

THE JESSE TREE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

*A 25-Day Multi-Disciplinary Homeschool Curriculum,
Nightly Liturgy, and Family Reading Plan (KJV)*



*“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse,
and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”—Isaiah 11:1*

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3. A Simple Song or Hymn Suggestion
4. Bonus: Shepherd's Dinner Guide

THE NIGHTLY ADVENT TIMELINE

Gather your family around your small Advent tree each evening from December 1st through Christmas Eve:

[LIGHT THE CANDLE] —▶ 1. Kindle the Advent Wreath Candle

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2. Read the Nightly KJV Scripture

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3. Discuss the Messianic Fulfillment

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[THE DISPLAY] —▶ 4. Hang the Symbolic Ornament

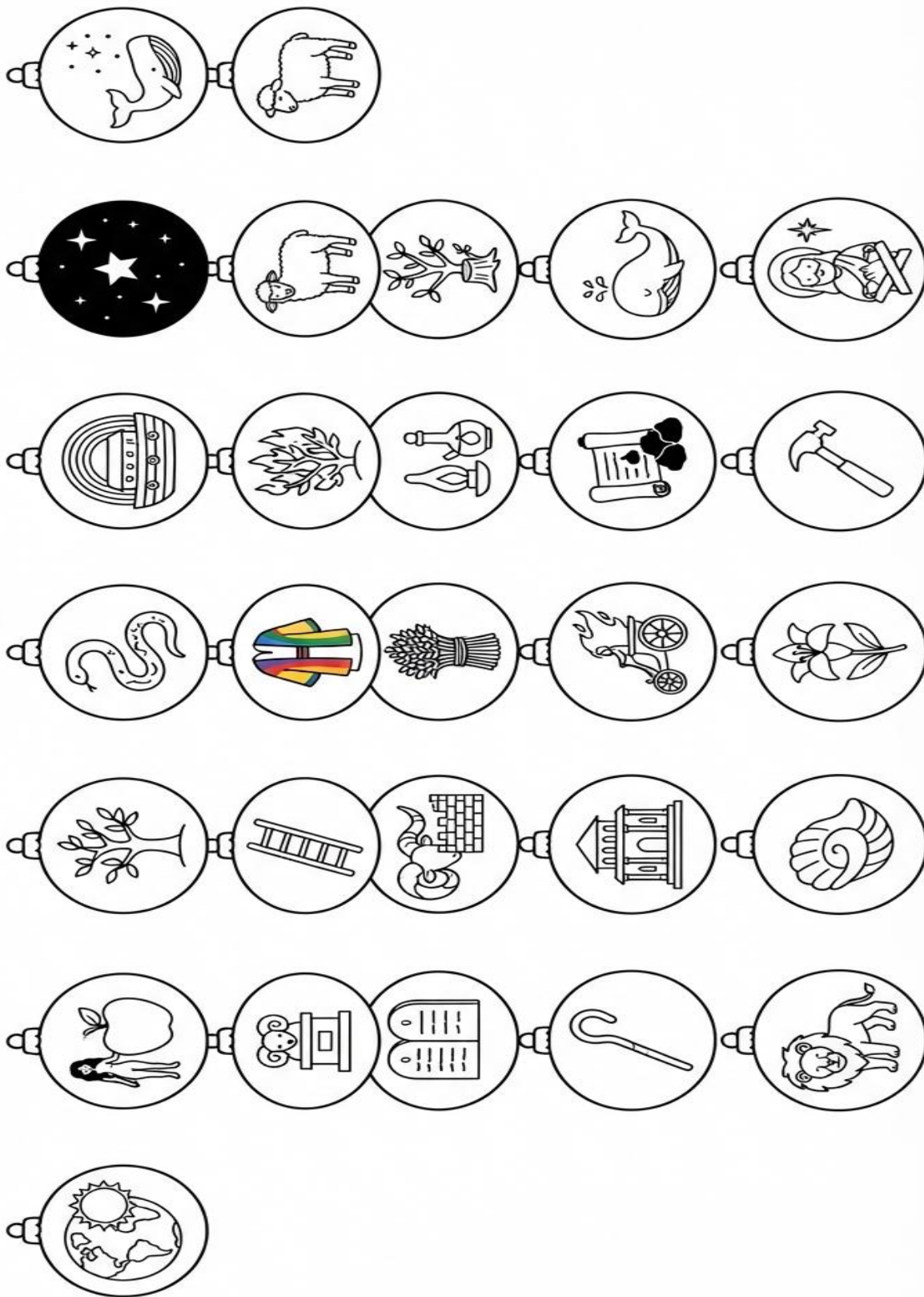
THE 25 JESSE TREE ORNAMENTS CRAFT SUPPLY BASELINE KIT

Before starting, ensure your family craft box is stocked with these foundational items:

- [] Thick cardstock sheets (White, Gold, Silver, and assorted colors)
 - [] Assorted sheets of crafting felt (White, Red, Green, Brown, Blue)
 - [] Natural jute twine or red hanging ribbon
 - [] Non-toxic school glue, glue sticks, and fabric glue
 - [] Washable markers, colored pencils, and metallic gold paint pens
 - [] A standard hole punch and child-safe scissors
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MY JESSE TREE ORNAMENTS - 25 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

COLOR AND CUT OUT!



🎄 THE 25-DAY SCRIPTURAL TRACKER & ORNAMENTS

These may be different from the ones suggested in the book.

Day	Old Testament Figure / Event	KJV Scripture Passages	Symbolic Ornament	Prophetic Link to Jesus
Dec 1	The Creation	Genesis 1:1, 26-27	The Globe	Jesus is the Creator Word (John 1:1-3)
Dec 2	The Fall of Man	Genesis 3:6, 15	Apple with Bite	Christ is the promised Seed who bruises the serpent
Dec 3	Noah & The Ark	Genesis 6:13-14; 9:13	The Rainbow	Jesus is our Ark of safety from judgment
Dec 4	Abraham's Call	Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5	Stars in the Sky	In Christ, all nations of the earth are blessed
Dec 5	Isaac & The Ram	Genesis 22:7-8, 13	Ram in Thicket	God provided Himself a Lamb on the same mountain
Dec 6	Jacob's Vision	Genesis 28:12-13	A Ladder	Jesus is the only ladder bridging heaven and earth
Dec 7	Joseph's Trials	Genesis 37:3-4; 50:20	Coat of Many Colors	Rejected by brothers, raised up to save the world
Dec 8	Moses & The Bush	Exodus 3:2-5	Burning Bush	Christ is the great "I AM" manifest in fire
Dec 9	The Passover Lamb	Exodus 12:3, 13	A Spotless Lamb	The blood of Christ causes judgment to pass over
Dec 10	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-3, 17	Stone Tablets	Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of the Law
Dec 11	Rahab's Protection	Joshua 2:18, 21	Scarlet Cord	The crimson thread of salvation shields our house
Dec 12	Ruth's Kinsman	Ruth 2:11-12; 4:14	Sheaf of Grain	Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer from Bethlehem

Dec 13	Jesse's Lineage	1 Samuel 16:1, 13	Stump with a Shoot	Out of the seemingly dead line of Jesse, Christ grows
Dec 14	David the King	2 Samuel 5:3-4	Shepherd's Crook	Christ is both the Good Shepherd and the Eternal King
Dec 15	Solomon's Temple	1 Kings 6:11-13	Golden Crown	Jesus is greater than Solomon, building a living temple
Dec 16	Elijah's Fire	1 Kings 18:36-39	Altar of Stone	Christ answers by fire, proving He is the true God
Dec 17	Isaiah's Prophecy	Isaiah 7:14; 9:6	Glowing Sun	Unto us a child is born, called Wonderful, Counselor
Dec 18	Jeremiah's Branch	Jeremiah 23:5-6	Green Branch	The LORD our Righteousness will reign safely
Dec 19	Nehemiah's Wall	Nehemiah 2:17-18	Brick Wall	Christ is the restorer of broken down lives
Dec 20	Jonah's Sign	Jonah 1:17; 2:10	A Large Fish	Three days in the whale points to Christ's burial
Dec 21	John the Baptist	Luke 1:13-17	Water Drop / Shell	Preparing the straight way for the arrival of the Lord
Dec 22	Mary's Humility	Luke 1:26-33	White Lily	The virgin shall conceive and bear the Son of the Highest
Dec 23	Joseph's Faith	Matthew 1:18-21	Carpenter's Hammer	Thou shalt call His name JESUS, for He saves His people
Dec 24	The Bethlehem Star	Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:1-2	Bright Star	The Light has arrived in the City of David
Dec 25	Christ the Savior	Luke 2:8-14	Baby in Manger	Glory to God in the highest, peace and good will toward men!

Note: You can choose when to start and what activities you wish to do. You can keep it simple with just the reading and ornaments or do everything as listed.

