

# The Branch from Jesse

*Isaiah 11:1-11*

In Isaiah there is a prophecy about a man who will be descended from Jesse who was King David's dad. This is some of the prophecy:



*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD.*

Isaiah 11:1-2

Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. He was the awaited Messiah, the one who brought hope to Israel. This is why we have a Jesse Tree – to remember the Bible stories that lead us to Jesus, the person that we celebrate at Christmas.

Every day there will be a decoration to make for your Jesse Tree, and maybe some other activities. But you choose what you want to do – you don't have to do them all.

## 1. So today's first task is to find a tree!

This is going to be what you'll hang all your other decorations on, so it can't be too little – but you don't want it too big. You'll be making about 25 or 26 decorations – one every day until Christmas.

Decide where you are going to put your Jesse Tree – will it be inside or outside? If you decide to put it outside other people in your street can enjoy it too.

What are you going to use for the tree? You could use a tree or bush already in the garden or a twiggly branch that you make very secure in the ground or a pot. Or have you got an old Christmas tree. Or you could draw or make a tree.

You might want to put lights on your tree. Finally display your tree in a prominent place.

## 2. Look around the garden, or the park, or the roadside, for a new shoot.

If you are allowed to, take it inside and put it in water and watch it grow. Or plant a seed and watch it grow – use some soil from outside and an apple or orange pip if you haven't anything else.

## 3. Draw and colour a new plant poking through the ground.

## 4. List as many carols as you can that mention that Jesus was “David's son” or born in “David's town” or something like that.

The Bible also tells us that the messiah would be descended from David, as well as Jesse, and born in Bethlehem where David was also born. (See Jeremiah 23:5-6)

## 5. Learn Isaiah 11:1-2 as our memory verse.

# The world – God’s perfect creation



*Genesis 1 and 2*

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*

Genesis 1: v1 and v31

Watch this video of the creation of the world as told in the first chapter of Genesis.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbEZ4ldNO\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbEZ4ldNO_s)

## **1. Our first decoration for the Jesse Tree**

You will need a ping-pong ball, or polystyrene ball, or another light ball that you can paint or cover with paper and paint. Or blow up a balloon a little bit.

Using paints or felt pens colour the ball so that it looks like the earth

Add a ribbon or thread to it and hang it on the Jesse Tree.

## **2. Go for a walk where you can appreciate God’s wonderful creation or go out into the garden, or just look up and appreciate the sky.**

Say “Thank you” to God.

## **3. Creation Wordsearch and Creation Dice**

If you want to there’s a wordsearch and a drawing activity you can do. See separate sheet.

