A Jesse Tree Advent

Compiled by Jenny Alderete
from
The Jesus Storybook Bible
by Sally Lloyd-Jones
and
Disciplines of a Godly Family
by Kent and Barbara Hughes

Dear Friend,

The Jesse Tree Advent is a popular advent tradition. After researching several different Jesse Tree based advents I decided to compile my own version from my favorite resources. This is something I did for my own family's use. All of the stories can be found in either The Jesus Storybook Bible or Disciplines of a Godly Family. I have added some of my own words to the readings as well as adding Scripture references and some of the discussion questions. Feel free to use this with your own family as well but know that this is not a "product" nor is it for sale. It's just a compilation of our own family's readings. I highly encourage you to purchase a copy of each book for the full reading and benefit of your family. May God use both of these wonderful resources greatly in your lives they way He has in our lives.

- There is no right or wrong way to use this advent.
- You can use the ornaments printed in the back (let your kids color and cut them out) or make your own homemade ornaments.
- Feel free to ad your own discussion questions.
- Add songs to sing to worship as a family or add a prayer at the end of each reading.
- People observe advent on different days depending on who you talk to. To make it simple, I've compiled a full 24 days . You can jump in at anytime or cut out any readings you do not wish to use. Pick and choose your readings if you are doing a shorter advent. Our family likes to begin on December 1st and end on Christmas Eve but there are busy days in-between and if we miss one it's no big deal. We either make it up the next day or skip it.

It's not meant to be stressful or rigid. It's meant instead to bring us back to what Christmas is all about in the midst of the hustle and bustle.

-Enjoy
Jenny

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Day 1
Light of Creation

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-5
Older Children - Genesis 1; John 1:1-5

In the beginning there was nothing. Only emptiness and darkness. But God was there. And God had a wonderful plan. God filled the darkness with His creation. He created light, He created the world, and everything in the world. He is the light. Part of His plan was to send the perfect light to us, Jesus. With Jesus there is no darkness. As we see Christmas lights this time of year, may we be reminded of the true and perfect light that lit up the whole world that first Christmas. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 18/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 162)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Who created the whole world?
2. Who created you and me?
3. Who created light?
4. Why is Jesus called the light?
5. What can Christmas lights remind you of?

Older Children
1. If light crowds out darkness, how much darkness can exist in light? (none)
2. Who is the light of the world?
3. Why is Jesus called the light of the world?
4. What things in God's creation can remind us of Jesus as a light?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Sun

Day 2
The Terrible Lie

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 3:1-10; Genesis 3:23
Older Children - Genesis 3; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:8

God has an enemy. His name is Satan. Satan wanted to ruin God's perfect plan for the world He created and His children. Satan tempted Eve to eat of the fruit from the tree that God had forbidden. God knew that if His children ate the fruit, they would think that they didn't need Him. And they would try to make themselves happy without Him. But God knew there was no such thing as happiness without Him, and life without Him wouldn't be life at all. Satan lied to Eve, convincing her that God must not love her if He won't let her eat from that tree. She believed that the tree could make her happier than God could. She doubted God love for her and at that moment a terrible lie came into the world. It would never leave. It would live on in the hearts of every human heart, whispering doubt into the hearts of every one of God's children. God's children would always be running away from God and hiding in darkness just like how Adam and Eve hid from God in shame. Their hearts would break now, never working properly again. God couldn't let his children live forever on the earth in such pain and suffering without Him. God had a plan. One day, God would make the world their perfect home again. One day, He would wipe every tear from their eyes. God had a rescue plan. He was going to come back for them. God Himself would come and rescue them. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 28/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 163)

<u>Discussion Questions</u>

Little Children

1. Did Adam and Eve obey God?
2. Who tempted Eve?
3. Does Satan tempt you? How?
4. What is sin?
5. Do you sin?
6. Does Daddy/Mommy sin?
7. What did God do to love us even though we sin?

Older Children

1. What is sin?
2. What is the result for all mankind, of sin entering the world through this one terrible lie?
3. Who is the father of lies?
4. Does God tempt you to sin?
5. What is God's rescue plan in your own words?

<u>Jesse Tree Ornament</u> -
Apple and Snake

Day 3
The Ark

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 7:17-23; 9:12-15; Romans 6:23
Older Children - Genesis 6:5-8; 7:17-23; 9:12-15; Romans 6:23

Time passed and the world forgot about God. Except a man named Noah. Noah loved and obeyed God. God told Noah that the other people had filled the world with hate and sin. God had to stop them. He told Noah that a storm was coming and that he must build an ark. God promised to save Noah and his family by keeping them safe in the ark. The people laughed at Noah and made fun of him not believing that a storm was going to come or that they would need to be rescued. God kept His promise and rescued Noah, his family, and many animals. God demonstrated His promise with a bow in the sky. Like a warrior who puts away his bow and arrow at the end of a great battle, God too hung up His bow in the clouds to show us His promise of peace. Just like this promise of peace, God still had a wonderful rescue plan that wouldn't destroy the world. God is always faithful to His promises and we are reminded of that every time that we, still today, see God's bow in the sky. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 38/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 164)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Why did God send a flood?
2. What did God promise Noah?
3. How did God show Noah His promise?
4. Does God always keep His promises?

