

# Solomon builds a temple for the Lord

*1 Kings 6 and 7:13-51*

David's son Solomon became king after him. When God asked him what he most wanted in life, Solomon said that he wanted wisdom, rather than a long life or great wealth. He was a very wise king who made great rulings for which he became famous and wrote some very wise and beautiful words. Did you know that King Solomon is said to have written three books of the Bible? Can you find out which ones? He also built a royal palace and a wonderful temple as the centre of worship to God. You can read how beautifully and carefully decorated it was in 1 Kings 6-8 and 2 Chronicles 2-5.

As a result of all this Solomon did become very rich and famous and he lived until the age of 80. This became his downfall and he began to live in ways that did not please God. You can read about his life in 1 Kings 2-11.

You can watch the story of Solomon building the temple here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T27x1r1R5qA>

## 1. Our thirteenth decoration for the Jesse Tree

We're going to make a mini temple to hang on our Jesse Tree. Now rather than me giving exact instructions for you to follow, I've given you 2 pictures to look at on the other page. The first is a model that someone else has made of what they think Solomons Temple looked like and the second a plan. (There are only ruins left now of the original temple that Solomon built, so people can only guess what it really looked like.)

So can you have a go at building a model too? It might be too big to hang on your tree but that doesn't matter. Here are some examples I found online of models people had made:

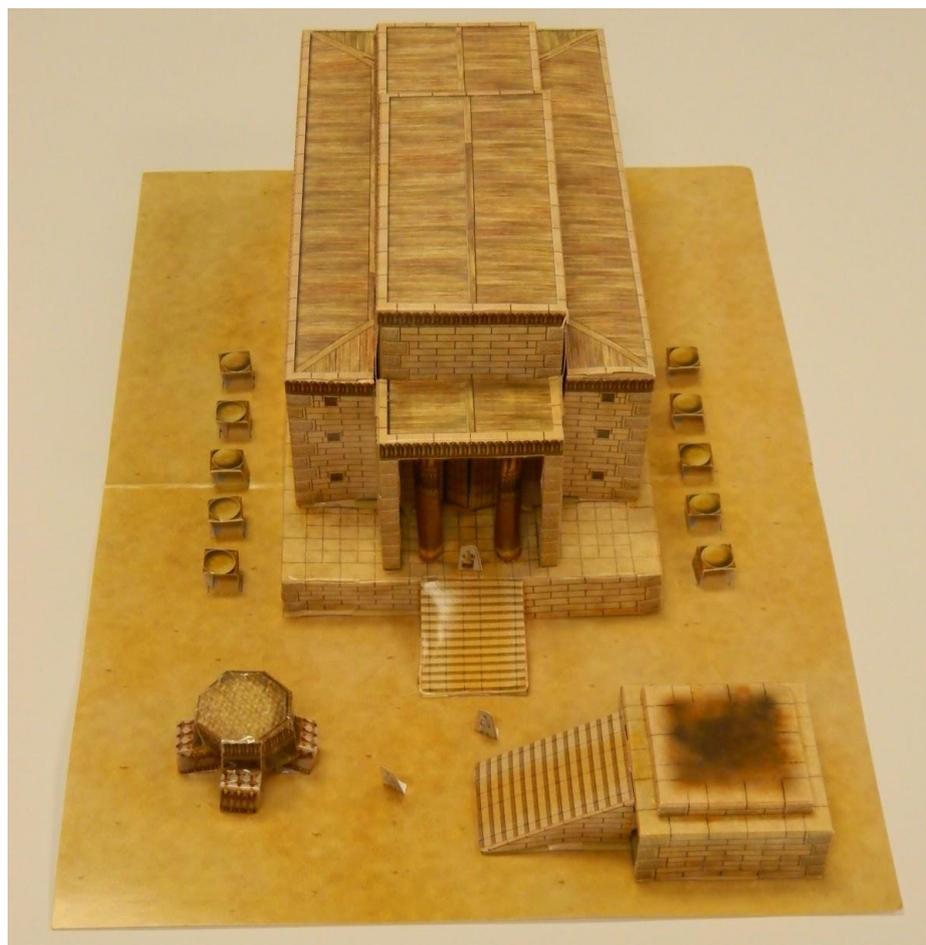


I'm going to try using lolly stick and matchsticks, but you can use anything – Lego, wooden blocks, card, old boxes, stuff from your recycling, beads, paper, plastic, whatever! The picture above shows an edible model made from biscuits and icing – mmm yummy! If you make a cakey model take a picture and post it on the WhatsApp group before you eat it!!