*The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December*

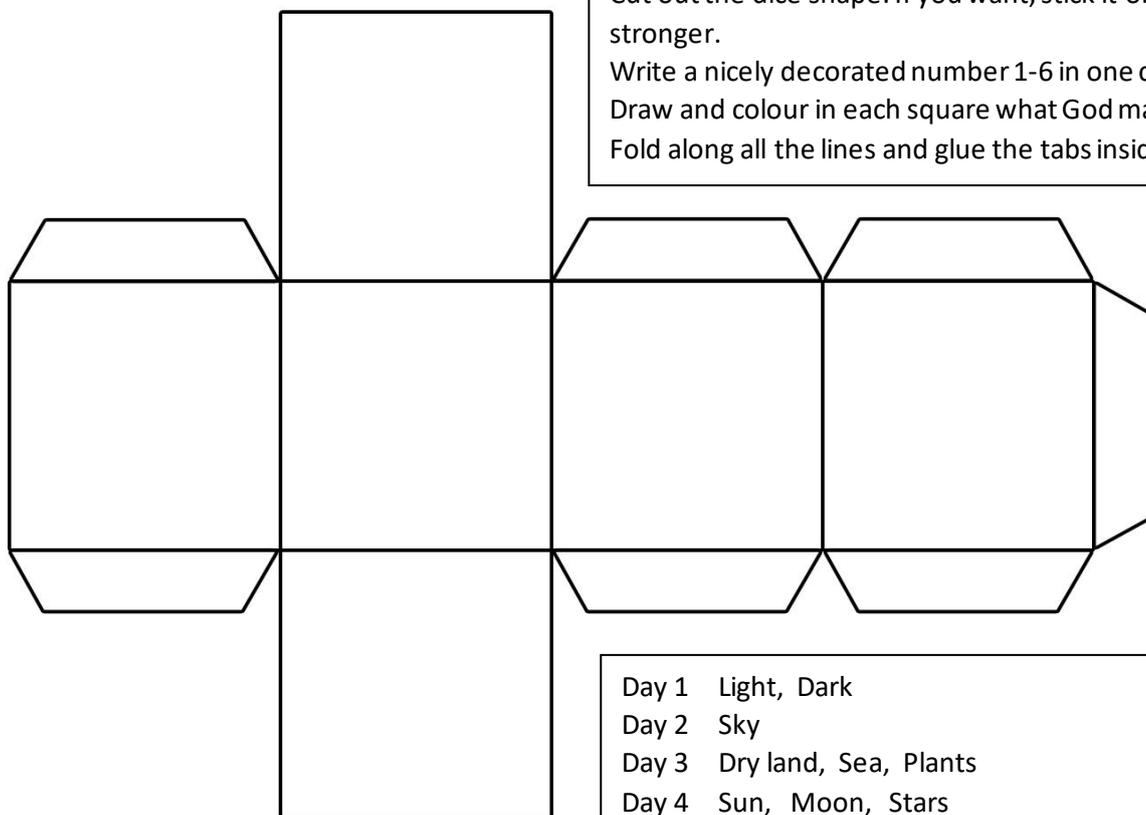
**CREATION WORDSEARCH**

Find all the words hidden in the grid

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| ANIMALS   | HEAVENS |
| CREATED   | MAN     |
| FRUITFUL  | SKY     |
| LAND      | BLESSED |
| NIGHT     | FISH    |
| SUN       | IMAGE   |
| BEGINNING | MOON    |
| EARTH     | STARS   |
| GOD       | FEMALE  |
| LIGHT     | BIRDS   |
| PLANTS    | WATER   |

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

**CREATION DICE**



Cut out the dice shape. If you want, stick it on card to make it stronger.  
 Write a nicely decorated number 1-6 in one corner of each square  
 Draw and colour in each square what God made on that day  
 Fold along all the lines and glue the tabs inside to make a box

- Day 1 Light, Dark
- Day 2 Sky
- Day 3 Dry land, Sea, Plants
- Day 4 Sun, Moon, Stars
- Day 5 Birds, Fish, Sea Creatures
- Day 6 Land Animals, Human Beings

## Adam and Eve – people sinned *Genesis 3*

Yesterday we were reminded how God made a perfect world and placed people to live in it and care for it, living under his loving and generous kingship, but we messed up and wanted to have it our way. We wanted to be the boss of our own lives.

Romans 3:23 says this *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

Here’s a poem by Bob Hartman that’s been set to music, about the story of Adam and Eve.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRfa4oVhwGc>

### **4. Our second decoration for the Jesse Tree**

We’re going to make a pom-pom fruit to represent the fruit that Adam and Eve shouldn’t have eaten from the Tree of Knowledge. The Bible does not say what kind of fruit it was – probably a unique one that we will never know – but tradition uses an apple to represent it, so we will too. See the instructions on the other page.

### **5. Say sorry**

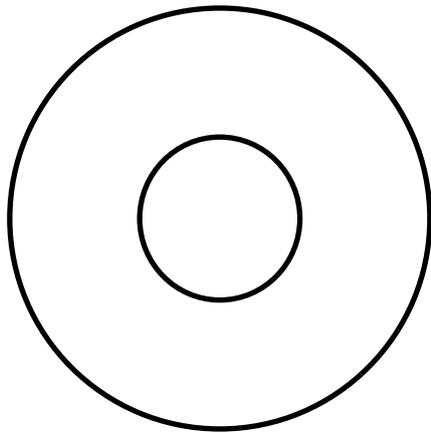
Find somewhere quiet to kneel or sit and say sorry to Father God for the wrong things you have done. Ask him to forgive you, thank Jesus for dying on the cross for your sins, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be better in the future.

Do you need to say sorry to anyone else? Sometimes our actions hurt other people as well as God.

*If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:16*

*The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December*

### Pom-Pom decoration



1. Trace 2 circles onto 2 pieces of card, with 2 smaller circles inside.

2. With the scissors cut out each circle.

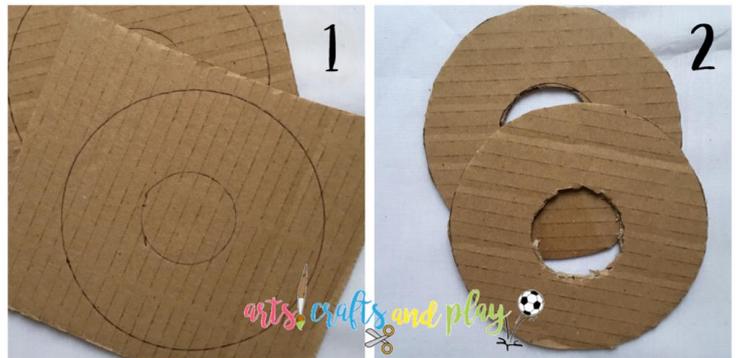
3. Place the 2 rings together and start wrapping some red or green wool around the card. Swap colours if you wish. Wrap until the card ring is full.

4. Slip the scissors in-between the rings and cut the wool.

5. Tread a piece of wool through the middle of the two pieces of card and tie a knot or two.

Leave this long so you can hang up the pom-pom on the Jesse Tree.

6. Cut the edge of the card and take it away. Trim the edges of the pom-pom with scissors if they are uneven. Add a stalk – maybe a bit of twig. Hang the decoration on your Jesse Tree.



# God rescued Noah

Genesis 6:1 – 9:19

We looked yesterday at how human beings chose to turn from God's way. God was very hurt and upset that the people he loved so much had messed up his beautiful, perfect world. He wanted to start again.

*The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, 'I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created – and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground – for I am grieved that I have made them.' But Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD.*

Genesis 6: 5-8

Watch the story of how God saved Noah <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzYjy6lhRag>

## 6. Our third decoration for the Jesse Tree

Make one or more rainbows to hang on your Jesse Tree – I'm sure you got very good at making rainbows for the NHS – but this time they are to remind you that God has made a promise never to flood all the earth ever again and God always keeps his promises.

If your Jesse Tree is outside you'll need to protect your rainbows with sticky tape or plastic. (Or if you have them, use paints that are weatherproof!)

## 7. 'Stained glass' rainbow dove

Very carefully cut out the dove template on the other page, then even more carefully cut out the middle so that you have a very thick outline to your dove.

Now get lots of smaller pieces of different shaped brightly coloured tissue paper or see-through sweet wrappers and using a glue stick make a multi-coloured mosaic, then stick it inside the dove shape and gently trim it to size.

You can hang it on your Jesse Tree but it might look better in your window where the sun can shine through it.



## 8. Noah's ark Memory Game

If you like drawing and colouring, (or using a computer) you can make this popular game for yourself, or maybe as a present for someone else.