Older Children
1. Why did God send a flood?
2. If all have sinned, what does everyone deserve?
3. What did Noah tell and warn the people to do before the storm came?
4. Does God always keep His promises?
5. God rescued Noah but He also has a rescue plan for all of us. Why do you think God waited so long to send a Rescuer?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Noah's Ark or Rainbow

Day 4
Tower of Babel

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 11:1-9
Older Children - Genesis 11:1-9

One day everyone was talking and they came up with an idea: "Let's build ourselves a beautiful city to live in! It can be our home. And we'll be safe forever and ever." Then they had another idea: "And let's build a really tall tower to reach up to heaven!" They were quite pleased with themselves. But God wasn't pleased with them. God could see what they were doing. They were trying to live without Him, but God knew that wouldn't make them happy or safe or anything. If they kept on like this, they would only destroy themselves and God loved them to much to let that happen. So He stopped their plans. You see, God knew, however high they reached, however hard they tried, people could never get back to heaven by themselves. People didn't need a staircase; they needed a Rescuer. Because the way back to heaven wasn't a staircase; it was a Person. People could never reach up to Heaven, so Heaven would have to come down to them. And, one day, it would. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 48)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. Could the people really build a tower high enough to reach heaven?
2. When God saw that they were trying to build a tower to heaven what did He do?
3. Instead of the people building a tower to heaven, God would send someone from heaven to rescue them…who would that be?

Older Children

1. If people today tried to build a tower to heaven could they build it high enough to reach God?
2. Is there anything we can do to work our way to heaven?
3. Who do we need to rescue us so that we can go to heaven some day?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Tower

Day 5
A Calling

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 12:1-7
Older Children - Genesis 12:1-7

Abram obeyed God with great faith. Like Abram God is calling our hearts to follow Him. It requires obeying God and leaving behind things that do not honor God. Sometimes God calls us to do hard things. That's when our love for God and our faith in God help us to obey God even when it means doing the difficult thing. One day, the Rescuer would have to endure some very hard things in order to obey God. Death on a cross was very hard. Taking on the sins of the whole world was even harder. Jesus, knows how hard obeying God can be. He understands our struggle. He is also the perfect example of how to obey God completely. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 165)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. Why did Abram leave his home?
2. Do you think that it was hard for Abram to obey God?
3. What did God promise Abram?

Older Children

1. Why did Abram leave his home?
2. Do you think that it was hard for Abram to obey God?
3. What did God promise Abram?
4. How did Abram respond to God's commands and promises?
5. Has God asked you to do hard things? What are they?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Tent

Day 6
Abraham and Sarah

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 17:15-17; 18:11-15
Older Children - Genesis 17:15-19; 18:9-15

God promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son even though they were very old in age. As old as a grandpa and grandma. Not only did He promise to give them at least a son, but He also promised to give them so many grandchildren and great-grandchildren that they wouldn't be able to even count them. Abraham and Sarah both laughed at this crazy promise God had made to them. God told Abraham that this was part of His secret rescue plan. God would send the Rescuer through Abraham's family. Abraham trusted God and believed what He said to be true. But Sarah didn't believe God could do it. Her laugh was a laugh of major doubt. Sure enough, nine months later, just as God had promised, Sarah had a baby boy! They named him Isaac, which means "son of laughter." And Sarah laughed. But this time it was a glorious, happy laugh. Her dream of having a baby came true. God did what He promised. And one day, God would send another baby, a baby promised to a girl who didn't even have a husband yet. But this baby would bring laughter to the whole world. This baby would be everyone's dream come true. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 56)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. Since Abraham and Sarah were as old as grandpas and grandmas what did they do when God told them they were going to have a baby?
2. Did God give them a baby just like He promised?
3. Does God always keep His promises?
4. One day God would give the whole world His very own baby son, what is His name?

Older Children

1. Since Abraham and Sarah were as old as grandpas and grandmas what did they do when God told them they were going to have a baby?
2. Sometimes it's hard for us to believe that God will do what He promises us. Abraham did believe God but Sarah did not. Do you think God will keep all of His promises?
3. God also grew Abraham's family into the nation of Israel just like He promised. God had said that they would be more than the what in the sky?
4. God promised to send a Rescuer…who is that Rescuer?

Jesse Tree Ornament

Stars

Day 7
Isaac and the Lamb

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 22:1-13; John 1:29
Older Children - Genesis 22; John 1:29

Abraham and his family regularly gave God sacrifices which were animals. This meant that they gave up some of the animals from their flocks as a gift to God. But this time, God asked Abraham to give Him something instead of an animal. God asked Abraham to give Him his son, his only son, the son he loved so much. His son Isaac. Abraham didn't understand why God wanted him to give up his son as a sacrifice. This was very hard. Sometimes God asks us to do hard things. Just like Abraham gave sacrifices to God to say "I love you" to God, God was preparing to give a sacrifice to all of the world that would say to the world "I love you". God promised Abraham that someone would be born into Abraham's family. Just like Isaac, God's son would climb another hill, carrying wood on his back. God's son would have to trust His father just like Isaac had to trust his father. He would be called The Lamb of God. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 62/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 166)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Did Abraham love his son, Isaac?
2. What does it mean to make a sacrifice?
3. Did Abraham want to use his son as the sacrifice?
4. Did Abraham obey God?