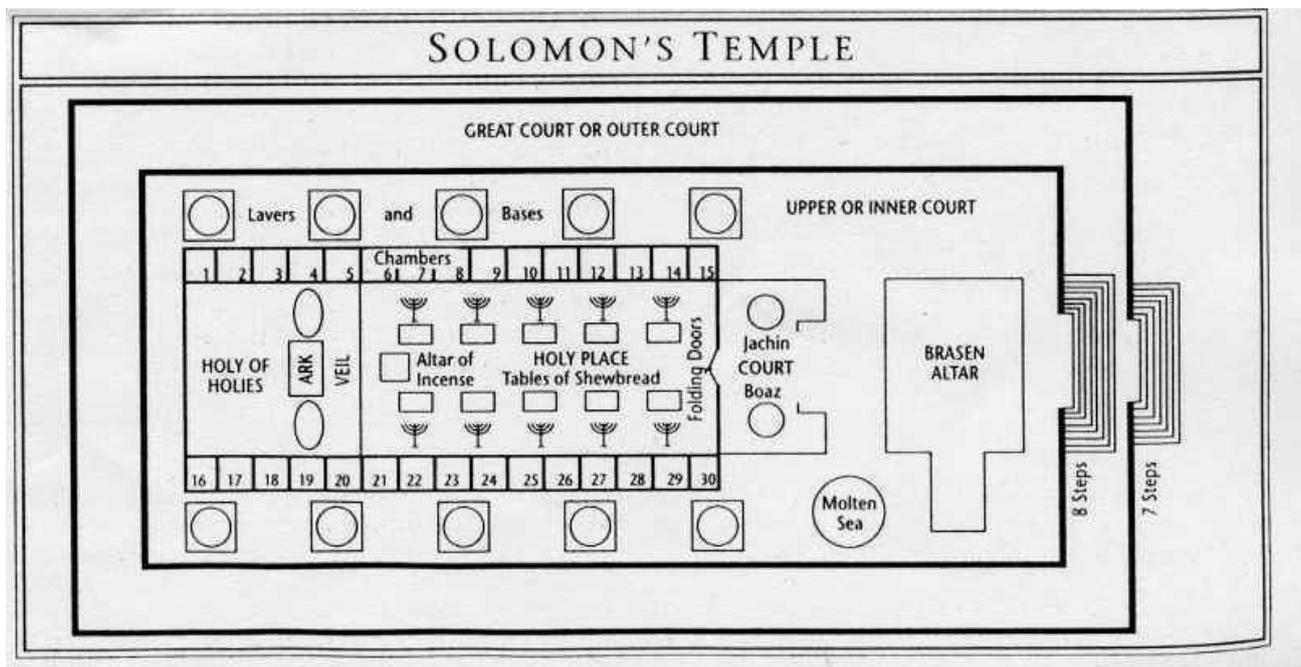
## 2. Our own worship space

Solomon built the temple as a place where God could be worshipped. It was built of the best quality materials and one of the best craftspeople in the country, Hiram, was employed to decorate it.

Why don't you find a space where you can worship God without being disturbed much? Decorate it with beautiful things that remind you of how good he is, find a place for your Bible, play some great Christian music. Spend some time each day, maybe at the start, or just before bed. Talk to Father God, be grateful and worship (tell him what he's worth), share your life with him, listen to him.



Are you inspired by these pictures?



# Elijah on Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18

After Solomon died Israel split into two kingdoms – Judah and Israel – they were constantly at odds with one another and their kings often “did evil in the eyes of the Lord”, although there were some kings who “did what was right in the eyes of the Lord”. Ahab was king of Israel and he was one of the most evil kings and he was married to Jezebel who was also wicked and they both worshipped the false god Baal. God used Elijah to try to persuade Ahab to do right and to turn back to him.

Elijah suggested a ‘competition’ between the false god Baal and the true God Yahweh. So they all gathered on Mount Carmel where the prophets of Baal and Elijah set up sacrifices but did not set them alight.

Whichever god set fire to the sacrifice was proved to be the one true God.

