

Jesse Tree Introduction:

Christmas. The very word evokes profound meaning in all of us. For many, this time of year is filled with excitement and anticipation, but when the day finally arrives, we are left feeling like something is missing. Perhaps this is because many of our traditions, while good, are not centered around Jesus. If we are not intentional with our time, try as we might, the season will come and go with very little thought of the real reason we celebrate!

What if there is a better way?

This year, we're offering our church family a resource that will help them create a new tradition leading up to Christmas - *Journey to Jesus: A Jesse Tree Advent*. Many of us are familiar with the idea of advent, which comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." But the idea behind Jesse Tree might be new. It comes from Isaiah 11:1, which prophesies of a "shoot" that will sprout from the stump of Jesse's family tree. It is a promise of hope in the coming Messiah and Savior, foretold long before his birth. In the stories of Jesus' ancestors, we can see a foreshadowing of his own life, death, and resurrection.

Will you join us this year?

Together, we will commit to be intentional with our time and set aside just a few minutes every day. Together, we will be like Habakkuk and set a watch post and wait with anticipation for God's answer to the problems of this world. Together, we will be like Zacchaeus who climbed up a tree to get a better glimpse of Jesus. Together, as we spend time each day in God's Word, our hearts will be prepared and our minds will be focused on the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

This year, we will start a NEW Christmas tradition that will remind us again that ALL of the stories in Scripture point to Jesus and show us why his arrival on this earth as, "God made into flesh," was the BEST gift ever!

We are excited to see how God will move in our hearts this year, as we WAIT together in anticipation of the day we get to celebrate the advent of the Promised Messiah.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask! We are more than happy to help!

Email Cheri Hogrefe: cheri@providencechurch.com.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

All scripture quotations are from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.

Jesse Tree Advent Reading plan:

December 1: The Shoot from Jesse's Tree	Isaiah 11:1-5, 10
December 2: The Watchtower	Habakkuk 2:1; 3:16-19
December 3: In the Beginning	Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7
December 4: The Serpent Crusher	Selections from Genesis 2-3
December 5: God Shows Mercy	Selections from Genesis 6-9
December 6: Abram's Faith	Genesis 12:1-7
December 7: God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 15:1-6
December 8: Son of Laughter	Genesis 18:1, 9-15; 21:1-7
December 9: God Provides a Substitute	Genesis 22:1-14
December 10: Coat of Many Colors	Selections from Genesis 37 & 50
December 11: Engraved on His Hands	Selections from Deuteronomy 5:1-22, 28-29
December 12: Scarlet Cord	Joshua 2:1-21
December 13: Kinsman Redeemer	Selections from Ruth 1-4
December 14: Shepherd King	I Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; 2 Samuel 5:2b
December 15: Living Temple	1 Kings 5:1-5; 6:11-14
December 16: Elijah's Contest	I Kings 18:17-39
December 17: A New Kingdom	Isaiah 11:1-10
December 18: Jonah & the Whale	Jonah 3:1 - 4:4, 11
December 19: House of Bread	Micah 5:2-4
December 20: Zechariah & Elizabeth	Luke 1:5-25
December 21: John the Baptist	Matthew 3:1-6
December 22: Gabriel Visits Mary	Luke 1:26-38
December 23: Joseph's Dream	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24: Census in Bethlehem	Luke 2:1-5
December 25: Our Savior Arrives	Luke 2:6-20