Older Children
1. What hard thing did God ask Abraham to do?
2. Did Abraham obey God?
3. Who is the sacrifice for your sins?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Lamb

Day 8
Jacob's Ladder

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 28:10-17
Older Children - Genesis 28:10-22

God never sleeps. He is always watching over us. He can see us wherever we go. He knows our thoughts and even our dreams. God was watching over Jacob and had a promise for him. God was promising to bless Jacob's family and to always be with Jacob and his family. Just like God watched over Jacob and watched over his son, baby Jesus in the cradle, He watches over us whether we are asleep or awake. He is a faithful friend. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 167)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. What was Jacob's pillow for the night?
2. What did Jacob see in his dream?
3. What did God promise Jacob?
4. Why did Jacob call the place of his dream an "awesome" place?

Older Children
1. What was Jacob's pillow for the night?
2. What did Jacob see in his dream?
3. What did God promise Jacob?
4. Why did Jacob call the place of his dream an "awesome" place?
5. Why did Jacob stack stones at this place?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Ladder

Day 9
Joseph and His Coat of Many Colors

Scriptures
Little Children - Genesis 37:3-36; Genesis 50:18-21
Older Children - Genesis 37:3-36; Genesis 50:18-21; Romans 8:28

Jacob had twelve songs but of all his sons, Joseph was his favorite. One day, Jacob gave Joseph a splendid new robe. It was beautiful and rich with all the colors of the rainbow, but it made Joseph's brothers jealous. To make matters worse Joseph kept on having these special dreams: "I dreamed I was the greatest! I was king!" Joseph told his brothers. "And you all bowed down to me!" Now, I'm sure you know, even if Joseph didn't, that telling your brothers things like that isn't a very good idea. Joseph's brothers hated him even more. They tore his rainbow robe off him and sold him to slave traders. Joseph was now a slave in the land of Egypt. The Pharaoh was so pleased with Joseph that he made him a prince. Back home, Joseph's brothers were running out of food. They traveled to Egypt to buy food. They knelt before the prince but they didn't know that the prince was their brother Joseph! "It's me!" Joseph cried. Joseph rescued his brothers instead of punishing them. One day, God would send another Prince, a young Prince whose heart would break. Like Joseph, He would leave His home and His Father. He would be sold for pieces of silver. He would be punished even though he had done nothing wrong. But God would use everything that happened to this young Prince -even the bad things - to do something good: to forgive the sins of the whole world. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 76/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 168)

<u>Discussion Questions</u>

Little Children

1. What did Joseph's brothers do to him?
2. Why did Joseph's brothers not like him?
3. Did Joseph forgive his brothers?
4. It's hard to forgive sometimes. Have you forgiven someone recently?

Older Children

1. What happened to Jacob's family when he loved one son more than the others?
2. What did Joseph know about God and His plan that helped him to forgive his brothers?
3. Why do you think that everything Joseph did in Egypt prospered?
4. What hard things did Joseph have to do in this story?

<u>Jesse Tree Ornament</u>

A Coat of Many Colors

Day 10
The Red Sea

Scriptures
Little Children - Exodus 14:21-29
Older Children - Exodus 14

Moses and God's people escaped out of Egypt and into the wilderness. They didn't know the way - but God knew the way and He would show them. God led His people through the desert to the edge of a great sea. They were just wondering how to cross it when, suddenly, they heard a terrible thundering and pounding. It sounded almost like horses' hooves. They shaded their eyes to look back - and screamed! It was! Pharaoh and his army were coming to get them! God made the pillar of smoke move. It moved behind His people and hid them from the Egyptians. Then God sent a strong east wind to blow all night long. It blew the sea to the left and it blew it to the right, until it blew it into two towering walls of water, and there - right through the middle of the sea - a muddy pathway opened up and God's people walked across on dry land! When the Egyptians tried to follow, the walls of water crashed back down on them and swallowed them up. God's people were safe! From the beginning, God's children had been running from Him and hiding. God knew His children could never be happy without Him. But they couldn't get back to Him by themselves - they were lost, they didn't know the way back. God knew the way. And one day He would show them. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 92)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. Could the people walk on top of the water or through the big sea?
2. Did the people have a bunch of boats to fit everyone and all their animals in?
3. What amazing thing did God do to the sea so that the people could go across it?
4. Who is the only One that makes a way for us to God?

Older Children

1. Why do you think the Egyptians followed God's people on the pathway across the sea?
2. What amazing miracle did God do for His people so that they could escape the Egyptians following them?
3. How much wind do you think it would take to split a huge sea open and hold back walls of water? Our God is pretty powerful!