THE MASTER MULTI-DISCIPLINARY JESSE TREE CURRICULUM

Phase 1: Creation & The Patriarchs (Days 1–7)

DAY 1: THE CREATION (Ornament: The Globe)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Genesis 1:1-5** and **John 1:1-3**. Define the vocabulary word *Omnipotent*. Write a descriptive paragraph describing what "void" means to you.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Creation (The Earth/Sun)** – God looked at everything He made and called it "very good." What is your favorite part of God's creation, and how can we take care of it?
- **Math:** Count the 6 structural days of creation versus the 1 day of rest. Calculate the fractions of the creation week dedicated to work (6/7) vs. rest (1/7).
- **Science:** Study the solar spectrum. Experiment by shining light through a glass prism onto white paper to see how pure white light breaks into visible colors.
- **Art:** Color or assemble **The Globe** ornament using bright blue and green watercolor washes over heavy cardstock.
 - **Materials:** White cardstock, blue and green watercolor paints or markers, twine.
 - **Directions:** Cut cardstock into a perfect 3-inch circle. Have the children paint the entire circle with a watery blue wash. Once dry, use a green marker to sketch rough shapes of the continents over the blue. Punch a hole at the top and knot a loop of twine through it.
- **History & Geography:** Look at a modern topographical globe. Locate the major continents and identify the deepest ocean trenches, discussing how God mapped the planet.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *This Is My Father's World*.
- **Critical Thinking:** If there was nothing before creation except God, what does that teach us about where our true security and value come from?

Phase 1: Creation & The Patriarchs (Days 1–7)

DAY 2: THE FALL OF MAN (Ornament: Apple with a Bite)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Genesis 3:1-15**. Analyze the conversation between Eve and the serpent. Identify the adjectives used to make the forbidden fruit look desirable.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Adam & Eve (The Apple/Tree)** – God created humans to be in close relationship with Him. What are ways our family can focus on listening to God's voice this week?
- **Math:** "The Rule of Doubling." Solve math problems that double each step (2, 4, 8, 16, 32) to illustrate how quickly one small choice impacts a large crowd of generations.
- **Science (Botany):** Cut a fresh apple open horizontally. Examine the internal core structure. Study the protective function of the skin and the anatomy of seeds.
- **Art:** Cut an apple in half, dip it in red tempera paint, and stamp it onto paper to make a series of **Apple prints**. Cut out one print for your ornament.
 - **Materials:** Red construction paper, a scrap of brown and green felt, scissors, glue.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a classic 3-inch apple silhouette from the red paper. On the right side, snip out a small, half-circle crescent shape to represent the "bite." Glue a tiny strip of brown felt to the top for the stem and a green felt leaf next to it. Punch a hole in the stem area.
- **History:** Study the history of early agriculture and fruit cultivation in the ancient Near East and Fertile Crescent.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*.
- **Critical Thinking:** God promised in Genesis 3:15 that the "Seed" of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. How does this promise give us hope when we make mistakes?

Phase 1: Creation & The Patriarchs (Days 1–7)

DAY 3: NOAH AND THE ARK (Ornament: The Rainbow)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Genesis 6:13-14** and **9:11-13**. Write a list of synonyms for the word *Covenant*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Noah (The Ark/Rainbow)** – Noah trusted God even when it seemed impossible, and God showed His faithfulness with a rainbow. When is a time our family had to trust God through a hard situation?
- **Math (Measurement):** Convert the biblical dimensions of the Ark from cubits to feet (Assuming 1 cubit = 1.5 feet). Calculate the length, width, and height (300 $\times$ 50 $\times$ 30 cubits).
- **Science (Meteorology):** Study the physics of refraction. Fill a glass tray with water, place a mirror inside at an angle, and catch a beam of sunlight to project an artificial rainbow on the ceiling.
- **Art:** Use vibrant colored tissue paper strips layered in a curved pattern to make a translucent **Rainbow suncatcher** ornament.
 - **Materials:** White cardstock, strips of multi-colored tissue paper, glue stick.
 - **Directions:** Cut cardstock into a wide arch or crescent rainbow shape. Have the children apply glue across the arch and layer small torn strips of tissue paper in chronological rainbow order (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple). Trim any overhanging edges with scissors.
- **History:** Research ancient maritime history, shipbuilding techniques, and historical flood accounts documented by global civilizations.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *How Firm a Foundation*.
- **Critical Thinking:** The Ark had only one door to enter and be saved. How does this serve as a visual parable pointing directly to Christ's statement in John 10:9?

Phase 1: Creation & The Patriarchs (Days 1–7)

DAY 4: ABRAHAM'S CALL (Ornament: Stars in the Sky)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Genesis 12:1-3** and **15:5-6**. Circle the word "faith" or "believed." Write a short essay on what it means to travel to a place you've never seen.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Abraham (The Starry Sky)** – God promised Abraham that his family would be as numerous as the stars. What is a big promise from God's Word that brings you comfort?
- **Math:** Practice estimation and large numbers. Look at a picture of a dense star cluster. Try to estimate the count, then divide the page into a grid to check your accuracy.
- **Science (Astronomy):** Study the lifecycles of stars, constellations, and how early ancient navigators used the North Star to travel across deserts without maps.
- **Art:** Draw a starry night scene using yellow oil pastels, then paint over the page with black or dark blue watercolor wash for a **Pastel-resist star ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Heavy cardboard or thick yellow cardstock, gold glitter or metallic paint pen.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a classic 5-pointed or 8-pointed star pattern. Let the children color it solid yellow or coat it in metallic gold paint. While wet, shake a light dusting of fine gold glitter over the star, shaking off the excess into a trash bin once dry.
- **History & Geography:** Track Abraham's migration path on an ancient map. Measure the mileage from Ur of the Chaldees, through Haran, down into the land of Canaan.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *The God of Abraham Praise*.
- **Critical Thinking:** God told Abraham his seed would be like the stars. Since we are Christ's, how are we part of that promise today according to Galatians 3:29?