In this Superbook video some twenty-first century time-travellers (and a robot!) watch what happens:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8rZ-0i81zs>



## 1. Our fourteenth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Our decoration to represent Elijah is a bonfire. Ah! I hear you say, isn't that the same as the burning bush? Well it could be, but you wouldn't want to be predictable would you?

So yes you could do another twiggy bush with bits of sweet paper in it and that would be great. Or you could do something different.

So you could use clay or plasticine and mould a fire, or you could forget the twigs and make a fire of red and orange and gold and yellow sweet papers and foil, or you could use materials of different colours gathered together into a bouquet-type thing, or, if you're a Lego whiz try a Lego bonfire, or again try an edible bonfire. Or you might want to make a picture: draw, paint, collage, whatever.

Whatever you do be creative! Hang the finished product on your Jesse Tree (if you've not eaten it!) and don't forget that photo!



## 2. Word Search and Crossword

On the other page is a wordsearch and a crossword relating to this story.

I apologise that there is some American spelling – I did not design it!

The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

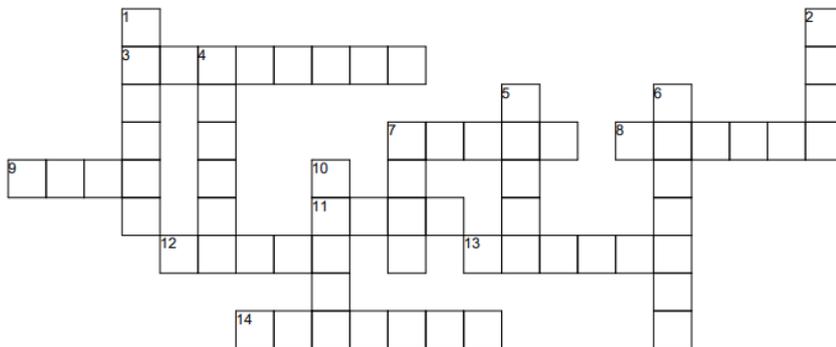
## Elijah on Mount Carmel 1Kings 18

H O L U H S B S S A S H E R A H J  
 B A A L E S D L T R U E C Z K R O  
 G R W X A S O L O M A N T H A E B  
 F V T P V W A V P I H S R O W T E  
 P B E A E I T E M P L E W N F A Y  
 B U H L N S K Y N A J B H A L W O  
 A I P T M D C H P H V H V L X T F  
 E L O A A O E J Y A M N M D N N F  
 T T R R P M T I G B V S F Q W W E  
 S N P A K J E Z E B E L B M P X R  
 U G K H B C J S E T I L A E R S I  
 R N I H S U J S T S E I R P A W N  
 T I W K L K D O G G A Z M D Y W G  
 E K X E O M O U N T C A R M E L Y  
 I Q K R D Y K C O N T E S T D G T  
 S I Y I I D A V I D H A J I L E D  
 Q D O F N W B U L L M A W T M C W

- |            |             |         |        |
|------------|-------------|---------|--------|
| jezebel    | offering    | water   | altar  |
| true       | asherah     | baal    | idols  |
| worship    | wisdom      | david   | obey   |
| temple     | built       | prayed  | heaven |
| bull       | mountcarmel | priests | trust  |
| isrealites | fire        | contest | elijah |
| ahab       | prophet     | god     | king   |
| soloman    |             |         |        |

## Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!" 1 Kings 18:39 (NIV)



### ACROSS

3. To be in a state of rest.
7. Large animals used for offerings to God.
8. Spoke to God.
9. Flames or a burning sensation.
11. A wicked king of Israel.
12. To yell with a loud voice.
13. A ditch.
14. The early part of a day.

### DOWN

1. The nation of the followers of God.
2. Pieces from a tree used to build a fire.
4. The name of the prophet of God.
5. A table or flat-topped block where offerings are placed.
6. One who tells people about God.
7. The false god the people were worshipping.
10. A colorless, liquid that forms the seas, lakes, and rivers.

## Another prophecy from Isaiah Isaiah 9:1-7

About 100 years after the prophet Elijah another prophet (someone who speaks God's words) was doing God's work trying to turn the people back to God. We have already looked at one prophecy from Isaiah on Day 1 about the shoot from the stump of Jesse. Many of Isaiah's prophecies were about the Messiah. The Messiah was promised all through the Old Testament – right from that moment in the garden of Eden. Messiah is the promised one of God, especially chosen and anointed to bring about change. The people of Israel always hoped that Messiah would bring them out of whatever bad circumstances they were currently in, but if we look closely at many of the messianic prophecies there is a promise of something deeper, richer and more everlasting.

