



A Jesse Tree



A Jesse Tree is a meaningful way to celebrate the days leading up to Christmas, Christ's birth. A unique Advent activity.

It walks through promises God made to men and women thousands of years ago, and how they came true in the birth of Jesus!

This may be done at several different moments or at one time, whatever is convenient – as an individual personal study, time as a family, or in a small group.

This has been a childhood memory from my parents, variations with my own children, and a personal highlight for me each Christmas.

Any simple tree or branch can be used. Symbols or ornaments are added with each Scripture, beginning with an apple or cross on the lowest branch, up to the manger on the highest.

Grab a Bible, look up the Table of Contents for where to find these verses, and you're off and running!

From when sin entered the world, through the plan God set in motion to send a Rescuer, to the birth of that Rescuer - may this fast-paced journey through thousands of years enrich your life as it has my own

The Promise	Scripture Reference	Symbol of the Promise
The Rescuer would come ... from humanity	Genesis 3:15 – Adam & Eve had a special relationship with God, but then chose “their way”, instead of “God’s way” (sin). The relationship was broken. Moments after they sinned, God launched a rescue plan.	An apple (v. 17) or small cross
... from a nation	Genesis 15:4,5; Gen. 17 – God’s promise and covenant with Abraham , the father of many nations.	Stars (v. 5)
... from a tribe	Genesis 49:9-12 – The scepter will not depart Judah	Lion (v. 9) or scepter (v. 10)

His nation delivered from captivity	Exodus 3:7-10 – The Lord calls Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery	A tiny basket with a baby inside (Moses as an infant)
He would come ... from a family	1 Samuel 16:1, 11-13, 18; Isaiah 11:1, 2 – Samuel anoints David from the family of Jesse of Bethlehem	A harp (v. 18) A small fatherly figure representing Jesse
... from a royal family	1 Chronicles 17:14 – His Throne will be established forever; God’s promise to David	Small throne or crown
The chosen nation saved from being destroyed	Esther 4:8, 14b-16; 7:3, 4; 8:8, 16 – Queen Esther , favored by King Xerxes, risks her life to save her people, the Jews	Scepter or crown
He would come ... from a specific mother	Isaiah 7:14 – The Lord’s sign is that the mother is a virgin	Mary – a girl doll or ornament
... from a specific town	Micah 5:2 – The Rescuer would be born in Bethlehem	A small scene of Bethlehem
A forerunner will come	Malachi 3:1; Luke 1:13-17 – A messenger will prepare the way for the Lord’s coming – John the Baptist	A dove or small sandals
A specific protector would be provided	Matthew 1:1, 6, 16 – Joseph , also a descendant of Abraham, Jesse & David, is Mary’s husband	A saw or other carpenter’s tool
An angel foretells His birth	Luke 1:26-33 – The angel , Gabriel, speaks to the virgin Mary	An angel

HE ARRIVES!

Luke 2 – All the promises have come true. How amazing! From the nation, tribe, family, royalty, mother, town – Jesus' birth was **all foretold!**

Manger scene (goes on the very top of the tree – the climax!)

What hope the birth of the Rescuer brought to this world! People could now have a relationship with God, because Immanuel ("God with us") came. God loves you and me so much.

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not die, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Let's read those words, but with your name on each blank line –

"For God so loved ____ (your name) ____, that He gave His one and only Son, that if ____ (your name) ____ believes in Him, ____ (your name) ____ shall not die, but have eternal life."

If you want to choose to have that relationship with God, you can talk to Him right now, and say something like this –

"God, I'm sorry for choosing to live 'my way'. Please wash my heart and make it clean. I want to live 'Your way'. I'm Yours. Jesus, thank You for coming to earth to rescue me!"

Walking with Jesus, you never do life alone. God is the great Hope-giver, and Life-giver.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Lisa Hutchcraft Whitmer



"For to us, a child is born . . . the Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6