4. What did the people do after they crossed the sea and they saw the Egyptians get swallowed up by the sea?
5. Who is the only One that makes a way for us to God?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Moses Parting the Red Sea

Day 11
The Ten Commandments

Scriptures
Little Children - Exodus 20:1-20; Psalm 119:11
Older Children - Exodus 20:1-20; Exodus 32:15-16; Psalm 119:11

God gave His people the rules written on stone tablets. Moses said, "God promises to always look after you, will you love Him and keep these rules?" The people answered, "We can do it! Yes! We promise!" But they were wrong. They were wrong. They couldn't do it. No matter how hard they tried, they could never keep God's rules all of the time. God knew they couldn't. And He wanted them to know it too. God used the rules to show them that they would be disobedient and sin. Only one Person could keep all the rules. And many years later God would send Him…to stand in their place and be perfect for them. Because the rules couldn't save them. Only God could save them. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 100/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 169)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. What was written on the stone tablets?
2. Who gave these laws to Moses?
3. What do these rules teach us?
4. Why does God and our parents give us rules?

Older Children
1. What did these commandments teach the people?
2. How many of the Ten Commandments can you remember?
3. Why does God give us rules?
4. Why do our parents give us rules?
5. What can we do with God's Word that will help keep us from sinning?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Ten Commandments

Day 12
Canaan, The Promised Land of Blessings

Scriptures
Little Children - Numbers 13:1-2; 17-23; 27; Psalm 103:2
Older Children - Numbers 13:1-2; 17-27; Psalm 103:2

God loved His people so much that He wanted to bless them by giving them a wonderful land called Canaan. Canaan was a land that grew huge fruit and vegetables. It was flowing with milk and honey. When the people of God went to see what the land was like they brought back a cluster of grapes that was so big they had to carry it on a pole between to men. It was huge and heavy! If they moved into Canaan they would have all they could want of food and prosperity. God loved them so much that He wanted them to have this land. Sadly, they refused to accept God's wonderful gift for them. Later God would give them an even bigger gift, Jesus, and they would refuse that gift as well. Only those who believe that Jesus is the perfect gift for salvation will inherit the beautiful land called Heaven. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 170)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Would Canaan be a good land to live in?
2. Why?
3. Why do you think God wanted to give this land to His people?
4. How does God show you that He loves you?
5. What was the biggest thing God did to show you how much He loves you?

Older Children
1. Why would Canaan be a good land to live in?
2. Why would God want to give this land to His people?
3. Does God want to bless you?
4. What ways does God show His love to you?
5. What was the biggest way God showed us His love for us?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Cluster of Grapes

Day 13
Wall of Jericho

Scriptures
Little Children - Joshua 6:6,15,16, 20
Older Children - Joshua 6:6,15,16, 20

After Moses died, God gave His people a new leader. His name was Joshua. Joshua was going to lead God's people into the special land God had promised to give them. There was only one problem. Jericho. Jericho was a city - but it wasn't any old city. It was a fortress and it stopped anyone from getting into the land. The people looked at Jericho. At the big, giant, scary walls all around it. God told Joshua what to do. But Joshua must have looked surprised because it was a very odd battle plan indeed. Joshua's army went marching, marching, marching around the city. Day after day after day. On the seventh day, God told His people to march around the city not once, but seven times. Then God told everybody to make as much noise as they could. The huge, strong walls of Jericho just crumbled to the ground, as if they were made of sand. Jericho vanished in a great cloud of dust. Just like Joshua, one day God would give His people another Leader. And another home. But this would be a home that no one could ever take away from them. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 108)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. Do you know what Joshua's name means? It means "The Lord Saves".
2. Do you think you could win a war by simply marching??
3. Do you find it hard to obey God?
4. What wonderful home is God preparing for those who love Him?

Older Children

1. Do you know what Joshua's name means? It means "The Lord Saves".
2. Do you think some of God's people thought that marching around a city for seven days was pointless and silly?
3. Why do you think that marching around the city worked to knock down the walls?
4. Do you find it hard to obey God?
5. Who is the Leader that God would later send to His people to lead them?
6. What perfect home is God preparing for those who love Him?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Walls of Jericho OR Trumpet

Day 14
Ruth and Boaz

Scriptures
Little Children - Ruth 2:4-18
Older Children - Ruth 1:1-18, 2:4-18

Ruth loved God and Naomi so much that she was willing to stay with Naomi after her husband died instead of returning back to her own family and the gods of her family. Ruth was devoted to serving Naomi and God. She was faithful and loyal. She was also willing to work hard in order to serve others. Later there would come someone who was even more faithful, more loyal, and who was willing to serve all of mankind. He would be willing to leave His perfect home in Heaven to come to earth for us. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 171)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Who was a good friend to Naomi?
2. Did Ruth love God?
3. When Naomi and Ruth didn't have anything left, who showed great kindness to them?
4. Was Ruth a hard worker?
5. Just like Boaz redeemed Ruth to be his wife, Who would one day come to redeem us?

Older Children
1. What made Ruth a good friend to Naomi?
2. Why do you think being a hard worker in life is important?
3. What kinds of things did Boaz do to show kindness and friendship to Ruth?
4. Do you think that Ruth loved God even though it doesn't mention that in the Bible?
5. Why did Ruth need Boaz to redeem her? If Jesus is the groom and the church is the bride, how did Jesus, like Boaz, redeem us?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Wheat

Day 15
David and Goliath

Scriptures
Little Children - I Samuel 17:1-9, 48-50
Older Children - I Samuel 17:1-9, 32-50; Psalm 23:1

Even though David was just a small shepherd boy and Goliath was a huge giant, David knew that God was on his side. It didn't matter how many swords and spears Goliath had or how strong he was. God is the one who saves. God would win this battle. And He did! Many years later, God would send His people another young hero to fight for them. And to save them. But this Hero would fight the greatest battle the world has ever known against the world's greatest enemy. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 116/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 172)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Describe what Goliath looked like and how he acted.
2. Do you think David felt afraid to fight Goliath?
3. Why did David win?

