber-bell') was the governor who God chose to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem. This was the one that Jesus visited. |
| 15. The Prophet Isaiah | The Virgin will be with child, and she will give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14) | Having learnt about some of the ancestors of Jesus, we now turn to the prophets who predicted his coming. Isaiah wrote about the life and death of Christ. He spoke about his birth from a Virgin and of how he would be a king. |
| 16. The Prophet Jeremiah | I will cause a righteous branch to spring up from the line of David; he will do what is just and upright in the land. (Jeremiah 33:15) | Jeremiah revealed that one day, a new branch would grow from King David's family tree. Christ was the good king that Jeremiah predicted. |

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| 17. The Prophet Ezekiel | I will raise up one shepherd, my servant David, to care for them. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. (Ezekiel 34:23) | Ezekiel said that God would send a new leader from David's royal family, to be a shepherd to his people. Jesus was this promised Good Shepherd. |
| 18. The Prophet Daniel | I beheld approaching on the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man. His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14) | Daniel saw a vision of Jesus becoming the king of the world. Jesus used to refer to himself as the 'Son of Man'. |
| 19. The Prophet Hosea | When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my Son. (Hosea 11:1) | Hosea spoke about how God had rescued his people from Egypt. This was also a secret clue that Jesus would spend time in Egypt. |
| 20. The Prophet Micah | From you, O Bethlehem, from you will come forth for me one who is to be a ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1-2) | Micah (rhymes with 'biker') said that in the future, Christ would be born in Bethlehem. |
| 21. The Prophet Malachi | Suddenly the Lord whom you seek will come to the temple. Indeed he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3:1) | Malachi (you say it 'Mal-ak-eye') promised that one day, Christ would visit the Temple of Jerusalem that had been rebuilt. |
| 22. St John the Baptist | And you, my child, will be called Prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways. (Luke 1:76) | St John the Baptist came to prepare the people for Christ. His mother Elizabeth was related to the Virgin Mary. St John was born six months before Jesus. |
| 23. St Joseph | Joseph, do not be afraid to receive Mary into your home as your wife. For this child has been conceived in her womb through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:20) | St Joseph was the foster father of Jesus. An angel reassured him that Mary could still be his wife, since God was the boy's Father. He raised Jesus as his own child. |
| 24. The Virgin Mary | The angel Gabriel was sent by God to to a virgin, betrothed to a man named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. (Luke 1:35) | The angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus. She gave birth in Bethlehem, the town of King David, Jesse, Ruth and St Joseph. |