

## Jesse Tree Prayers and Reflections 2020

### Day One - The Creation (World)



**Watch** Video Clip on

#### **Reflect**

The world God made is beautiful. What special thing in the world do you think is beautiful?

#### **Place**

Place the World symbol on the tree

#### **Prayer**

Creator God, thank you for the earth under our feet; thank you for the sky above our heads; thank you for the animals and plants around us. Amen.

### Day Two - Adam and Eve (Apple)



**Watch** the video clip

#### **Reflect**

We all make wrong choices sometimes. Have you ever wished you hadn't done something wrong?

#### **Place**

Place the apple symbol on the tree

#### **Prayer**

Loving God, we are sorry when we do wrong things. Help us to make wise choices in our lives. Amen.

### Day Three - Noah (Rainbow)



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**Watch** the video clip

#### **Reflect**

The rainbow is a sign of God's promise to look after his world. Have you ever made a promise? Did you keep your promise?

**Place** the Rainbow symbol on the tree

#### **Prayer**

Faithful God, you always keep your promises. Help us to keep our promises to other people too. Amen.

### Day Four - Abraham (Stars)



**Watch** the video clip

#### **Reflect**

Abraham and Sarah believed that God loved them and tried hard to love God back. Who loves you? Do you love them back?

**Place** the rainbow symbol on the tree

#### **Prayer**

Loving God, you are like the best mother anyone could have. Help us to be the best children a mother could have. Amen.

## Day Five - Jacob (Ladder)



**Watch** the video for the day

### **Reflect**

Jacob dreamed that he was connected to God by a ladder. What's the best dream you've ever had?

**Place** the ladder symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Forgiving God, in our world it is sometimes hard to feel that you are nearby. Help us to feel connected to you and to those around us. Amen.

## Day Six - Joseph (Coloured Coat)



**Watch** the video for the day

### **Reflect**

Joseph's brothers fall out with him but get back together in the end. Have you ever been mean to a brother or a sister or a friend? Did you make up?

**Place** the coat symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Father God, help us to get on well with our brothers and sisters. Make us a happy family. Amen.

## Day Seven - Miriam (Bullrushes)



**Watch** the video for the day

### **Reflect**

If it hadn't been for Miriam's quick thinking and braveness, her brother Moses might have died. When have you been brave to save or help someone else?

**Place** the bullrush symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

God of strength, help us to see the needs of other people and make us brave to help them. Amen.

## Day Eight - Moses (Burning Bush)



**Watch** the video of the day

### **Reflect**

God called Moses to the Israelites on a long journey to a place of safety and freedom. Who makes you feel safe?

**Place** the burning bush symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Liberating God, wherever we go, be with us so that we feel safe and free. Amen.

## Day Nine - Ten Commandments (Tablets of Stone)



**Watch** the video for today

### **Reflect**

God gave the Israelites ten rules to follow to help them get on well with each other. What rule do you think is a good one?

**Place** the tablet of stone symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Guiding God, help us to follow rules that look after us and our world. Amen

## Day Ten - Ruth (Basket)



**Watch** the video for today

### **Reflect**

Ruth joins a family that is not her own. Do you have a friend that you wish was part of your family?

**Place** the basket symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Caring God, when Naomi needed help, Ruth looked after her. Thank you for the people who look after us. Amen.

## Day Eleven - Samuel (Ear)



**Watch** the video for the day

### **Reflect**

Samuel was good at listening out for God's wise words. Do you know anyone who is wise?

**Place** the Ear symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Wise God, help us to listen carefully to the wisdom of other people. Amen.

## Day Twelve - David (Catapult)



**Watch** the video for the day

### **Reflect**

David was only small but went on to do great things for God's people, the Israelites. Have you ever felt little, but still been brave and done something big?

**Place** the catapult symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Faithful God, thank you for giving us the strength to do big things for other people. Amen.

## Day Thirteen - Elijah (Fire)



**Watch** the video for the day

### **Reflect**

Elijah wanted God to be strong like a storm, like an earthquake or like a great fire; but he found God in a whisper. Spend a moment being really quiet – what can you hear that you had not noticed before?

**Place** the fire symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Whispering God, help us to enjoy the company of people who are quiet as well as people who are loud. Amen.

