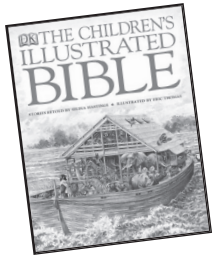


Second Sunday of Advent



The Children's Illustrated Bible page 30

Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down to a stump. But a new shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse and produce fruit. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on that branch, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and awesomeness of the Lord. On that day the root of Jesse shall be a sign to all people; all nations shall depend on him, and his kingdom will be glorious.

—Isaiah 11:1, 2, 10 adapted

☐ Jesus' Great Family

Jesus was born into a great family. Show kids the patriarchal tree on page 30 of *The Children's Illustrated Bible* and on the KidsPage. Read the scripture from Isaiah 11:1, 2, 10.

Isaiah was a prophet who told people Jesus was coming. In this scripture, he says Jesus will be born from a strong family of kings and leaders and will be a peacemaker. The Jesse tree is Jesus' family tree. The roots are the ancestors of Jesus.

Show kids a tree stump with a shoot (one can be made out of brown and green construction paper). Discuss the phenomenon of how a new shoot comes out of the stump of a tree. Then ask who the "shoot" is in this scripture based on the last verse (Jesus). Jesse's family tree started with Abraham. Later, Jesse came, the father of David (who slayed Goliath and later became the king). David was the father of Solomon. Many generations later, Jesus was born.

The scripture says that Jesse's family was like a tree stump. A stump can look and seem dead. And yet a new green sprout can emerge and grow. That new green sprout was Jesus. Like the scripture says, Jesus will bring great hope. Can we find hope even when we have troubles and when our country and world have troubles? Do we believe Jesus can bring peace?

☐ Jesse Tree

Make "Jesse Tree" chocolate cupcakes representing tree stumps. Place a celery stalk, silk leaf stem (washed), or small Christmas-tree cookie upright in each cupcake.

☐ Christmas Family Tree

Decorate a "Jesse Tree" Christmas tree. Have kids decorate blank ornaments with a drawing or names of family members on each one. Ornaments can be circles cut of poster board, with a hole punched in the top for a ribbon hanger.



☐ True Story of Santa

The story of Santa Claus is the story of a real Christian saint! Nearly every Christian culture has a Christmas-gift giver based on the generosity of St. Nicholas.

Three hundred years after Jesus, in Asia Minor, a rich bishop in the Catholic church named Nicholas traveled the country to help others, giving gifts. He didn't want any attention, so he came late at night. The Roman emperor commanded everyone to worship Nicholas as a god. Not even Nicholas wanted this done, so the emperor cast him and others into prison. Nicholas suffered in a dark cell for five years until he was released by the new emperor, Constantine, and returned to his post as bishop. After his death, Nicholas officially became a saint in the Catholic Church, and a day was set to celebrate his life. Over the centuries, the legend of St. Nicholas spread to many cultures. "Sinter Klaas" of the Dutch became "Santa Claus" in America. God gave the truest gift of Christmas, Jesus, a gift of love. But whether called Santa, Sinter Klaas, or St. Nicholas, this Christmas symbol represents the love that God shares with us.

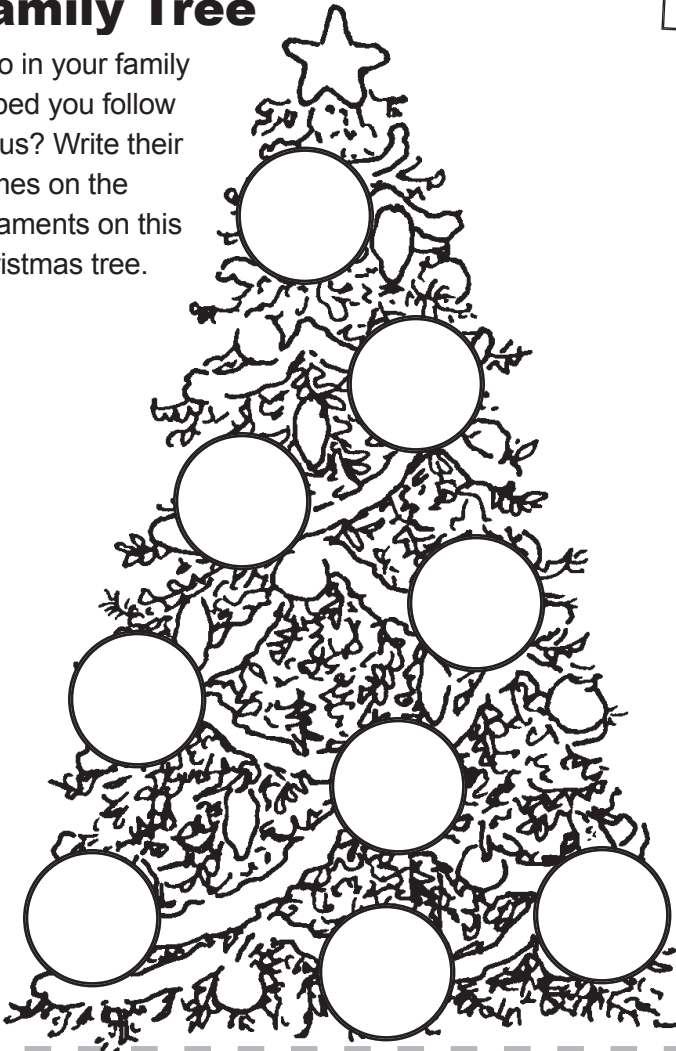


A new shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse and produce fruit. It shall be a sign to all people; all nations shall depend on him, and his kingdom will be glorious.

—Isaiah 11:2,10 adapted

Family Tree

Who in your family helped you follow Jesus? Write their names on the ornaments on this Christmas tree.



St. Nicholas

The tradition of Santa Claus was based on the life of a Christian saint named Nicholas. Draw your picture of Santa Claus here: