



# GENEROSITY IN CREATIVE PRAYER: ADVENT

JESSE TREE  
RESOURCE



# Jesse Tree Session

The Jesse Tree is an advent tradition that introduces Jesus' ancestor, and is named from Isaiah 11:1:

*"A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch out of his roots."*

It is a way to tell the story of God from the Old Testament, create symbols to hang on Jesus' "family tree" and connect the advent season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history. The Jesse tree offers children and families a different way to discover the characters and stories of Advent as they prepare for Christmas.

This activity session links with the theme of Generous Advent and could be run alongside any of the Advent generosity prayer stations if you choose.

Here is a suggested outline for a Jesse Tree activity session that you can hold in your church or Sunday club, based around some of its symbols & characters.

If using as an activity morning, choose your time & date, advertise and be sure to give families plenty of notice so they can get it in their diaries! As this session links with the Advent generosity prayer stations you may wish to have an offering plate rather than charging per family.

The focus is only on six of the characters, you can choose to use the simple colour in decoration option or offer the activity version. If the station is manned then the story and meaning could be told, if not print out the \*Context & I Wonder question and leave on the table for families to read themselves.

All the other colour in symbols could be offered for families to takeaway & complete at home for their own Jesse tree or to decorate the church tree on Advent Sunday.



# Jesse Tree Session

## YOU WILL NEED

- A Christmas tree or branch from a tree, in a pot which is well secured
  - Add white fairy lights to the tree.
  - The required materials for each of the six tables (see each station)
  - If there are not enough volunteers for each table to explain/read the story , each of the readings could be printed out on a card and placed on the tables
- \*Please ensure the Bible storybook you choose is all age friendly. Good versions to use include - The Big Bible Storybook: Scripture Union, Children of God Storybook Bible: Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## A suggested Outline

**10.00-10.15am** Welcome & Introduction to the morning

- Outline how the morning will run to those attending
- Begin by explaining the meaning of the Jesse tree & describe the activities that are available to take part in

*\*(Decide in advance whether you will decorate the tree that morning or the following day in the Advent service)*

- Explain at each Station there is an opportunity to make a decoration & or activity discover its meaning by sharing the story from a storybook bible and think more about Gods generosity to each of us.

**10.15am** Children/families move freely between the activity tables

**11.30am** To close the morning you could hang the decorations on the tree with a short simple act of worship/closing prayer, then finish with simple refreshments

*Or*

Invite families back for the Advent service when the tree will then be decorated.

The 6 stations:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1.Adam and Eve /Creation | Doing what is right & following God      |
| 2.Noah                   | Trusting in God and caring for his world |
| 3.Abraham                | Nothing is impossible with God           |
| 4.Joseph                 | Forgiving & feeding Gods people          |
| 5.Mary                   | Gods servant, love &Obedience            |
| 6.Jesus                  | Gods generosity to us                    |



# Station 1

**Adam & Eve**

**Tree Symbol: An apple**

**Genesis 3:**

**Context:** Not simply doing what we want but doing what is right & following God.

Adam & Eve stopped trusting in God's goodness and instead did what was wrong, we need to remember all that God provides for us and care for his world.

**I wonder:** How we could do what is right and share what we have with others?

## YOU WILL NEED

- The story printed out or available in one of the suggested books
- A print out of the Jesse tree decoration to colour
- Selection of colouring pencils

Or Activity: Apple decoration

- Red/green felt
- Ribbon
- Cut out an apple shape and two green leaf shapes & glue on
- Add a ribbon loop to the back to hang





## Station 2

**Noah**

**Symbol: A rainbow**

**Genesis 6**

**Context:** Trusting in Gods faithfulness & promise for us all

The story of the flood shows how Noah trusted God and did what was asked of him. He believed God's promise that he would take care of his family and all the animals in the ark. We need to trust in that promise which is for us all, and be willing to be generous and help others too.

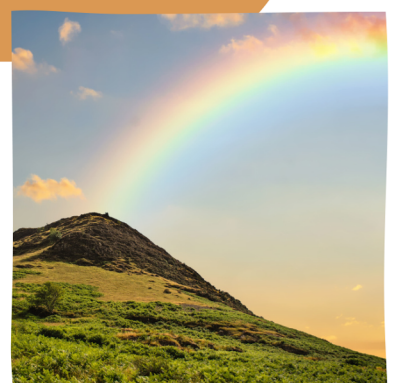
**I wonder:** How you could be generous and help others?