Today's passage is well-known and often used at Christmas. It tells of the change that Messiah would bring and of the kind of ruler he was going to be.

Listen to the words of Isaiah here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctLXje\\_eiFw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctLXje_eiFw)

And watch a video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEpSxxL4Nn4>

### 3. Our fifteenth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Our decoration today is to do with LIGHT but it can be anything you want it to be. Again be creative!

If you haven't already got lights on your Jesse Tree maybe today you could add some lights to it.

Or maybe you think it would look good with a spotlight on it, lighting up the whole tree – you could see whether the spotlight looks better shining from the back or the front.

Or you might want to put a lit star on the top of the tree.

### 4. Mini Bible study

Read the passage – it's on the other page.

Colour in lightly in yellow all the words of hope and positivity in this passage.

If you think an idea is a good one colour it lightly in orange.

Look at the colour of the passage now – is this a good prophecy or a bad one?

Look at verses 6-7. Write down what kind of a person the child is going to be.

Who do you think this prophecy is about?

### 5. Change the world

It's obvious that this Messiah is going to change the world.

How can you change the world?

**God is calling you to change the world one life at a time and one small step at a time.**

**Begin today where you are.**

*Dillon Burroughs*

*The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December*

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

## Bethlehem

*Micah 5: 1-5a*

Question: Who was born in Bethlehem?

Yes of course, Jesus was, but so were a few other people in the Bible that you'll know. David was born in Bethlehem, so was his dad Jesse and *his* dad Obed, because Bethlehem was where Ruth met Boaz after she and Naomi moved there. It's also the place where Jacob's darling wife Rachel died and was buried. So it may have been small but it was significant.

In this passage Micah, another prophet who lived about 25 years after Isaiah, says that from Bethlehem a great ruler will come. Ah yes I hear you say – that'll be David – King David but this passage was written hundreds of years after David lived and died. No, this is another messianic prophecy and the ruler, the shepherd, that's mentioned here refers to the Messiah, and we know that that is Jesus.

Watch the video from yesterday again: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEpSxxL4Nn4>

Two facts about Bethlehem:

The name means House of Bread

In this passage the person who's going to be born in Bethlehem who's going to be great is described as a ruler and someone who shepherds his people. David was a shepherd who became king of Israel. Jesus is our Messiah who is both our Shepherd and our King.

## 6. Our sixteenth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Two choices today.

Make a model of some bread, using either clay or plasticine. If you can, paint it a lovely golden colour or it might look like something else. (!) You could use real bread rolls but bread has a nasty habit of going off if you leave it for too long, and if your Jesse Tree is outside it is likely to get very soggy indeed!

Make a model of Bethlehem using matchboxes or something similar. Lots of different square buildings on a base – you know like you see on Christmas cards eg.



## 7. Make some bread

See the recipe on the other page.

*The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December*

## **Bread rolls or loaf**

### **Equipment**

- Bowl
- spoon
- Loaf Tin or Baking tray



### **Ingredients**

- 500 g strong bread flour
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 packet quick action yeast
- 2 tablespoons sunflower oil. Vegetable oil will work as well
- 240 ml warm water
- 1 tablespoon sugar

### **Instructions**

1. Put the dry ingredients in a bowl and mix.
2. Make a well in the centre of the bowl
3. Add in the vegetable oil and the warm water
4. Mix with a spoon until a dough is formed
5. Turn out the dough on a lightly floured surface
6. Knead for 5 - 10 minutes until smooth
7. Make into shapes and put on lightly greased and floured baking tray or loaf tin
8. Leave in a warm place for around an hour until doubled in size
9. Decorate if you wish
10. Preheat the oven to 180C
11. Cook 15 - 20 minutes for shaped rolls or 20 - 30 minutes for loaves
12. Test to see if cooked by tapping the bottom with your knuckle - hollow sound = cooked
13. Leave to cool and enjoy.

# Zechariah - the man who couldn't speak

Luke 1: 5-25

Nearly 750 years went past and the Israelites were still waiting, waiting for an end to their troubles, waiting for Messiah. When was he going to come? Had God forgotten about them?