Phase 1: Creation & The Patriarchs (Days 1–7)

DAY 5: ISAAC AND THE RAM (Ornament: Ram in the Thicket)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Genesis 22:1-13**. Identify the classic dramatic tension in Isaac's question: "*Where is the lamb?*" Define the term *Substitution*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Isaac (The Ram/Altar)** – God provided a ram so Isaac didn't have to be sacrificed. How does God provide the things our family needs everyday?
- **Math:** Solve word problems based on weight, measuring the wood needed for a small campfire or standard provisions for traveling on foot.
- **Science (Zoology):** Study the structural differences between horns and antlers in animals. Research the habitats and survival mechanisms of wild rams.
- **Art:** Draw a silhouette of a ram on heavy cardstock. Have children glue white cotton balls inside the lines to create a tactile **Textured wool ram ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Black cardstock, real backyard twigs, white cotton balls, glue.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a simple silhouette of a ram (head and body). Have the children glue small fragments of real backyard twigs around the bottom of the cardstock to look like a thicket. Pull apart a cotton ball to make it fluffy and glue it onto the body of the ram for its fleece.
- **History:** Study the geographic history of Mount Moriah. Trace its progression from Abraham's altar to Solomon's Temple, up to the location of the crucifixion.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Rock of Ages*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Abraham named the mountain *Jehovah-Jireh* (The Lord will provide). How does a ram trapped in a thicket show us how God provides for us?

Phase 1: Creation & The Patriarchs (Days 1–7)