### YOU WILL NEED

- The story printed out or available in one of the suggested books
- A print out of the decoration to colour
- Colouring pencils

*Or Activity:* Hanging rainbow

- Cut a paper plate in half
  - stick lines of coloured gummed paper squares to make the rainbow effect
  - Add cotton wool clouds on each end
- Add a string loop to hang it from





## Station 3

**Abraham**

**Symbol: Stars**

**Genesis 15**

God promised Abraham that his family would number even more than all the stars in the sky.

**Context: Nothing is impossible if we trust God**

Abraham always had faith in God and was willing to do whatever he asked, he knew nothing was impossible with God. God always keeps his promises and Abraham trusted him. God blessed Abraham and his children so they could be a blessing to the people of the world.

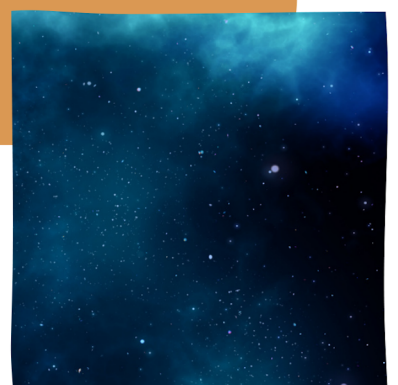
**I wonder: How you could be a blessing to others?**

### YOU WILL NEED

- The story printed out or available in one of the suggested books
- A print out of the decoration to colour
- Colouring pencils

*Or Activity: A star scene*

- Cut squares of black card
- Add Abraham character/wording \*see appendix
- Add small self-adhesive silver star stickers to create a starry sky effect
- Punch a hole and add thread for a hanger





## Station 4

**Joseph**

**Symbol: Multi coloured coat**

**Genesis 41/45**

**Context:** God took care of his people through Joseph who fed his people

Even though Joseph brothers had tried to get rid of him, Joseph forgave them and he also made sure that everyone had enough to eat.

Sometimes we want everything for ourselves just like Joseph's brothers but God wants us to share what we have with others. God doesn't want his people to go hungry.

**I wonder:** What you could do to help feed others?

### YOU WILL NEED

- The story printed out or available in one of the suggested books
- A print out of the decoration to colour
- Colouring pencils

*Or Activity:* A bunch of wheat decoration

- Bunch of dried wheat (available in florists /garden centres)
- Sellotape
- Ribbon for the hanger
- Take a few ears of wheat and make it into a small bunch
- Secure either with Sellotape or an elastic band
- Wrap the ribbon around the elastic band to hide then tie to form a loop to hang it from.





## Station 5

**Mary**

**Symbol: White Rose**

**Luke 1:26**

**Context: Gods servant, love & Obedience**

God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus even though she must have been frightened she obeyed God, she loved and had faith in God and knew he was calling her to do something very special to be the mother of Jesus. God calls us all do something special, to care for others.

**I wonder: What you could do to show that you care for others**

### YOU WILL NEED

- The story printed out or available in one of the suggested books
- A print out of the decoration to colour
- Colouring pencils
- Ribbon to hang it

Or Activity A white tissue paper flower decoration

- Use four sheets of tissue paper cut into 4" by 6" rectangles on top of each other.
- Then concertina fold lengthways
- Round off the edges using scissors
- Tie thin ribbon/string in the middle tightly
- Then gently fluff out each layer
- Tie string into a loop and hang







## Station 6

**Jesus**

**Symbol: Baby in swaddling clothes**

**Luke 2**

**Context:** Thanks for Gods generosity to us

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a smelly stable, wrapped in cloth and placed in a manger surrounded by all the animals. He didn't need to be born in a fancy place or have expensive clothes. This baby was a light that would light up the whole world for each one of us. God was so generous in giving us his son, we need to remember to be a light to others too.

**I Wonder:** What you might do this Christmas to help people not as fortunate as yourself?

### YOU WILL NEED

- The story printed out or available in one of the suggested books
- A print out of the decoration to colour
- Colouring pencils

Or Jesus in swaddling clothes

- Small square of white felt/fabric
- Small peg figure
- Glue
- Ribbon to hang the decoration



# Appendix



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