Meanwhile an old priest was about to take his turn to burn incense in the Temple, a once-in-a-lifetime experience – he felt so blessed. But he got so much more than he bargained for.

Here's the Superbook version of this story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJapAoSzkBY>

And these two together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC4EZigVXJg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm-2aEZKh4k>

## 8. Our eighteenth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Our decoration for today is a tablet of clay and a marker. This is what Zechariah might have used to write his message “His name is John” – he certainly wouldn't have used paper and pen.

The tablet was a bit like the ones that the 10 commandments were written on, but the clay did not harden and was softer so you could rub out what you'd written – so maybe more like plasticine or blue-tack.

So today you'll need some clay or plasticine or blue-tack and you'll need to shape it into a tablet shape and make a hole for threading something to tie it to the Jesse Tree with. Write on it with something not too sharp and not too blunt – a pencil, a knitting needle, a screwdriver, the end of a comb handle – “His name is John!” in big bold and assertive letters. Tie it to the Jesse Tree with a marker.

## 9. Do we doubt and question God?

Zechariah did not believe what Gabriel said to him and because of that he was unable to speak until after John was born. How long was that? Can you imagine what that would be like?

Sometimes we struggle to believe what God says and we wonder how something can possibly happen.

God *does* understand that we find it hard to believe sometimes. So what do we do?

Speak to God. Tell him about some of the doubts you have. Ask him for his help so you can believe.

Do you remember these two stories?

**Matthew 9: 14-32** especially verses 21-24. The father realises that he's struggling to believe and he says to Jesus “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

**John 20: 24-29** especially verses 27-29 Thomas had not believed the other disciples when they said that Jesus was alive (Would you have done!?). After a week Jesus appeared again and particularly spoke to and showed himself to Thomas, who then made a great declaration of *belief*. “My Lord and my God!”

God is gentle and kind when we struggle with belief and seek his help.

## 10. Quiz and codebreaker on the other sheet

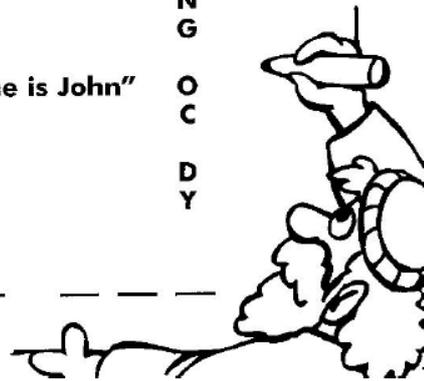
## 11. Colour the picture on the other sheet

The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Read each sentence. Choose the words that make the sentence true and circle the letter that goes with each correct answer. When you are finished, write the circled letters on the spaces below to find out what Zechariah did next.

- |  |                                  |          |
|--|----------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Zechariah was a . . .</b>                                     | <b>priest</b>                    | <b>P</b> |
|  | <b>farmer</b>                    | <b>F</b> |
| <b>He and his wife Elizabeth were . . .</b>                      | <b>young</b>                     | <b>O</b> |
|  | <b>old</b>                       | <b>R</b> |
| <b>The angel said Zechariah and Elizabeth would have a . . .</b> | <b>baby</b>                      | <b>A</b> |
|  | <b>flood</b>                     | <b>L</b> |
| <b>Zechariah . . .</b>   | <b>believed the angel</b>        | <b>K</b> |
|  | <b>did not believe</b>           | <b>I</b> |
| <b>When Zechariah came out of the temple he . . .</b>            | <b>was crying</b>                | <b>W</b> |
|  | <b>could not speak</b>           | <b>S</b> |
| <b>Elizabeth . . .</b>   | <b>gave birth to a son</b>       | <b>E</b> |
|  | <b>had a baby girl</b>           | <b>M</b> |
| <b>The neighbors thought the baby's name would be . . .</b>      | <b>John</b>                      | <b>O</b> |
|  | <b>Zechariah</b>                 | <b>D</b> |
| <b>Elizabeth said the baby's name would be . . .</b>             | <b>Zechariah</b>                 | <b>N</b> |
|  | <b>John</b>                      | <b>G</b> |
| <b>When asked, Zechariah . . .</b>                               | <b>wrote, "His name is John"</b> | <b>O</b> |
|  | <b>didn't answer</b>             | <b>C</b> |
| <b>The neighbors and friends were . . .</b>                      | <b>filled with awe</b>           | <b>D</b> |
|  | <b>not interested</b>            | <b>Y</b> |

Then Zechariah . . . \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



# John the Baptist

*Matthew 3: 1-7*

Yesterday we heard about the news that Zechariah received from the angel Gabriel about his longed-for son John. Today we are focusing on John, whom we know as John the Baptist, because when he grew up he baptised people who had repented of their sins.

