

# Jesus' Family Tree

Praying through  
Advent  
with the  
Jesse Tree



Stephenie Hovland

# JESUS' Family Tree

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him. Isaiah 11:1-2

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.

Read the devotions in this Advent booklet as you chart Jesus' family tree, a tree that tells us about Jesus' history and our salvation story. When God sent Jesus to be a child in Bethlehem, God made us a part of his great, growing family tree, too.



The First Sunday of Advent

# New Shoots

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse ...

Isaiah 11:1a

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 told the people of Israel that one of their children, or descendants, would be famous. Someone in the future.

**Dear God, thank you for having a plan to save all people from sin. Amen.**

*Read more: Isaiah 11:1-10*



First Monday of Advent

# Land, Sea, Sky

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold,  
it was very good. Genesis 1:31a

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.

**Dear God, I love to think about how you created everything perfectly so long ago.**

*Read more: Genesis 1:1-2 and 26-31*



First Tuesday of Advent

# Apple and Serpent

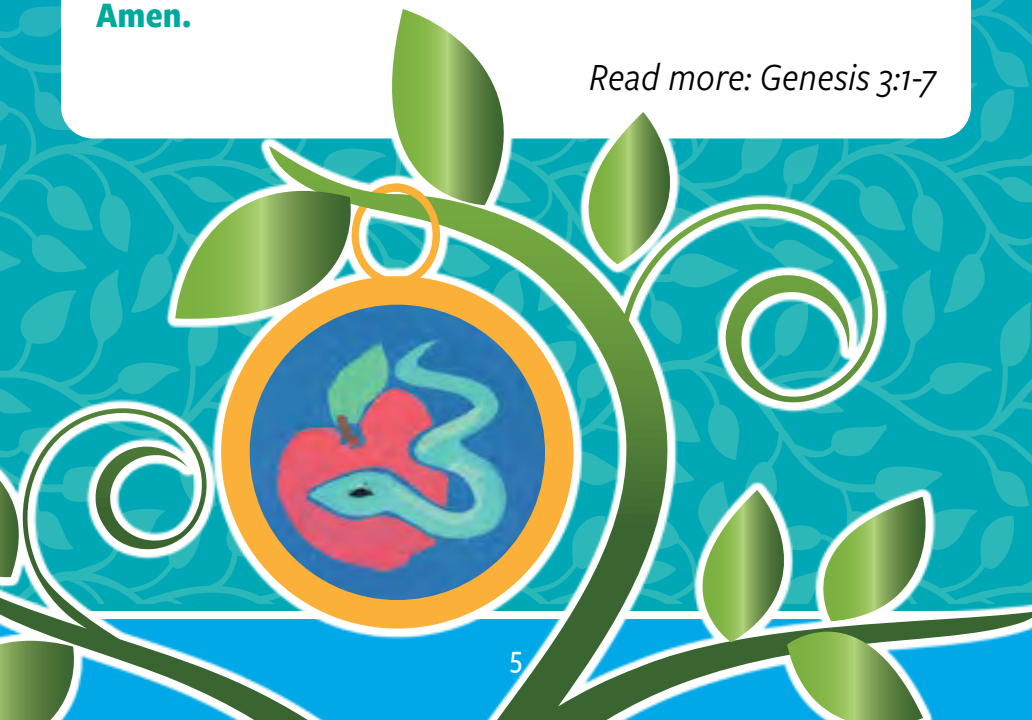
But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”

Genesis 3:4

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 Even needed to be rescued!

**Dear God, sometimes I believe the devils lies, too.  
Amen.**

*Read more: Genesis 3:1-7*



**First Wednesday of Advent**

# Ark and Rainbow

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

With God's help, Noah built an ark to survive a flood. The massive flood surged over the land, destroying many animals, plants, and people. It was horrible!

Through Noah's faith, God had saved some of the animals, plants, and people from the flood. In the future, Jesus would come to save people from sin.

When the flood was over, Noah's family saw a sign of God's promise to never flood the entire earth again—God gave them a rainbow!

**Dear God, thank you for creating rainbows to remind us of your promises. Amen.**

*Read more: Genesis 6:11-22 and Genesis 9:8-13*





**First Thursday of Advent**

# Tent and Camel

**Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. Genesis 12:7**

Abram is the same person we know as Abraham. God changed his name to show that Abraham would be part of a promise. God promised that Abraham would become a father to many, many people. God was talking about Abraham’s family tree—that he would have many ancestors.

Abraham is a hero of faith (read Hebrews 11:1-12 to see him listed with other great faithful followers of God). He is also called Father Abraham, because of his big family tree, which includes Jesus.


**Dear God, thank you for giving Abraham the blessing of a big family tree. Amen.**

*Read more: Genesis 12:1-7*




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