DAY 6: JACOB'S VISION (Ornament: A Ladder)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Genesis 28:10-17**. Write down all the action verbs associated with the angels (*"ascending and descending"*).
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Jacob (The Ladder)** – Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching up to heaven. How did Jesus become the "bridge" or ladder that connects us directly to God?
- **Math:** Pattern recognition and sequencing. Draw a grid and solve problems by filling in alternating ladder rungs using numerical multipliers (3, 6, 12, 24).
- **Science (Engineering):** Study the physics of structural stability. Build a small structural frame using craft sticks to test which geometric shapes support the most weight.
- **Art:** Use standard wooden popsicle sticks and craft glue to construct a miniature **Scale-model ladder ornament**, painted gold or covered in glitter.
 - **Materials:** Standard wooden popsicle craft sticks, school glue, gold ribbon.
 - **Directions:** Lay two popsicle sticks parallel on a flat sheet of wax paper about two inches apart. Break 3 other popsicle sticks in half. Glue these shorter broken pieces horizontally across the two long sticks to form the rungs of a ladder. Once dry, tie a gold ribbon loop around the top rung.
- **History:** Learn about the historical sleep customs, stone headrests, and nomadic tent shelters utilized in the ancient Near East.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Nearer, My God, to Thee*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Jesus referenced Jacob's ladder in John 1:51. What does it mean for Jesus to be the bridge that connects earth to heaven?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 7: JOSEPH'S TRIALS (Ornament: Coat of Many Colors)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Genesis 37:1-4** and **50:19-21**. Define the vocabulary terms *Providence* and *Reconciliation*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Joseph (The Coat of Many Colors)** – Joseph's brothers treated him badly, but God used it all for good. How can God turn a sad or unfair situation into something beautiful?
- **Math:** Data charting. Create a colored bar graph counting the structural frequency of different colored objects or paper scraps available in your classroom.
- **Science (Textiles):** Learn about early natural plant-based dyes used in antiquity (e.g., using pomegranate skins for red, saffron for yellow, or indigo for blue).
- **Art:** Cut a coat shape out of cardboard. Glue vertical strips of multi-colored ribbons, felt, or yarn side-by-side to make a **Striped textile ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Cardboard, assorted scraps of colorful ribbons, yarn, or felt rows, glue.
 - **Directions:** Cut a T-shaped coat layout out of thin cardboard. Have the children apply glue in horizontal blocks across the coat. Press down alternating strips of colorful ribbons, yarn, or felt to make a vibrant, multi-colored striped tunic. Trim the edges to fit the coat shape.
- **History:** Study the economic structures, grain storage technologies, and historical architecture of ancient middle-kingdom Egypt.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Be Still, My Soul*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Joseph told his brothers, "*Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.*" How can this perspective help us face difficult situations?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 8: MOSES AND THE BUSH (Ornament: Burning Bush)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Exodus 3:1-6**. Analyze the name God gives Himself: *"I AM THAT I AM."* Discuss what this reveals about time and eternity.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Moses (The Burning Bush)** – God called Moses out of a burning bush to lead His people. What is a way God might be calling you to show courage or help someone today?
- **Math:** Measure angles using a protractor to map the geometric branch angles of various household plants or backyard bushes.
- **Science (Thermodynamics):** Study the physical chemical properties of fire (combustion, fuel, oxygen) vs. the supernatural properties of a bush that burns but is not consumed.
- **Art:** Tear small pieces of red, orange, and yellow tissue paper. Layer them tightly onto a brown branch silhouette to make a **Glowing fire-bush ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Brown construction paper, red, orange, and yellow tissue paper sheets.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a basic bare winter bush outline from the brown paper. Tear the red, orange, and yellow tissue paper into tiny, crinkled squares. Glue these fiery crinkled squares closely together across the branches of the bush to give it a glowing, burning appearance.
- **History:** Research the geographic and climatic attributes of the Sinai Peninsula and the historical pathways of ancient nomadic shepherds.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*.
- **Critical Thinking:** God told Moses to take off his shoes because the ground was holy. What makes a place or a heart "holy" in the presence of God?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 9: THE PASSOVER LAMB (Ornament: A Spotless Lamb)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Exodus 12:1-13**. Write a paragraph identifying how the theme of protection is woven through the passage. Define *Exodus*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **The Israelites (The Passover Lamb)** – The blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from judgment. How does Jesus acting as our "Passover Lamb" protect and free us?
- **Math:** Track calendar dates and ordinal numbers. Calculate time spans based on the biblical command to select a lamb on the 10th day and sacrifice it on the 14th day.
- **Science (Hematology):** Study the physiological function of blood in carrying oxygen and life throughout a living body, mapping why it represents life in scripture.
- **Art:** Cut a white felt lamb silhouette. Wrap the center body tightly in white woolen yarn, leaving a tiny crimson ribbon tied around the neck to make a **Passover Lamb ornament**.
 - **Materials:** White felt sheets, a thin scrap of red ribbon, fabric glue.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a clean silhouette of a small lamb from the white felt sheet. Tie a tiny piece of thin red ribbon into a bow and glue it directly around the lamb's neck, symbolizing the blood of the covenant that causes judgment to pass over.
- **History:** Study the history of early ancient Egyptian dynasties and the agricultural impacts of the Nile River seasonal cycles.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Why did the lintel and side posts of the doors have to be physically marked with blood? How does this apply to our hearts under Christ?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 10: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Ornament: Stone Tablets)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Exodus 20:1-17**. Group the commandments into two categories: Duties to God (1-4) and Duties to Man (5-10). Write out the text of Commandment 5.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **The Ten Commandments (Stone Tablets)** – God gave us His laws to protect us and show us how to love Him. Which commandment do you think helps our home stay peaceful?
- **Math:** Group things in units of 10. Solve base-10 math challenges or practice early tracking using Roman numerals (I through X).
- **Science (Geology):** Learn about the physical classification of rocks (sedimentary, metamorphic, igneous). Discuss why stone represents permanence vs. paper or clay.
- **Art:** Roll out grey air-dry clay. Use a toothpick to scribe Roman numerals I-V on one side and VI-X on the other. Let dry to form a **Clay tablet ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Gray cardstock or gray craft foam, a black fine-tip marker.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a classic double-arched stone tablet outline. Draw a vertical line down the center to divide the tablets. Use a black marker to write Roman numerals I through V on the left side, and VI through X on the right side.
- **History:** Research ancient law codes and legal tablets from early antiquity (like the Code of Hammurabi) and compare their structure to the moral law of the Decalogue.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*.
- **Critical Thinking:** If the law shows us that we cannot keep God's standard perfectly on our own strength, how does it lead us to appreciate a Savior?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 11: RAHAB'S PROTECTION (Ornament: Scarlet Cord)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Joshua 2:1-21**. Look up the meaning of the word *Token*. Write a short narrative describing the view from a window on a city wall.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Joshua (The Ram's Horn/Wall)** – The walls of Jericho fell through faith and obedience, not weapons. What is a "big wall" or obstacle in your life that you need God's help to get through?
- **Math:** Ratios and structural scale. Calculate scale distances based on the perimeter walls of early cities and the dimensions of ancient defensive towers.
- **Science (Physics of Rope):** Experiment with tensile strength. Braid three thin threads together to test how a multi-strand cord supports significantly more weight than a single thread.
- **Art:** Take bright red embroidery floss or thick crimson yarn. Braid three strands together tightly and knot the ends around a tiny cardboard window frame to create a **Scarlet Cord ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Thick bright red yarn, embroidery floss, or red rope twine.
 - **Directions:** Cut three 8-inch pieces of thick red yarn. Tie a secure knot at the very top. Have the children braid the three strands together tightly all the way down to the bottom. Tie a matching knot at the base, leaving a 2-inch loop at the top to hang it directly from a branch
- **History & Archeology:** Study the ancient archeological layouts of walled cities like Jericho, focusing on how houses were built directly into structural rampart walls.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Blessed Assurance*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Rahab's red cord was a signal that kept everyone inside her house safe. How does this connect back to the blood on the doorposts during Passover?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 12: RUTH'S KINSMAN (Ornament: Sheaf of Grain)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Ruth 2:1-12** and **4:14**. Define the historical legal concept of a *Kinsman-Redeemer*. Look up the dictionary definition of *Glean*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **:Ruth & Boaz (The Grain)** – Ruth chose to stay loyal to Naomi and trust God in a strange land. What does it mean to be a loyal, trustworthy friend?
- **Math:** Solves word problems calculating harvest weights, grain volumes (e.g., standard ephah measurements converted to modern dry cups).
- **Science (Agronomy):** Learn about the lifecycle of wheat and barley crops. Study how grain seeds are separated from protective chaff using the wind during threshing.
- **Art:** Take real dried wheat stalks or gold pipe cleaners. Bundle them tightly together and tie a brown twine bow around the center to make a **Harvest sheaf ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Real dried wheat stalks or gold pipe cleaners, brown twine.
 - **Directions:** Gather 4 or 5 gold pipe cleaners (or real dried wheat stems) and bundle them tightly into a straight cluster. Twist them together in the center to hold them firm, then tie a rustic bow made of brown jute twine directly over the middle connection to form a harvest bundle.
- **History & Geography:** Locate Bethlehem on a map. Look at its geography and research why its historical name translates directly to "*The House of Bread*."
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Ruth was an outsider who found protection under the wings of the God of Israel. How does this mirror our position as Gentiles grafted into Christ?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 13: JESSE'S LINEAGE (Ornament: Stump with a Shoot)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Isaiah 11:1-3** and **1 Samuel 16:1-13**. Analyze the tree metaphors used by the prophets. Write down what a "root" represents in a family tree.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **The Root of Jesse (The Stump with a Green Shoot)** – Out of a seemingly dead stump, God brought forth a beautiful new, green shoot, just as He chose young David when everyone else looked past him. When a situation in your life feels completely hopeless or "dead," how does this picture remind you that God can bring forth beautiful, miraculous new life?
- **Math:** Draw a comprehensive family tree grid diagram tracking generations across a multi-generational lineage chart.
- **Science (Dendrology):** Study the biology of trees. Learn how a seemingly dead stump can sprout new, living shoots through root-system adventitious buds.
- **Art:** Slice a thin cross-section disk from a fallen backyard branch (a tree ring). Use a green marker or paint to illustrate a single bright green leaf growing out of the side to make a **Tree-ring sprout ornament**.
 - **Materials:** A thick brown cardboard circle, green construction paper or green felt.
 - **Directions:** Cut a 3-inch circle out of corrugated brown cardboard to represent the flat top of a cut tree stump. Cut out a tiny, bright green leaf or sprig shape from felt or paper. Glue the green leaf so it sprouts directly out of the top edge of the brown stump.
- **History:** Study the genealogy of the kings of Judah, mapping how the line of David was physically cut down during the Babylonian exile yet survived.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*.
- **Critical Thinking:** When a family line or a situation looks completely dead and cut down like a stump, how does God show His power to bring forth brand-new life?

Phase 2: Deliverance & The Kingdom (Days 8–14)

DAY 14: DAVID THE KING (Ornament: Shepherd's Crook)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **1 Samuel 16:11-13** and **2 Samuel 5:3-4**. Contrast the two roles of David: a humble shepherd and an anointed king. Write a vocabulary list for *Sovereignty*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **David the Shepherd King (The Shepherd's Crook)** – Before David wore a royal crown, he carried a humble shepherd's crook to protect his sheep, eventually becoming the shepherd king of all Israel. How does knowing that Jesus is our "Good Shepherd" help you trust Him to guide, protect, and lead your life every single day?
- **Math:** Work out timeline calculations tracking David's life steps: anointed at a young age, reigning 7 years in Hebron, and 33 years in Jerusalem. Calculate his total reign.
- **Science (Biomes):** Research the topography, rocky terrain, predatory wildlife (lions, bears), and weather conditions of the Judean wilderness.
- **Art:** Take a brown chenille pipe cleaner, bend the top into a smooth hook shape, and wrap it tightly in rustic twine to finish a **Shepherd's crook staff ornament**.
 - **Materials:** A standard brown chenille pipe cleaner, rustic twine or yarn.
 - **Directions:** Take a brown pipe cleaner and bend the top 2 inches down into a smooth, curved hook shape to look like a shepherd's staff. To add texture, wrap rustic jute twine tightly around the straight handle of the staff, securing the ends with a tiny drop of school glue.
- **History:** Study the transition of ancient Israel's government structure from tribal judges to a centralized monarchy under King David.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Jesus is called the "Son of David." In what ways does Jesus act as both a gentle shepherd protecting His sheep and a powerful King ruling the earth?