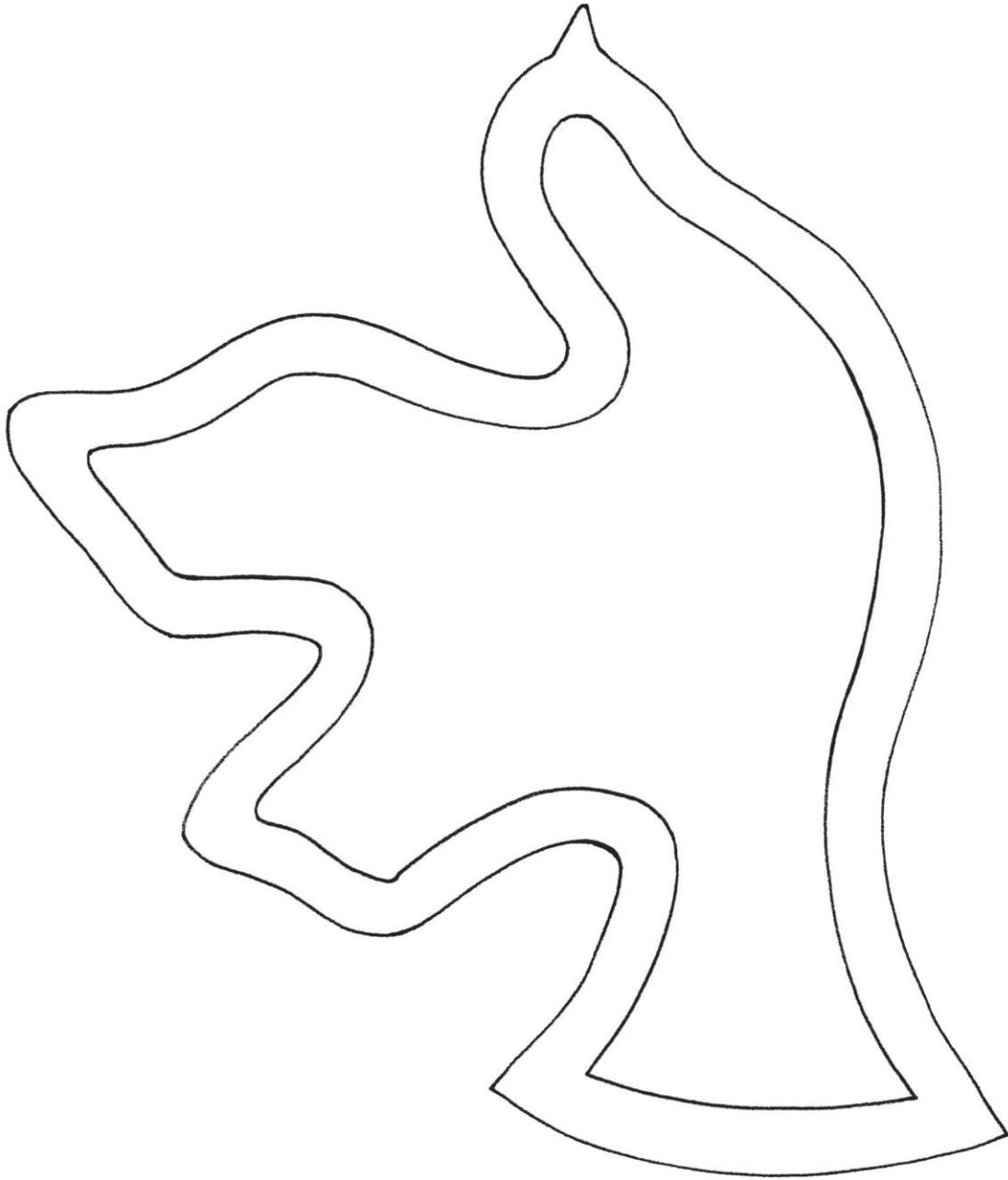
Cut out an even number of identical squares of card (you can make the game harder by having more squares). Draw identical or similar animals on 2 cards – or stick pictures on, then draw or stick a different pair of animals on 2 more cards, and keep going until you've done as many as you want for the game. Make the cards as strong as possible to make them last.

*To play:* Mix all the cards up and put them picture side down. Each player takes it in turns to turn 2 cards over so everyone can see them. If they match you keep the 2 cards, if they don't you turn them back over. The next player then has a go, and so on until there are no cards left. The player with the most pairs at the end is the winner.

The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

*Jesse Tree Day 4*

*Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020*



You may find this helpful – I found it a few months ago!

# I can pray a rainbow...

Genesis 9 v 13

"I am putting my rainbow in the clouds as the sign of the agreement between me and the earth"



God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never again send a flood like the one that Noah had survived in the ark. Today the rainbow is a symbol of hope for us, a reminder that God keeps his promises. Here are some rainbow inspired activities for you and your family to explore together.

## Rainbow prayer hunt

Go on a search around your house and try to find something of each of the colours below. Here is a prayer you can say for each colour as you find them.



### RED

Thank you, God, that you love us and that you are always with us.



### ORANGE

Dear God, please help us to be patient, to wait and listen to you and to be obedient while we wait for this crisis to end.



### YELLOW

Dear God, please help all those who are scared. May they know your perfect peace that takes away all fear.



### GREEN

Dear God, please look after all those who are sick, give them the treatment and help they need to recover, send your healing power into all the world.



### BLUE

Dear God, please protect all those who are working for our emergency services, thank you for all they are doing to protect us.



### PURPLE

Thank you, God, that we are children of the King of Kings. Thank you that even though we are in difficult times we can trust in you and pray your Kingdom come.



### PINK

Thank you, God, that we know you will bring us through this crisis to safety on the other side just as you protected Noah and brought him and his family through the flood.

## Make an encouragement rainbow

You will need: Paper and pens or any other craft materials you have around the house

All around the country people are putting rainbows in their windows to encourage people in their street.

Use whatever craft materials you have in your house to decorate a rainbow and put it in your window where your neighbours can see it.



## Some promises to share

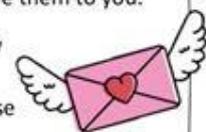
Here are some more of God's promises from the Bible. Ask God who needs encouraging today and then send them a promise verse.

**Joshua 1:9** - Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid because the LORD your God will be with you everywhere you go.

**Jeremiah 29:11** – "I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the LORD, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future."

**Mark 11:24** – So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

**Romans 8:28** – We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.



# God's promise to Abram

Genesis 12<sup>1-9</sup> 15, 17



Many years after Noah lived God called a man called Abram to leave his home and his family and to move to a new country that God said he would give to Abram's descendants. The trouble was he didn't have any descendants, he didn't have any children! He was 75 and Sarai his wife was 65 – they were too old to have children!

This is one of the promises God made to Abram:

*"Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Genesis 12:1-3

Watch the story of God's promise to Abram <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6w0h6mzogA>

## 1. Our fourth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Cut a circle of black or navy card or plastic, or colour it, or cover it in an old black sock. Cover both sides in stars – colour them with silver pen or paint, or stick stickers on, or use glitter, or cut them out of foil, or stitch them. When you hang it on your Jesse Tree remember God's promises.



## 2. Look at the stars

On a clear night, wrap up warm and go outside. Try to avoid anywhere that has street lights, or is too crowded with buildings or trees. Look up at the stars – give your eyes a few minutes to get used to the sky, the longer you wait you should see more and more stars. Keep looking – can you see some of the constellations – the Plough, Orion, Pleiades, Cassiopeia, others? If it's not too cold why don't you sit down and keep looking? Remember that God made all those stars, which are millions of miles away. Can you count them?! Neither could Abram! That's a lot of descendants!

## 3. God's promises

Yesterday we learned that God made a promise to Noah and today we learned about the promise he made to Abram. God has made many promises. Can you write some down? Think about how God keeps each one and thank him. What are your favourite promises that God has made? Why not write them on separate pieces of paper and decorate them and put them where you can see them every day.

# Abraham trusts God

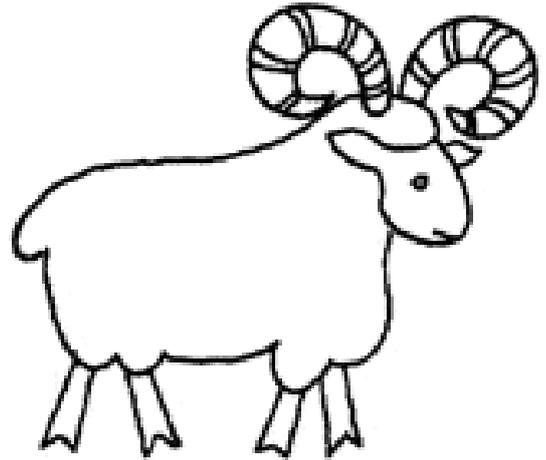
Genesis 22:1-19

25 years after God first promised that Abraham and Sarah would have a child, Isaac their long-awaited and precious son was born. Abraham had learned a lot in that time, mainly that he had to keep trusting God to keep his promises. So you can imagine his shock and horror when this happened...!