Older Children
1. Describe what Goliath looked like and how he acted.
2. Why did David fight Goliath?
3. Do you think David felt afraid? Why or why not?
4. Why did David win?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Slingshot

Day 16
The Good Shepherd

Scriptures
Little Children - Psalm 23:1-2; John 10:27; Isaiah 40:11
Older Children - Psalm 23; John 10:27; Isaiah 40:11

David's songs are like prayers. They are called psalms and Psalm 23 is called "The Song of the Shepherd." David was a shepherd boy who grew up to be a king. God gave David that song to sing to his people, so they could know that He loved them

and would always look after them - like a shepherd loves his sheep. And one day, God was going to do something that would inspire thousands upon thousands of new songs. God was going to show His people once and for all just how much He loved them. Another Shepherd was coming - a greater Shepherd. He would be called the Good Shepherd. And this Shepherd was going to lead all of God's lambs back to the place where they had always belonged - close to God's heart. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 130)

Discussion Questions

Little Children -

1. How do you think a shepherd takes care of his sheep?
2. Do you need someone to take care of you just like sheep need someone to take care of them?
3. Why do you think David called Jesus the Good Shepherd?

Older Children -

1. What are several different ways in which shepherds care for their sheep?
2. How are we like sheep?
3. What must Jesus be like if He is our Shepherd?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Shepherd's Crook OR Harp or Music Note

Day 17
Josiah Find the Law

Scriptures
Little Children - 2 Kings 23:1-3; Psalm 119:105
Older Children - 2 Kings 22:11-13; 23:1-3; Psalm 119:105

During Josiah's time, the people had forgotten about God's Word. They stopped reading it. Because they did not read it, they did not know how to obey it. Because they were not obeying God's Word they were not showing God that they loved and respected Him. When King Josiah did find the Book of God's Word (the Bible) he read it and told all the people that they needed to now obey it. The Bible is our guide book for life. By it we know who God is and what He has done for us. It also shows us how to live in a way that shows Him we love Him back. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 173)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. What did King Josiah do when he found the lost book of God's Words?
2. Why should we read the Bible?

Older Children

1. What had happened to God's Word (Written Scriptures) before Josiah's time?
2. What did King Josiah do when he found the book?
3. Do you think that people today have forgotten about God's Word?
4. Why should we read the Bible?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Parchment OR Book

Day 18
Prophecy of the Shoot from the Stump of Jesse

Scriptures
Little Children - Isaiah 11:1-5; John 1:14
Older Children - Isaiah 11:1-5; John 1:14; Rev. 22:16

Jesse was the father of David (yep, the same David that killed Goliath and later became king). From David's family came the Messiah, Jesus Christ! In the same way that we often record our family lineages today in a "family tree" format, Jesse was the father of a huge tree of descendants. Isaiah was a prophet of God which means that he was a messenger for God giving the people messages before the whole Bible was written. Isaiah writes, that from Jesse's family would come the Savior of the world. That's why we call our advent tree a "Jesse Tree". Jesus DID come from the family of Jesse. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 174)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. How did Isaiah know about Jesus hundreds of years before He was even born?
2. Who is full of grace, truth, wisdom, understanding, power, and faithfulness?

Older Children

1. How did Isaiah know about Jesus hundreds of years before He was even born?

2. Who is full of grace, truth, wisdom, understanding, power, righteousness, and faithfulness?
3. How is Jesse like a stump, and who is the new branch growing out of him?
4. How is Jesus God's living Word?

Jesse Tree Ornament
A Tree Stump (with a green leaf growing out of it)

Day 19
Prophecy of the Lion and Lamb Resting Together

Scriptures
Little Children - Isaiah 11:6-10
Older Children - Isaiah 11:6-10

Jesus came first at Christmas time as a little tiny baby. After He died for our sins He went to heaven. Someday, He's coming back to make a new world that will be perfect and without evil and harm. A completely safe and wonderful paradise. Where little children will play with animals who were once fierce. If we believe that He is our Savior then we'll be with Him in the new world. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 175)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all animals were kind and gentle? Can you imagine how wonderful it will be when we can pet all of the animals on the earth some day?
2. Who will make it so that we can pet all the animals?

Older Children
1. Will all the animals on earth be tame enough to pet some day?
2. When will this happen?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Lion and lamb together

Day 20
The Fiery Furnace

Scriptures
Little Children- Daniel 3: 4, 12,19-20, 24-28
Older Children - Daniel 3: 4, 12,19-29; Jeremiah 1:8

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down and worship a man made idol. They would only worship the one true God who created the world. They must have felt really tempted to worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol. But they did not. Because they would not worship the idol, Nebuchadnezzar ordered them to be killed. He was going to throw them in a fiery furnace but God protected them instead. It must have been amazing to see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walking around in the fiery furnace without the fire touching them at all! They walked right out of that furnace. God has a plan to rescue all of His children from the eternal fire because He loves them. He sent Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego an angel to protect them in the furnace but to rescue all of his children from eternal fire He would send His son Jesus to save us from our sins. (Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 180)

Discussion Questions

Little Children

1. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do?
2. How many men did the king see walking around unharmed in the fire?
3. Who protected the men from the fire?
4. Who will help you to believe in God?