Phase 3: The Prophets & Kings (Days 15–20)

DAY 15: SOLOMON'S TEMPLE (Ornament: Golden Crown)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **1 Kings 6:11-13**. Write a description focused on the materials used in the temple (gold, cedar, stone). Define *Habitation*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **King David (The Crown/Shepherd's Crook)** – David was a simple shepherd boy, but God looked at his heart and made him king. What do you think it means to have a heart that pleases God?
- **Math (Geometry):** Study the geometric layout of the Temple floor plan. Calculate perimeter and area based on cubit measurements for the Holy Place and Holy of Holies.
- **Science (Architecture):** Learn about the acoustics and engineering principles of building massive stone structures without the sound of iron tools at the construction site.
 - **Art:** Cut a classic crown shape out of yellow cardstock, punch holes along the points, and lace metallic gold ribbons through to complete a **Golden Crown ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Gold metallic cardstock or yellow cardstock, metallic markers.
- **Directions:** Cut out a classic 3-pointed or 5-pointed royal crown design from the gold cardstock. Let the children use a metallic paint pen or marker to draw decorative "jewels" along the bottom band and points of the crown. Punch a hole in the center point.
- **History:** Research the historical maritime trade networks Solomon established with Hiram of Tyre to import massive cedar logs and gold resources.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Crown Him with Many Crowns*.
- **Critical Thinking:** God promised to dwell *among* Israel in the Temple. Under the New Covenant, how has the temple structure changed according to 1 Corinthians 6:19?

Phase 3: The Prophets & Kings (Days 15–20)

DAY 16: ELIJAH'S FIRE (Ornament: Altar of Stone)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **1 Kings 18:36-39**. Identify the elements of Elijah's short prayer. Write a vocabulary definition for the word *Consuming*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Elijah on Mount Carmel (The Altar of Stone)** – Elijah built an altar of stone, and God answered with real fire from heaven to prove that He alone is the true, living God. When our world gets loud or confusing, what are some ways we can boldly stand up and show others that our God is real, powerful, and alive today?
- **Math:** Tracking measurements. Calculate water volumes based on the biblical account of pouring 4 large barrels of water over an altar 3 separate times. Calculate the total barrels poured.
- **Science (Chemistry of Evaporation):** Study how extreme heat instantly converts liquid water into vapor, reflecting on how the divine fire consumed both the wet wood and the dust.
 - **Art:** Gather 12 tiny real pebbles from your driveway. Use strong craft glue to arrange them into a mini rectangular **Stone altar ornament**, topped with a scrap of red felt for fire.
 - **Materials:** Gray cardstock, small real driveway pebbles, red/orange felt scraps.
- **Directions:** Cut a small rectangle out of gray cardstock to act as your base. Glue 6 to 8 small, flat driveway pebbles across the cardstock to look like a stone altar. Glue a tiny jagged scrap of red and orange felt to the top of the stones to mimic the divine fire
- **History:** Learn about the history of ancient Canaanite idolatry (Baal worship) and the geopolitical landscape under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *O Worship the King*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Why did Elijah intentionally drench the altar in water before praying? How did the water clarify the answer for the watching crowd?

Phase 3: The Prophets & Kings (Days 15–20)

DAY 17: ISAIAH'S PROPHECY (Ornament: Glowing Sun)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Isaiah 7:14** and **9:6-7**. Identify and write out the five names given to the coming Messiah. Define *Prophecy*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **The Prince of Peace (The Glowing Sun)** – Isaiah prophesied that a Savior would come as a great light to a world sitting in deep darkness, bringing a kingdom that will never end. When you look at the warm, glowing sun, how does it remind you that Jesus' love and peace can chase away any fear, sadness, or darkness in our lives?
- **Math:** Calculate centuries on a timeline. Figure out the duration between Isaiah writing his prophecies (approx. 700 BC) and the physical birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.
- **Science (Optics):** Study the properties of light filtering through darkness. Experiment with a flashlight in a dark room using various paper filters to observe light dispersion.
- **Art:** Use bright yellow and orange metallic paint or sequins on a round cardboard cutout to design a **Radiant sunrise ornament**, representing the light breaking on a dark world.
 - **Materials:** Yellow cardstock, orange felt, glue stick.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a large circle from the yellow cardstock. Cut out narrow triangles from the orange felt to act as sunbeams. Glue the orange triangles evenly around the perimeter of the yellow circle to create a bright sunrise ornament, representing the breaking light
- **History:** Research the rise of the Neo-Assyrian Empire during Isaiah's lifetime and how it threatened the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Isaiah calls Jesus the "Prince of Peace." How does Jesus bring true peace to a person's life even when the world around them is chaotic?