It was thought that before Messiah came there would be someone who prepared the way for him. John was that person. He was born six months before Jesus was, but he spent several years calling the people to repent of their sins, before Jesus started his public ministry.

Watch this clip from about John the Baptist from What's in the Bible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFuJEeXV7uU>

## 12. Our eighteenth decoration for the Jesse Tree

In the past when people were baptised, sometimes a shell was used to pour water over their heads, and so a scallop shell has become a symbol of John the Baptist.

A scallop shell is a large shell – it can be as big as 22cm wide, so it would hold a decent amount of water.

Our decoration today is therefore a shell. So there are two ways of doing this – you can either...



- If you have any shells you can use those as a decoration. Tie some thread around the neck of the shell and hang it on the Jesse Tree. Or

- Make a kind of shell out of papier mâché.

Find something spherical (ball) of the right size for your decoration and cover it in cling film to protect it.

First, tear or cut strips from newspapers, comics or magazines – do this beforehand so the paste doesn't dry out.

Mix together the same quantity of plain flour and warm water in a large mixing bowl until well combined. Add extra tap water a little at a time to loosen. You want a smooth, batter-like paste with no lumps. You can sieve the flour first for a super smooth finish.

Cover your work area in more old newspaper. Dip the paper strips in the paste, wipe off the excess on the side of the bowl and stick onto the ball. Use a paintbrush to smooth down the paper and remove any air bubbles or excess paste. Keep doing this to cover the area of the ball that is the shape of a shell, including the neck shape and leave to dry before adding further layers.

This will obviously take a while to dry and so cannot be hung immediately on your Jesse Tree.

## 13. Make a locust

If we were meeting face-to-face at the moment I might give you some locusts to eat, but as we're not you can make one out of a clothes peg! See the instructions on the other page.

## 14. Maze

See other page.

*The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December*

**Make a locust**

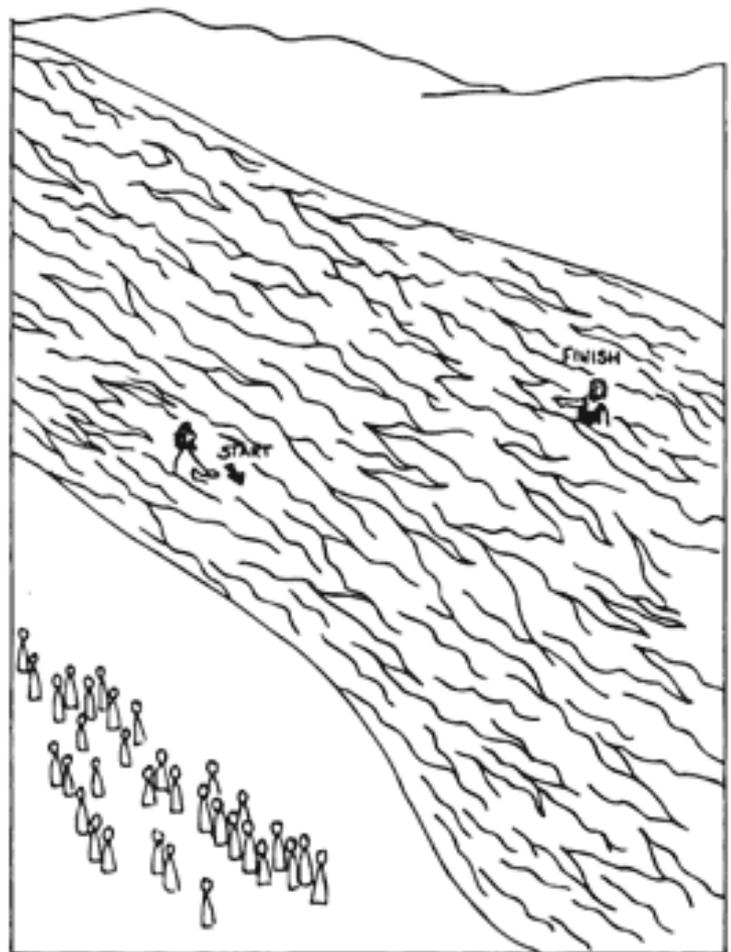


**Instructions for Locust**

You'll need a peg, pre-cut pipe cleaners for legs and antennae, and if you have them, two googly eyes. You could use buttons if you can't get eyes.