Older Children

1. Do you ever feel tempted to do the wrong thing?
2. Who gives you the strength to do what is right even if it's the harder thing to do?
3. Who protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they chose to do what is right instead of worshipping the man made idol?
4. Who can save you from the eternal fire?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Fiery Furnace

Day 21
Jonah and the Big Fish

Scriptures
Little Children - Jonah 1:1-4, 10-17; 2:1, 10;
Older Children - Jonah 1:1-4, 10-17; 2:1, 10; 3:1-10

Jonah learned a big lesson while he was in the belly of that big fish. He realized that you can't run far from God. God won't stop loving you. Jonah told the people of Nineveh to run to God so He could forgive them! Thankfully the people listened to Jonah, and they started loving God. They learned to do what God said and to stop running away from Him - just like Jonah. Many years later, God was going to send another Messenger with the same wonderful message. Like Jonah, He would spend three days in utter darkness. But this Messenger would be called "The Word" because He Himself would be God's Message. God's Message translated into our own heart language. Everything God wanted to say to the whole world - in a Person. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 160)

Discussion Questions

Little Children -

1. Who is that Person, that Messenger that God sent to tell the whole world that God loves them?
2. Can we run away from God and hide from Him? Why not?
3. Did you know that a few years ago a big fish was found by scientist that is big enough for a man to be swallowed by and live inside for a few days? Pretty amazing, huh?

Older Children -

1. Sometimes God asks us to do hard things. What are some of the hard things God has asked you to do?
2. Can you run away from God and hide from Him? Why not?
3. What is the message that God wanted the whole world to know?
4. Did you know that a few years ago a big fish was found by scientist that is big enough for a man to be swallowed by and live inside for a few days? Pretty amazing, huh?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Jonah and the Big Fish

Day 22
Birth of Jesus

Scriptures
Little Children - Luke 2:1-7; John 3:16-17
Older Children - Luke 2:1-7; John 3:16-17

The moment God had been waiting for was here at last! God was coming to help His people, just as He promised in the beginning!!!! But how would He come? What would He be like? What would He do? There was a young girl who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. (Joseph was the great-great-great-great-great grandson of King David - the boy with the slingshot.) One morning, this girl, Mary, was minding her own business when, suddenly, a great warrior of light appeared, an angel! He was Gabriel, a special messenger from heaven. Gabriel said to her, "Mary, you're going to have a baby. A little boy. You will call him Jesus. He is God's own Son. He's the One! He's the Rescuer!!!" The God who created everything with just one word was making himself small. And coming down…as a baby! Wait. God was sending a baby to rescue the world?? Gabriel asked, "Is anything too wonderful for God?" Now, Mary and Joseph had to take a trip to Bethlehem. When they got there, they found that every room was full. Where would they stay? All they could find was a stable where cows, horses, and donkeys stayed. And there in the stable, amongst the chickens and donkeys, and the cows, in the quiet of the night, God gave the world His wonderful gift. The baby that would change the world was born. God's rescue plan for all His children through all time was Jesus, this tiny baby. He would one day save the world from their sins. God's baby Son. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus, "Emmanuel" - which means "God has come to live with us." (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 176/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 184)

Discussion Questions

Little Children
1. Where are babies usually born?
2. Do you think that stables where animals live are clean or dirty?
3. One day Jesus would grow up and then He would die on a cross. Do you know why He would do that for us?
4. How much does Jesus love you?

Older Children
1. Why do you think God sent His son as a baby and why do you think He was born in a dirty stable especially if He was going to be the King of the world?

2. Why would God tell Mary and Joseph to name Him Jesus (Emmanuel) which means "God has come to live with us?"
3. Why did God send His son to the earth?
4. Do you believe that He came to rescue you?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Baby Jesus in a Manger

Day 23
Angels Proclaim

Scriptures
Little Children - Luke 2:8-20
Older Children - Luke 2:8-20

In those days, people used to laugh at shepherds. You see, people thought shepherds were nobodies, just scruffy old riff-raff. But God must have thought shepherds were very important indeed, because they're the ones He chose to tell the good news to first. The way God told them was with angels in the sky! Can you imagine troops of bright beautiful angels coming in the middle of the night to give you a message? The angels were singing their beautiful message as a song. The shepherds hurried to go find this Promised Child. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 184/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 186)

Discussion Questions

Little Children -
1. Do you think the shepherds were scared when the angels appeared to them in the night sky?
2. Do you think God loves smelly shepherds?
3. Do you think God loves everyone even if they aren't perfect?

Older Children -
1. Do you think God loves everyone - even if they are a lowly, smelly shepherd?
2. God was so excited to announce the birth of His new son, what did He use to make this big huge announcement?
3. Does God love you even if you are not perfect?
4. How does He show you that He loves you?

