

Jesse Tree Research Project

Connecting the Hebrew Scriptures to Jesus

The idea for the Jesse Tree comes from the following reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 11:1-10



On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.
Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,
but he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide aright for the land's afflicted.
He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.
Justice shall be the band around his waist,
and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.
Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,
together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.
There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,
as water covers the sea.
On that day, the root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
the Gentiles shall seek out,
for his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Jesse Tree is made up of a number of symbols that are a visual representation of some of the most important members of Jesus' physical and spiritual family trees. The idea for the Jesse Tree comes from our Medieval past, when the vast majority of Christians could not read and had to learn about their religion from priests' sermons and from visual versions of Bible stories like plays and stained glass windows. The symbols of the Jesse Tree were often found on the windows of great European cathedrals (*above is a photo of the Jesse Tree window in Chartres Cathedral in France*).

Your job for this project is do some research and show that you have a grasp of how to read and understand the Scriptures. You will be required to read four selections from the Bible that are related to Jesse Tree characters or themes. You will then do a little writing about the passages you read and you will do a little drawing to create your own symbols of the people or ideas that you read about.

Instructions: ❶ Choose four passages (one A, one B, one C, and one D). ❷ Read those passages in a Bible (if you do not have a Bible available at home, the New American Bible is available at www.usccb.org/nab/bible). ❸ Complete a worksheet for each of the passages that you read. Where space is provided for paragraph-length answers on your worksheets you should provide full, complete paragraphs. ❹ Create a symbol for each of the passages you read (the chart suggests a symbol that you can use, or you can design your own), and draw your symbol on the symbol page. Your symbols may be fancy drawings or they may be simple designs – you should use color.

| TEXT | FOCUS | SYMBOL | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Isaiah 11:1-2</i> | <i>Shoot from Jesse</i> | <i>Stump with branch</i> | |
| Genesis 1:26-31 | Creation | World | A |
| Genesis 3:1-19 | The Fall | Apple and snake | A |
| Genesis 6:11-14, 7:17 to 8:3, 9:8-13 | Noah | Ark and rainbow | A |
| Genesis 12:1-7 | Abraham | Tent and camel | A |
| Genesis 21:1-7 | Sarah | Cradle | C |
| Genesis 22:1-14 | Isaac | Ram | B |
| Genesis 28:10-22 | Jacob | Ladder | B |
| Genesis 37:1-36, 50:15-21 | Joseph | Coat | B |
| Deuteronomy 5:1-22 | Moses | Tablets | B |
| Joshua 2:1-21 | Rahab | Rope | C |
| Ruth 1:15 to 2:3 | Ruth | Grain | C |
| 1 Samuel 16:1-13 | Samuel & David | Oil horn | A |
| 2 Samuel 5:1-5 | David | Crown | A |
| Isaiah 9:2-7 | Prophets | Rose | D |
| 1 Kings 18:17-24, 36-39 | Elijah | Fire and altar | D |
| Jonah 3:1-5 | Jonah | Fish | D |
| Isaiah 11:6-9 | Peace | Lamb and Wolf | D |
| Micah 5:1-5a | Bethlehem | City | D |
| Esther 4 | Esther | Scepter | C |
| Daniel 6 | Daniel | Lion | A |
| Habbakuk 2:1-4 | Waiting | Watch tower | D |
| Luke 1:5-25 | Zechariah & Elizabeth | Man and woman | C |
| Matthew 3:1-6 | John the Baptist | Shell | D |
| Luke 1:26-38 | Mary | Heart | C |
| Matthew 1:18-25 | Joseph | Tools | D |
| Luke 2:1-5 | Journey | Sandals | D |
| <i>Luke 2:6-21</i> | <i>The Nativity</i> | <i>Star</i> | |

NAME:

Jesse Tree Research: Category A

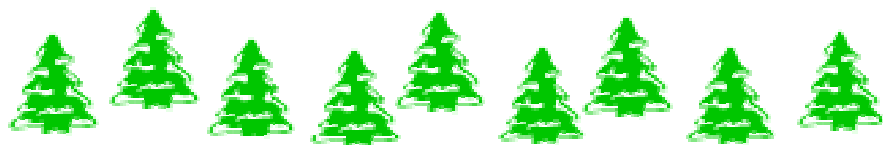
What is the citation of the passage you read?

Choose a title for the passage

Who is the person or what is the focus of this passage?

Summarize the passage you read – what was it about?

*Explain what you think the message of the passage is.
Or, explain how you think the passage relates to Jesus.*



Jesse Tree Research: *Category B*

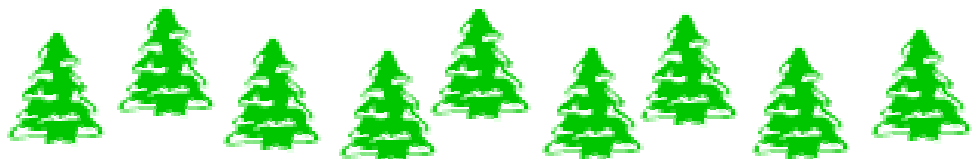
What is the citation of the passage you read?

Choose a title for the passage

Who is the person or what is the focus of this passage?

Summarize the passage you read – what was it about?

Explain what you think the message of the passage is. Or, explain how you think the passage relates to Jesus.



Jesse Tree Research: Category C

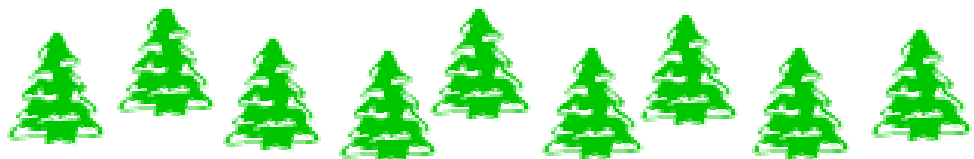
What is the citation of the passage you read?

Choose a title for the passage

Who is the person or what is the focus of this passage?

Summarize the passage you read – what was it about?

Explain what you think the message of the passage is. Or, explain how you think the passage relates to Jesus.



Jesse Tree Research: Category D

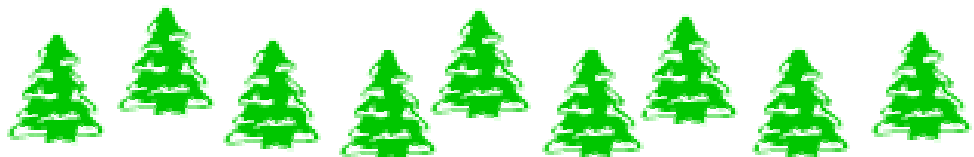
What is the citation of the passage you read?

Choose a title for the passage

Who is the person or what is the focus of this passage?

Summarize the passage you read – what was it about?

Explain what you think the message of the passage is. Or, explain how you think the passage relates to Jesus.



Symbols of Jesus' Ancestry

| <i>Passage A:</i> <i>Person or Idea:</i> | <i>Passage B:</i> <i>Person or Idea:</i> |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| <i>Passage C:</i> <i>Person or Idea:</i> | <i>Passage D:</i> <i>Person or Idea:</i> |