## Fourteen - Jonah (Fish)



**Watch** the video of the day

### **Reflect**

Jonah went in the opposite direction from where God wanted him to go. Have you ever gone in the wrong direction – did you get lost, or find your way again?

**Place** the symbol of the whale on the tree

### **Prayer**

Directing God, help us to keep to paths that lead to good places and when we get lost, help us to find our way again. Amen.

## Day Fifteen - Jesse Tree (Stump)



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**Watch** the video of the day

### **Reflect**

The Jesse Tree is Jesus's family tree. It identifies characters from the Old Testament who, because of their faith in God, are connected to Jesus. Do you know the names of any people in your own family tree?

**Place** the tree stump symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Family God, keep us connected with you, with our family, with our friends and with our neighbours. Amen.

## Day Sixteen - Zechariah (Pencil)



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**Watch** the video of the day

### **Reflect**

Zechariah and Elizabeth are surprised and delighted to discover they are going to have a baby. Do you know anyone who is having a baby? Are you excited?

**Place** the pencil symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

God of Surprises, open our eyes and ears to the little joys and delights that meet us in the world around us. Amen.



## Day Seventeen - Mary (Heart)



**Watch** the video of the day

### **Reflect**

An angel delivers the good news to Mary that she is to have a baby too. What good news have you ever told anyone?

**Place** the heart symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

God of New Life, help us to discover good news in each and every day. Amen.

## Day Eighteen - John the Baptist (Dove)



**Watch** the video of the day

### **Reflect**

Elizabeth's baby is named John and becomes a famous person for baptising people with water in the River Jordan. Have you ever seen someone get baptised?

**Place** the dove symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Spirit of God, you name us and know us through and through. Thank you for your love. Amen.

## Day Nineteen - Joseph (Hammer)



**Watch** the video of the day

### **Reflect**

Joseph is a carpenter who made chairs and tables, cupboards and beds. What's the best thing you have ever made?

**Place** the hammer symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Generous God, thank you for giving us different skills and abilities. Help us to appreciate each other's gifts. Amen.

## Day Twenty - Journey to Bethlehem (Donkey)



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**Watch** the video for today

### **Reflect**

Jesus was born in a special town called Bethlehem. Do you know what town you were born in?

**Place** the donkey symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Travelling God, thank you for journeying with us where ever we go. Amen.

## Day Twenty-one - Shepherds (Sheep)



**Watch** the video for today

### **Reflect**

The shepherds used to sleep under the stars at night. Have you ever looked up at the stars and been amazed by how many there are?

**Place** the symbol of the sheep onto the tree

### **Prayer**

Welcoming God, the shepherds were the first to hear about Jesus being born. Thank you for sending Jesus to ordinary people everywhere. Amen.

## Day Twenty two - Birth (Manger)



**Watch** the video for today

### **Reflect**

After Mary gave birth to Jesus, she laid him in a manger in the stable. Can you guess what a manger was normally used for?

**Place** the manger symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

God of all joy, with Mary and Joseph we delight to remember this Christmas that Jesus was born into the world. Amen.

### Day Twenty three - Wise Men (Camel)



**Watch** the video for today

#### **Reflect**

The wise men bring gifts to the baby Jesus. What's the best Christmas gift you've ever given to anyone?

**Place** the camel symbol on the tree

#### **Prayer**

Giving God, thankyou for the gift of your son, Jesus. Amen.

### Day Twenty Four - Flight to Egypt (Angel)



**Watch** the video for today

#### **Reflect**

An angel warned Joseph not to go home because King Herod wanted to kill the baby Jesus. Can you imagine what it would be like to have no home?

**Place** the angel symbol on the tree

#### **Prayer**

Gentle God, look after all those people in our world who have no home this Christmas. Amen.

## Day Twenty five - Brightest Star (Star of David)



**Watch** the video for today

### **Reflect**

Jesus is the star at the top of the Jesse tree, a light for the world. Do you have a star at the top of your Christmas tree at home? Or an angel?

**Place** the star symbol on the tree

### **Prayer**

Light of the world, in Jesus you show us that love is the secret at the heart of the world. Let love be our light, today and always. Amen.