Jesse Tree Ornament
Angel

Day 24
The Star

Scriptures
Little Children - Matthew 2:1-12; Revelation 22:16
Older Children - Matthew 2:1-12; Revelation 22:16

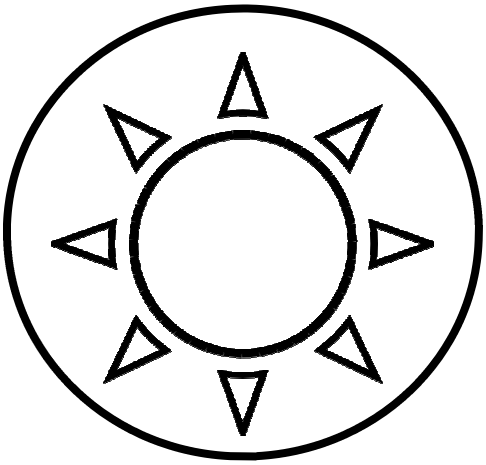
In the East, three clever men saw the star that God had put in the sky when Jesus was born. They knew it was a sign. A baby king had been born. They had been waiting for this star! They knew it would come! They packed up their camels and wrapped gifts for the baby. The brought their most precious treasures of all: frankincense, gold, and myrrh. Special, sparkly, lovely-smelling, gleaming things - just right for a king. They followed the star through the streets of Bethlehem, out of the nice part of town, through the not-so-nice part of town, into the really-not-nice-at-all part of town, down a little dirt track, until the star stopped right over….a little house. But wait. It wasn't a palace. And there weren't any guards. Or servants. Or flags. Or red carpets. Or trumpets. Or anything. Did they get it wrong? Or was this what God meant? Sure enough, in that little house - there, sitting on his mother's knee - they found him. The baby King. But this child was a new kind of king. Though He was the Prince of Heaven, He had become poor. Though He was the Mighty God, He had become a helpless baby. This King hadn't come to be the boss. He had come to be a servant. (The Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 192/Disciplines of a Godly Family pg. 187)

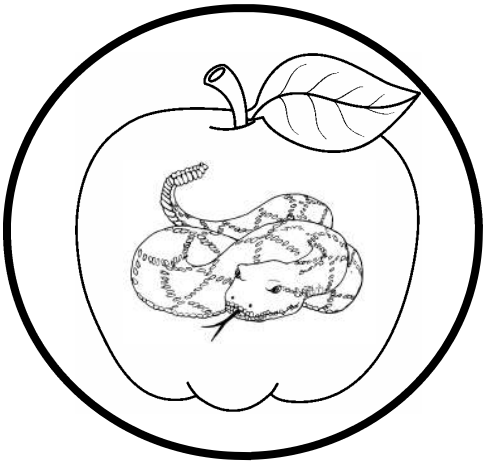
Discussion Questions

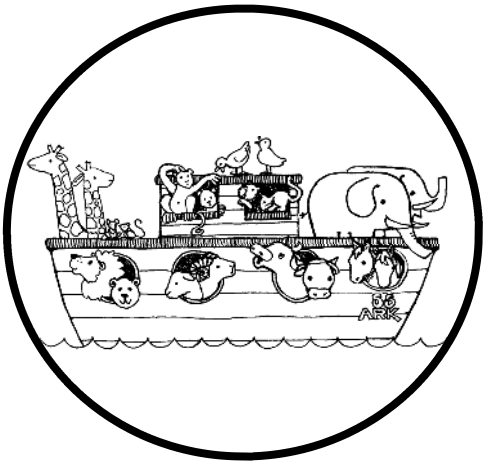
Little Children
1. Who saw Jesus' star in the east, and what did they want?
2. Where did the star lead them?
3. How is Jesus like a star?
4. What does it mean that Jesus came to serve us?

Older Children
1. Why did these wise men want to follow the star?
2. Did King Herod really want to worship Jesus?
3. Why was King Herod jealous of a new king?
4. How is Jesus described in Revelation 22:16?
5. How is Jesus like a star?

