

# A Jesse Tree

The 11th chapter of Isaiah describes the ideal king in the line of Israel's great king, David. The first verse of that chapter says, *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.* Jesse was King David's father. The image of a branch growing out of the roots of Jesse points to a new king in David's line. Christians know that this is fulfilled in Jesus, the King of Kings, who is a descendent of Jesse. One tradition is to decorate a tree branch with symbols that remember other important persons from the Old Testament. The symbols on the "Jesse Tree" remind us that our belief grows out of deep roots of thousands of years of ancestors in the faith.

One way to create a Jesse Tree is to place a suitable tree branch in a large tin can (such as a coffee can) and anchor it with rocks. Then create the symbols on construction paper. Punch a hole in the paper ornament with a hole punch. Then attach the ornament to the tree branch with yarn. Creating a Jesse Tree can be connected to an Advent wreath service by adding a new ornament each evening at the time of the service.



Symbols for the Jesse Tree draw from images in the Old Testament. Possible symbols and their scripture references are on the following page.

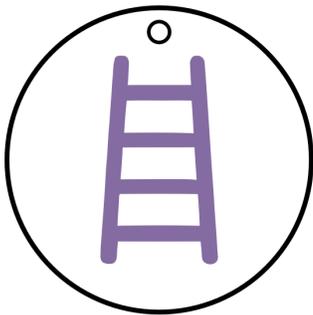
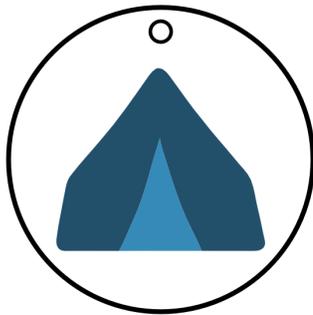
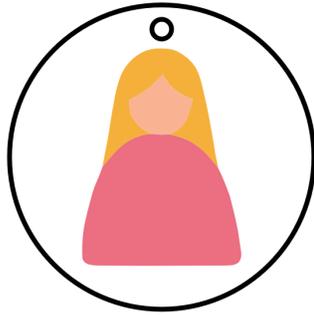
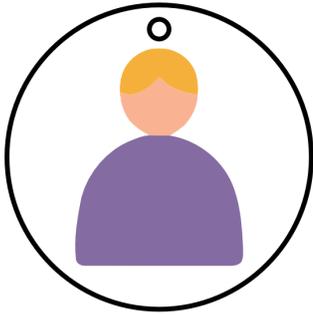
# Jesse Tree Symbols

The following list gives 25 suggestions for symbols to use in decorating a Jesse Tree along with the scripture references for the symbol. These 25 symbols would allow a new ornament to be added to the tree each day in December leading up to Christmas.

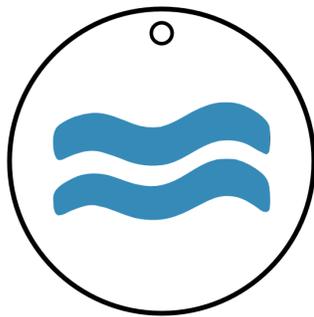
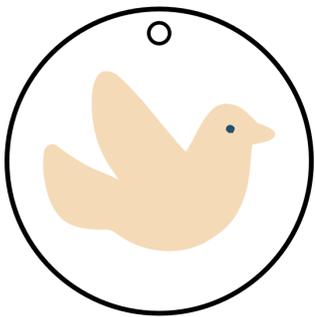
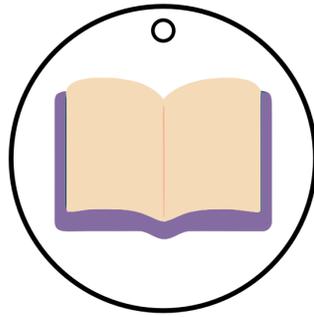
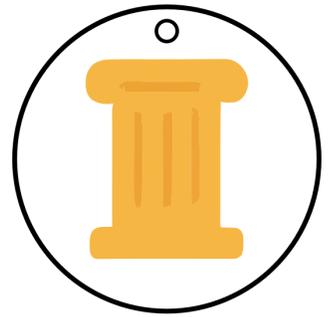
<b>Person</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Scripture Passage</b>
Adam	Male Figure	Genesis 2:7
Eve	Female Figure	Genesis 2:21-23
Noah	Rainbow	Genesis 9:11-17
Abraham	Tree	Genesis 18:1
Sarah	Tent	Genesis 18:9-14
Isaac	Ram	Genesis 22:13-14
Rebekah	Camel	Genesis 24:63-67
Jacob	Ladder	Genesis 28:10-17
Rachel	Shepherd's Crook	Genesis 29:9-12
Joseph	Colorful Coat	Genesis 37:3
Moses	Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1-6
Miriam	Music Notes	Exodus 15:20-21
Deborah	Palm Tree	Judges 4:4-5
Samuel	Lamp	1 Samuel 3:1-3
Ruth	Straw	Ruth 2:1-9
Jesse	Branch	Isaiah 11:1
David	Harp	1 Samuel 16:17-18
Solomon	Columns	1 Kings 5:2-5
Hezekiah	Tablets of the Law	2 Kings 18:1-6
Josiah	Book	2 Kings 23:1-3
Isaiah	Throne	Isaiah 6:1
Elizabeth	Dove	Luke 1:39-45
John the Baptist	River	Matthew 3:1-6
Mary	Angel	Luke 1:26-35
Jesus	Manger	Luke 2:1-7



# Jesse Tree Ornaments



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St. Anne's  
Episcopal Church  
Conway, South Carolina