Watch the story of Abraham and Isaac <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGYtH4FBi 4>

## 9. Our fifth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Cut out the picture of the ram and stick it on card or plastic. Colour it in and stick some cotton wool on its body. Make it look a bit scraggy and dirty – it was a wild ram. Find a twiggy twig and stick the ram in it. Hang it on your Jesse Tree with a piece of ribbon or tape and write "God will provide!" on it.



## 10. Pray

Abraham couldn't understand what God was doing but he learned that God could be trusted and that he would provide.

When has God provided for you? *Thank him.*

Isaac was afraid, but God saved him and everything was alright in the end.

When has God helped you when you were scared? *Thank him.*

*Loving Father God, when we don't understand what you're doing and when we are scared, help us to trust you, to remember that you are with us and to expect you to provide for us. Amen*

## 11. Wordsearch

Do the wordsearch on the other page.

## 12. Words

How many words can you make out of the letters G O D W I L L P R O V I D E ?

### Word Search - Abraham and Isaac

Circle the words from the story of Abraham and Isaac.

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

- |           |                |          |
|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Abraham   | burnt offering | thicket  |
| Isaac     | knife          | God      |
| Moriah    | third day      | kindling |
| wood      | donkey         |          |
| worship   | ram            |          |
| sacrifice | fire           |          |



# Jacob's Dream

Genesis 25:19-34, 27, 28

Isaac had two sons, twins Esau and Jacob. Jacob was a bit of a schemer, but one day after he'd cheated Esau and lied to Isaac, he fell asleep and had a strange dream. He dreamed he saw a ladder going from earth to heaven, with angels going up and down it. God spoke to him and told him that he would always be with him and that the promise that he had given to Jacob's grandfather Abraham God would fulfil through Jacob. He realised that even though he'd done wrong God still wanted to use him in his plan. He still had a lot to learn and he still got it wrong but he made the right decision to follow God. As well as the chapters above, Jacob's story continues in Genesis chapters 29-33 and 35 and you can read it in your Bible but listen to this story and a summary of what happened next here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0ijtXKoh30>



## 13. Our sixth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Make a ladder and hang it on the Jesse Tree.

You can use:

matchsticks, lolly sticks, straws, twigs, pipe cleaners, old pencils, beads, pastry, strawberry laces, etc. Be imaginative!

Fasten the rungs onto the uprights using, glue, blue-tack, string, those little wire twisty things, thread, staples, nails, whatever is best, etc

## 14. Cryptogram

Below is a cryptogram. At the top is the key. Work out the code and fill in the blanks to reveal some of the Bible verses from the story

## 15. Bethel means "House of God"

*Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel.* Genesis 28:18-19

What kind of a pillow was that?! However, his **pillow** became a **pillar** – to remind him that that place was where he had met God.

Can you think of any particular times in your life when you have been especially aware of God's presence?

Find one or more smooth pebbles roughly the size of your palm, wash and dry them, and decorate them to remind you of God's presence. Paint (acrylic or oil) is probably best for this, but you can use permanent markers or wax crayons.

(They don't have to be green!)



**BIBLE CRYPTOGRAM**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12	24	17	21	8	4	15	25	11	3	7	26	14	23	1	2	9	10	19	18	13	22	5	6	20	16

3 12 17 1 24 22 1 5 8 21 19 12 20 11 23 15 , 11 4 15 1 21

5 11 26 26 24 8 5 11 18 25 14 8 12 23 21 7 8 8 2

14 8 11 23 18 25 11 19 5 12 20 18 25 12 18 11 15 1 ,

5 11 26 26 15 11 22 8 14 8 24 10 8 12 21 18 1 8 12 18

12 23 21 17 26 1 18 25 8 19 18 1 2 13 18 1 23 19 1 ,

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4 12 18 25 8 10 19 25 1 13 19 8 11 23 2 8 12 17 8 ;

18 25 8 23 18 25 8 26 1 10 21 5 11 26 26 24 8 14 20

15 1 21 .