

## **Day 1:THE JESSE TREE**

The inspiration for the “Jesse tree” is found in the Bible in the Book of Isaiah, who prophesied of the coming of the Messiah as follows:

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:1-2)*

In both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, we read the genealogy of Jesus (that is, a tracing of His family tree), because to the people of the time, these family trees revealed God’s loving concern for the salvation of all people and the fulfillment of His promises. The Jesse tree is a way to bring home to us today this same lesson of the love of God for each of us through His Only Son. For that reason, we include in our Jesse tree many of Jesus’ family members, but also people who are not directly in His family tree, as well as other highlights in the development of “salvation history” from the creation of the world until the Nativity of Our Lord.

What will you notice again and again as you listen to these words of Scripture? “Here I am, send me,” are the words echoing down through salvation history as God asks us all to cooperate in His plan of salvation of all our brothers and sisters.

### **Building your Jesse Tree**

Every day create your own illustration that reminds you of the story you’ll read from the Scriptural record, beginning with the first verse in the first book in the Old Testament leading up to the Gospels. We have given you the readings for every day, but we have also given the citations so you can go to your own Bible and read a little bit more to fill in the gaps.

Our children make their ornaments from their drawings glued onto a piece of construction paper, which we then hand on with yarn. Be sure to start at the bottom of the tree with Creation and continue up at the top of the tree where we will place the final ornament celebrating the gift “in the fullness of time” of the Savior of the world.