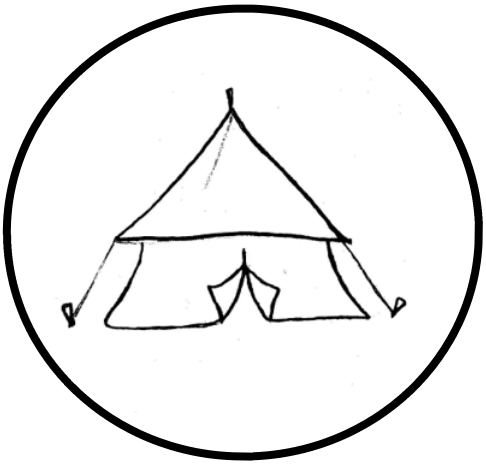
Jesse Tree Ornament
Star

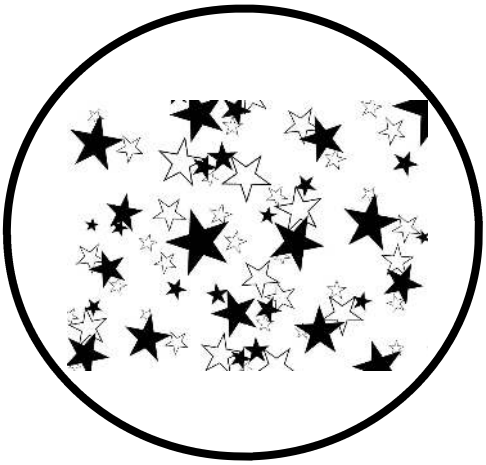


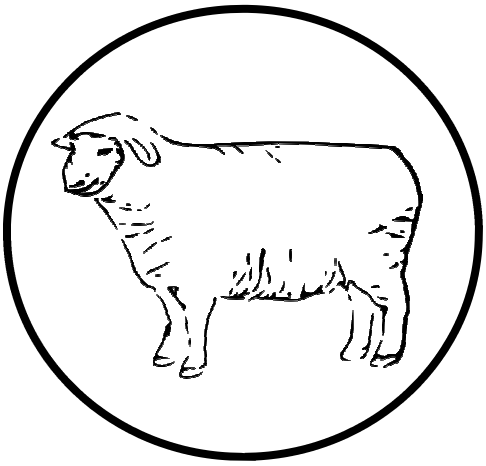


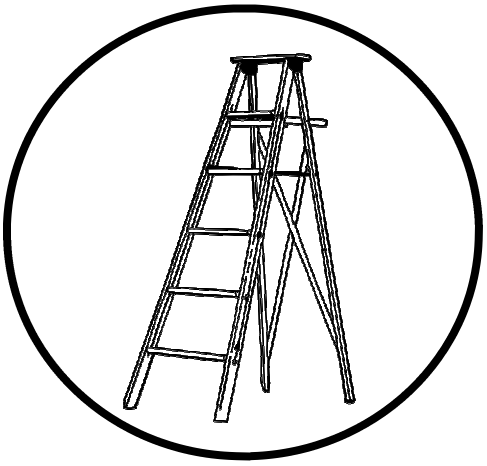








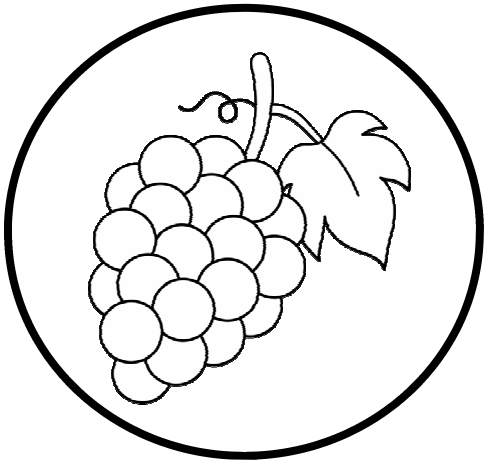


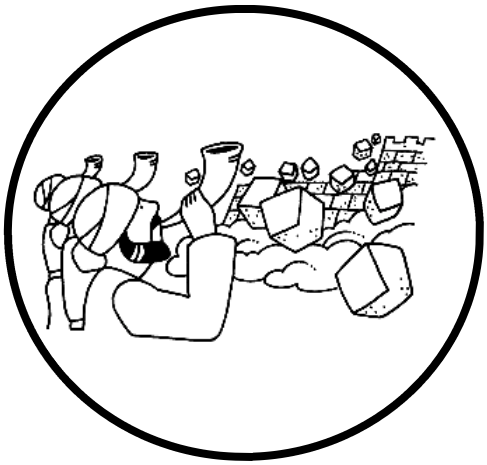


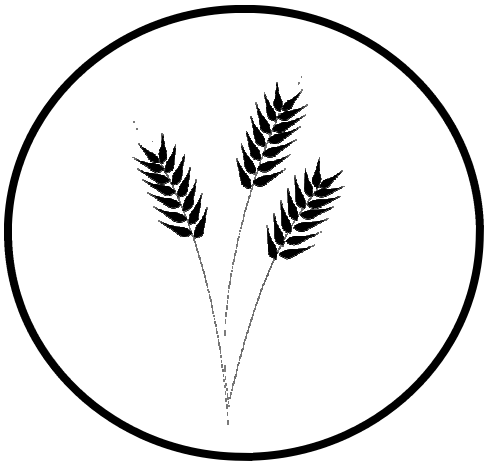






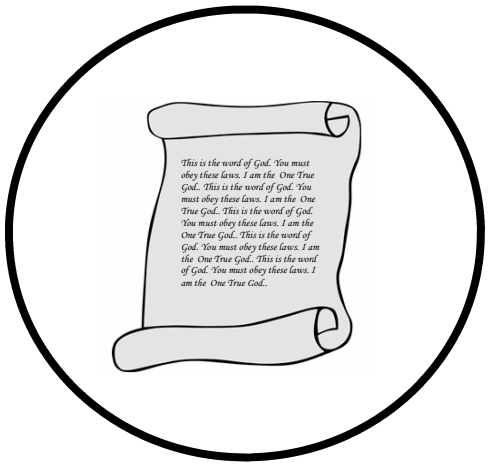











This is the word of God. You must obey these laws. I am the One True God.. This is the word of God. You must obey these laws. I am the One True God.. This is the word of God. You must obey these laws. I am the One True God.. This is the word of God. You must obey these laws. I am the One True God.. This is the word of God. You must obey these laws. I am the One True God..

