

Jesus' Family Tree

Praying through Advent
with the Jesse Tree



Children's Sermons & Activity Sheets
for the Sundays of Advent & Christmas Day

Jesus' Family Tree

A Seed is Planted

A Children's Sermon for the First Week of Advent

What does your family tree look like? Gaze up into the branches and you'll see grandparents, great aunts, great uncles, all of the people whose lives came before yours and helped to form your family history. That history helps to tell the story of you! Jesus has a family tree, too! We sometimes call it the Jesse tree, named after one of Jesus' very faithful ancestors. The branches of the Jesse Tree stretch all the way back to the garden of Eden, and in those branches you'll find familiar names like David and Ruth, Abraham and Jacob.

The people from our family who lived long, long ago are called our ancestors. Many people love to trace their roots back to famous people. Then, they imagine what will happen in the future, with their descendants. Will one of their grandchildren be a famous inventor, write books, or cure a disease? Who knows? God does!

God, the Creator, made everything in the beginning. Before the world ever started, it had been complete nothingness. Less than what we can imagine. Then, with just a spoken word, the nothingness quickly became islands with plants sprouting and vines crawling. The water soon filled with swimming, swirling living things of all sizes. Creatures stomped, crawled, and hopped around the perfect world God had made.

It was good—very good. Perfect, in fact.

One day, a snake full of sin slithered and schemed. The snake was the devil's way of putting thoughts and lies in front of humans. First, he told a lie about what God really said. Eve doubted her memory and doubted God. Then the devil told a lie about what would happen if they disobeyed God. Eve believed the devil more than God. She took the fruit and ate it. Then Adam took the fruit and ate. They both knew sin, something they had never known before. Life would never be the same. Adam and Eve needed to be rescued!

But right there in the garden under that tree, God made a plan. He planted a seed to set things right again. God told Adam and Eve that one of their children, or descendants, would crush that snake forever.

These weeks of Advent, we are going to learn how God's promise grew like a tree. It grew through a family tree, in fact. And that growing tree leads right to Jesus, it is a tree that tells us about Jesus' history and our salvation story. And we'll hear the great Christmas news that when God sent Jesus to be a child in Bethlehem, God made us a part of his great, growing family tree, too.

Let's pray. Dear Father in heaven, thank you for creating us. Thank you for loving us, for forgiving us and for giving us Jesus so that we may be a part of your eternal family. Amen.

Activities for the First Week of Advent

A Seed is Planted

Write an opposite for each of these words from the creation story in Genesis 1 and 2.

MORNING _____

DARK _____

NIGHT _____

SUN _____



So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food ... and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
Genesis 3:6

Eve and Adam's big mistake
Was listening to the sneaky s_____.
They disobeyed God's rule that day.
God told them that they could not s_____.
The garden paradise was lost.
But God's Son came to pay the c_____.
He came so we may be forgiven
And live forevermore in h_____.

I establish my covenant with you ... never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.
Genesis 9:11



Noah filled his ark with the animals of the earth. Use this space to draw a pair of your favorite animals!

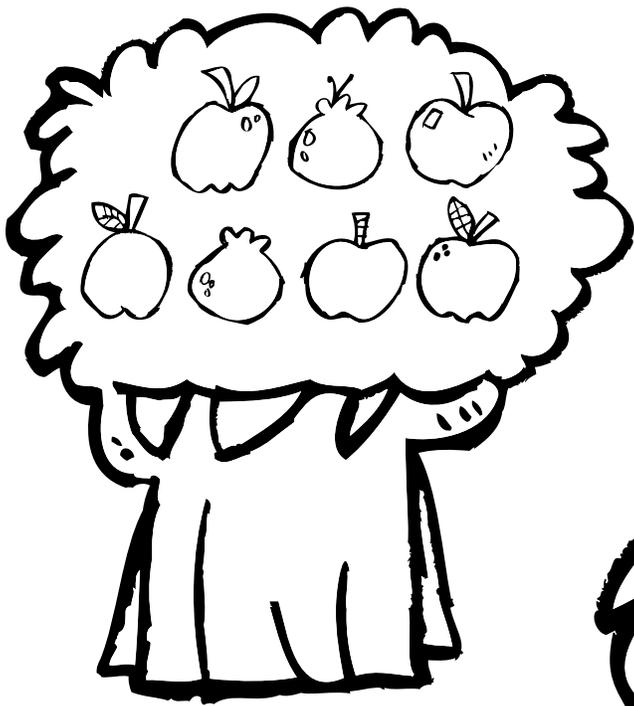
What are your parents' names?

What are the names of your grandparents?

A Seed is Planted

Coloring Sheet for the First Week of Advent

**God made a plan
beneath that tree
to save creation,
you and me.**



She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:6

A Tree for You and Me

Coloring Sheet for Christmas Eve or Day



**It's Mary's baby!
On the tree
salvation is won
for you and me!**

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21