

Jesus' Family Tree	KS2	No. of lessons: extendable
<p>Learning objectives: To see Jesus in his historical background of Judaism. To explore stories of Jewish heroes and consider the influence they had upon later generations as examples of courage, faith and commitment.</p>		
<p>Questions for reflection: Who are my heroes? Who would I look up to and imitate in the stories I hear? Why are these people still remembered?</p>		
<p>Activities and experiences: <i>In Advent, in particular, it is common to look back at Jesus' ancestors (who are also the ancestors of the Jewish nation) and see how each in their turn was a type of forerunner of Jesus. It is important that pupils see Jesus in the historical context of Judaism, as this is something people often forget or do not understand.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Make sure that pupils understand the concept of a family tree. You may like to sketch out simple family trees of your own, or use a well known example such as the Tudor monarchs. ◆ You can create a Jesse tree display in the classroom to support this topic - the church website at http://www.kingofpeace.org/resources/ has simple outlines for all the ornaments you would need to make to decorate the tree (obviously you could use any craft technique you wished for this.). The aim is to share stories of a selection of Jesus' ancestors (and his cousin, John the Baptist) and place the decorations at an appropriate level on the tree. See below for a list of ancestors and stories from which you may select as many people as you wish (suggest 4 to 8). Don't forget to include Jesus on the tree. It is helpful to keep the stories in chronological order when teaching them. Pupils should know that the stories come from the Old Testament (the Jewish Scriptures). A list of decorations used and the reasons these have been chosen needs to be kept by the pupils. Does your church have a Jesse tree e.g. as a stained glass window which you can investigate? ◆ When investigating the different stories consider which characteristics the heroes portray e.g. courage, perseverance, faith, and how these are not only examples to us, but would also have been held up to Jesus as his famous forefathers and exemplars. 		
<p>Websites: for some medieval fine art Jesse trees in churches see http://home.earthlink.net/~sanchadeayala/TreeofJesse.html</p>		