



# THE CHRISTMAS FAMILY TREE

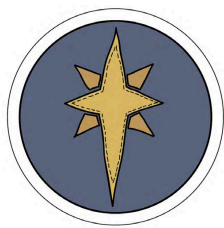
# MERRY CHRISTMAS, OUTLOOK FAMILY!

What a special time of year! We set this season apart as an annual celebration of the birth of a new baby. For many of us, the tree is a classic part of Christmas.

The Jesse Tree is a Christmastime tradition that traces the family tree of Jesus, from creation to his birth. We all have a family tree. Our trees are filled with branches of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. To Jesus' family, his birth was another branch on their own family tree.

The tradition of the Jesse Tree gets its name from Isaiah 11:1, **"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."** Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest King. Jesus is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree.

Each sticker in this book represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus. This 'Christmas Family Tree' gives us a big-picture look at how the story we celebrate each year is an important part of the larger narrative of God's story told in Scripture and through this one family.





## **DAY 1 - The Jesse Tree**

**Read:** Isaiah 11:1-5, 10

**Reflect:** How is Jesus described here? What about Isaiah's description of this coming Messiah most speaks to you today?



## **DAY 2 - God: Creator of All Things**

**Read:** Genesis 1:1, 27-31

**Reflect:** What did God make that was very good? How should we view ourselves and others in light of being made in God's image?



## **DAY 3 - Adam: Sin and Sadness**

**Read:** Genesis 3:1-11

**Reflect:** Why was eating the fruit sinful? What tempts us today to turn from God and pursue our own choices? What is God's rescue plan for us?



## **DAY 4 - Noah: A Promise from God**

**Read:** Genesis 6:9-14, 7:24, and 9:8-16

**Reflect:** God knew that people needed to be rescued from sin. Why was Noah rescued? What is the hope we can find at the end of this story?



## **DAY 5 - Abraham: A Great Nation**

**Read:** Genesis 12:1-5 and 21:1-6

**Reflect:** God made a promise to Abraham, and although there was a lot of waiting required, God did not forget that promise. What does this teach us about God? What can we learn from Abraham?



## **DAY 6 - Isaac: The Lord Provides**

**Read:** Genesis 22:1-14

**Reflect:** Can you imagine how Abraham felt when he received this instruction from God? What is God ultimately seeking in this story?



## **DAY 7 - Jacob: God is with Us**

**Read:** Genesis 28:10-22

**Reflect:** What did God tell Jacob through this strange dream? Is there space in your life for God to speak to you? How can you pay attention to God?



## **DAY 8 - Joseph: God Makes it Good**

**Read:** Genesis 37:19-27, 45:1-10, and 50:15-21

**Reflect:** How do you think Joseph felt before and after he forgave his brothers? Was it easy? Is there someone in your life you are struggling to forgive?



## **DAY 9 - Moses: Ten Commandments**

**Read:** Deuteronomy 5:1-22

**Reflect:** Why did God give his people these ten commandments? How does God expect you to live?



## **DAY 10 - Rahab: Honor and Courage**

**Read:** Joshua 2:1-21

**Reflect:** Rahab was not one of God's people, but she heard and believed that he is the one true God. How was she rewarded? What can we learn from her?



## **DAY 11 - Joshua: Courageous Leader**

**Read:** Joshua 1:1-7 and 6:1-7, 22-25

**Reflect:** Joshua did not go into battle alone. Who was with him? When you think of 'battles' in your personal and spiritual life, what comes to mind?



## **DAY 12 - Ruth: My People and My God**

**Read:** Ruth 1:6-9, 16-18, 2:1-13, and 4:13-17

**Reflect:** As widows, Ruth and Naomi were helpless in their culture. But they weren't hopeless. How was their family saved? When you might be feeling helpless, how can you find hope?



## **DAY 13 - Samuel: The Way God Sees**

**Read:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Reflect:** What was God looking for in a king? How does this differ from the world? How has or could God use you in unexpected ways?



## **DAY 14 - David: A Good Shepherd**

**Read:** 2 Samuel 5:1-5 and 7:8-17

**Reflect:** What do a good shepherd and a good king have in common? How does Jesus fulfill the role of YOUR shepherd-king?



## **DAY 15 - Elijah: The One True God**

**Read:** 1 Kings 18:17-24, 30-39

**Reflect:** How did God show power in this story? Unlike the fake god Baal, God shows up for his people. How has God showed up for you this week?



## **DAY 16 - Isaiah: A Message from God**

**Read:** Isaiah 9:2-7

**Reflect:** This prophecy reminds us that in the midst of darkness, the light is still coming. What darkness are you experiencing? How does Jesus bring light?



## **DAY 17 - Daniel: Trust in God**

**Read:** Daniel 6:1-28

**Reflect:** Why was Daniel thrown into the lion's den? How did he respond when in with the lions? What can we learn about God from Daniel's story?



## **DAY 18 - Jonah: God's Messenger**

**Read:** Jonah 1:1-17, 2:1-10, and 3:1-3

**Reflect:** What was God asking Jonah to do? How did Jonah respond? How is God asking you to share his love and forgiveness with people in your life?



## **DAY 19 - Micah: Bethlehem Prophecy**

**Read:** Micah 5:2-4

**Reflect:** God's prophet Micah says that someone is coming who will rule Israel. What do we learn about the heart and character of this coming king?



## **DAY 20 - Watching and Waiting**

**Read:** Habakkuk 2:1-4 and Malachi 3:1-3

**Reflect:** These prophets are watching and waiting for the coming Messiah, the one chosen to save the world. What are you waiting on God for?



## **DAY 21 - John the Baptist: Prepare**

**Read:** Luke 1:5-23, 57-58 and Matthew 3:1-6

**Reflect:** John the Baptist had a very important job: to prepare people for Jesus. What does it look like to be ready for Jesus? Is your heart ready for Christmas?



## **DAY 22 - Mary: A Faithful Servant**

**Read:** Luke 1:26-38

**Reflect:** Imagine being the mother of Jesus, the Savior of the World. What were the highs and lows of her life? How is Jesus present in your highs and lows?



## **DAY 23 - A Name for The Savior**

**Read:** Matthew 1:18-24

**Reflect:** Why was Joseph told to call his son Jesus? What other names do you know for Jesus? Which one is most meaningful to you in this season of life?

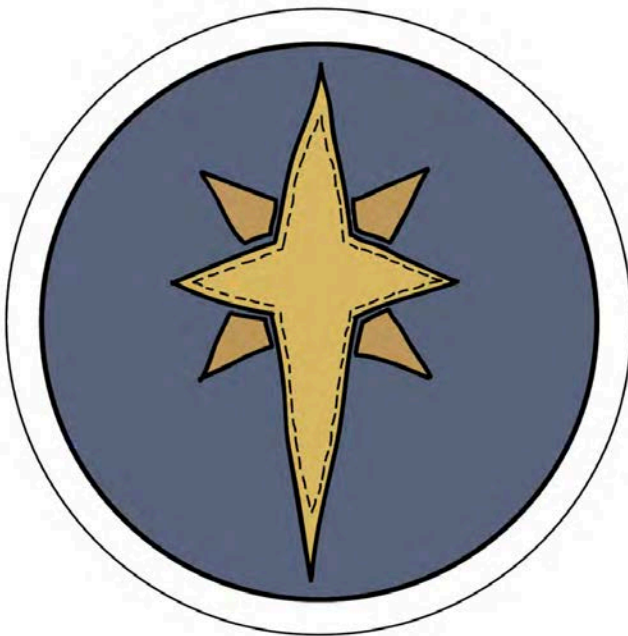


## **DAY 24 - The Birth of Our Savior**

**Read:** Luke 2:1-20

**Reflect:** Each character is integral to the story of Jesus' birth. What do they each teach us about God's heart? Which character do you relate to this year?





# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**DAY 25 - Jesus: Celebrating the Greatest Gift**

**Read:** Luke 2:6-21

**Reflect:** What is your favorite sticker on the Christmas Family Tree? Why does that story stand out to you?

**Pray:** Jesus, we're so glad you've come! Thank you for being born into our world. Thank you for loving us enough to come save us, live with us, and give us a spot in your family. Amen.



***Here are a few ideas to help you make the most of this devotional in the midst of a busy season:***

*Hang the poster in a place you can't miss and dedicate a specific time in your day.*

*Start with a prayer, asking God to speak to you and reveal truth through each story.*

*Use the Jesus Storybook Bible or a Bible app to read the Scripture text each day.*



The Bible App  
FOR KIDS



YouVersion

*End with a short prayer, thanking and praising God for his love and presence throughout history.*

*If you're placing each sticker on the tree with others, take turns leading your time together.*

*Give yourself grace if you get behind. You can easily use Sundays as an opportunity to catch up.*

## CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

**Services at 3, 4:30, and 6 p.m.**

**Come early to sip some hot cocoa, enjoy a family activity, and snap a photo.**

Nursery care available for two and under.