Colour the pegs green, or brown if you want more authentic locusts. Place a piece of clear tape, sticky side up on the table, and press the leg sticks across the tape and then the peg on top of that. Neaten the sticky tape and gently bend the legs, so the locusts stand.

Then, push the shorter antennae pieces through the hole in the peg and twist the ends together around the top, and add the eyes using dots of glue.



**Maze**

John and Jesus have drifted apart in the river Jordan, help Jesus find his way to John so he can be baptised.

## Mary – “Yes” Girl

Luke 2:26-56

Only six months after the angel had caused such a shock to Zechariah in the Temple, a young cousin on his wife’s side of the family, who lived in a small insignificant town in the north, also encountered “Gabriel who stands in the presence of God”. She was “troubled”! Yeah not surprising – you would be too I think!

Gabriel told her that she will be pregnant with a baby who will be called Jesus, that means ‘saves from sins’; will be the Son of the Most High = God’s son; he’ll be on David’s throne forever = the Messiah!! Wow!! He was coming at last – through her!

Mmmm!? But how – she wasn’t married? When she asked this question it wasn’t the unbelief that Zechariah expressed, it was genuine puzzlement. No problem, the angel said, God could make it happen. “Nothing is impossible with God”

Wow!! This was big! She thought of all it would mean. What would her parents say? Everyone would be talking about her, maybe even throw her out of the village! Joseph! He’d be so disappointed, devastated – he’d break up with her to be sure. What would become of her?

But almighty God had chosen **her** for this amazing, unique, extremely special job and he was obviously at work doing something really special – even old Elizabeth was pregnant! She wanted to be part of this thing that God was doing, whatever it cost her – YES! She was in – she would do it! Whatever God wanted – BRING IT ON!

Here are three videos that tell the story of Gabriel and Mary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2gBtPU0zVM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrYvuYwPAvU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q1E06v5oBo>

### 15. Our nineteenth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Our decoration for today is a model of the angel Gabriel.

Often when we make Christmas angels we make them looking quite fluffy and cute. In the Bible the normal reaction of people when they meet an angel is not “Aww!” or “Lovely!” – no they are in absolute shock – they go “Aaargh!!” They are terrified!

So when you make your angel try to make him look a bit more like Gabriel and a bit less like Tinkerbell! He is Gabriel – he stands in the presence of God! (Although we obviously don’t know what he looks like!)

On the other page are various angels that you can have a go at making, by copying or adapting the pictures, or be inventive and come up with your own. Some of these can be found on <https://craftyjournal.com/kids-angel-crafts-to-make/>

In the Catholic tradition a symbol for Mary is a lily. If you want to make an origami lily look here <https://www.origami-fun.com/origami-lily.html>



## 16. Preparation

When a baby is expected there are lots of preparations to be done. Write down as many things as you can think of that people in Britain do now to prepare for a baby. Mary too would have needed to prepare, how would her preparations have differed do you think?

This time of the year families – especially mums! – are preparing for Christmas.

Do you need to prepare anything? Have you bought and wrapped any presents you need to? Written any cards? Have you been asked by your parents to tidy your room and sort out anything you don't want anymore? Can you help in the preparations that your family are doing?

## 17. Saying “Yes!” to God

Watch this video (Warning! - it's a bit gory in places!) and listen to the song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z-ZfAlrgJs>

Mary didn't know what was going to happen to Jesus. She didn't know, at that time, that Messiah was going to have to suffer and die.

Saying yes to God does not mean that everything's going to be fine, that the road is going to be easy, that we're never going to be hurt or disappointed or devastated.

BUT saying yes to God is always going to be right, it will be exciting following where he leads, daring, as we trust him.

Saying yes to God is how we are meant to live. It's the greatest adventure of all!

*The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December*



Card



Wool

Wood



Card

Paperclip



Card



Paper plate