Phase 3: The Prophets & Kings (Days 15–20)

DAY 18: JEREMIAH'S BRANCH (Ornament: Green Branch)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Jeremiah 23:5-6**. Analyze the royal title: "*THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*." Write an essay on what it means to be declared righteous.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **The Righteous Branch (The Green Branch)** – Jeremiah prophesied that God would raise up unto David a righteous Branch—a King who would reign wisely, execute judgment, and bring safety to His people. When you look at a fresh green branch, how does it comfort you to know that our King, Jesus, is completely righteous, fair, and provides a safe place for our family to rest?
- **Math:** Solve fraction and percentage math challenges based on measuring agricultural land distribution or orchard crop rows.
- **Science (Horticulture):** Study the grafting process in fruit trees. Learn how a single live branch can be spliced into a different root system to grow smoothly.
- **Art:** Cut a small sprig from a real evergreen tree or backyard bush. Tie a festive red wire bow around the stem to create a **Living green branch ornament**.
 - **Materials:** A real small clipping from an evergreen tree, cedar tree, or backyard bush, red wire.
 - **Directions:** Cut a small, fresh 3-inch sprig from a backyard evergreen bush. Twist a small piece of red floral wire or ribbon tightly around the base stem, forming a loop to hang the fresh, fragrant green branch directly on your Jesse Tree.
- **History:** Study the fall of Jerusalem to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and the historical timeline of the 70-year captivity Jeremiah predicted.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Jeremiah predicted a branch growing when everything seemed ruined by exile. How does this promise remind us that God's plans cannot be stopped by human failure?

Phase 3: The Prophets & Kings (Days 15–20)

DAY 19: NEHEMIAH'S WALL (Ornament: Brick Wall)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Nehemiah 2:17-18** and **4:1-6**. Analyze the phrase: "*for the people had a mind to work.*" Write down a personal definition for *Perseverance*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
- **Rebuilding the Wall (The Brick Wall)** – Nehemiah and the people rebuilt the broken walls of Jerusalem with a mind to work, even when others mocked them and tried to make them quit. When you face a hard task or someone discourages you from doing what is right, how can our family pray and work together to stay strong and finish the job?
- **Math:** Spatial awareness and patterns. Draw a complex alternating brickwork pattern grid layout, calculating the number of bricks needed per rows.
- **Science (Materials Science):** Study the composition of ancient mortar, mud bricks, and cut limestone block walls. Learn how raw materials are combined to resist compressive forces.
- **Art:** Take a small rectangular scrap of heavy cardboard. Use a sponge dipped in red-brown paint to stamp a grid of **Mini brick rows**, drawing mortar lines with a white paint pen for your ornament.
 - **Materials:** Red or brown cardstock, a white gel pen or thin white paint marker.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a small rectangle from the red or brown cardstock. Use a ruler and a white gel pen to draw horizontal lines across the card, then add staggered vertical lines between the rows to create a classic, clean brick wall mortar pattern
- **History:** Study the history of the Achaemenid Persian Empire under King Artaxerxes and the historical decrees allowing the Jewish remnants to return.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*.
- **Critical Thinking:** The wall was rebuilt despite constant mockery and threats from enemies. How can we build up our spiritual lives when facing outside discouragement?

Phase 3: The Prophets & Kings (Days 15–20)

DAY 20: JONAH'S SIGN (Ornament: A Large Fish)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Jonah 1:17** and **2:1-10**. Write a short character analysis tracking Jonah's transition from running away to praying inside the fish.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Jonah (The Whale/Big Fish)** – Jonah tried to run from God's instructions but learned about God's immense mercy. Why is it always better to obey God the first time?
- **Math:** Units of time. Track the 3 days and 3 nights pattern. Cross-reference this measurement with Jesus' words in Matthew 12:40 regarding His time in the heart of the earth.
- **Science (Marine Biology):** Study the physical characteristics of large marine mammals and deep-sea creatures. Learn about the unique aquatic environments of the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Art:** Fold a simple sheet of blue paper using origami techniques to shape a **3D paper fish ornament**, adding a tiny line-art silhouette of a man inside.
 - **Materials:** Blue construction paper, googly eyes or markers.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a classic profile shape of a large whale or fish, complete with a tail fin. Have the children draw a large eye and a smile on the fish, or glue a plastic googly eye to the head. Punch a hole near the top dorsal fin area.
- **History:** Research the ancient city of Nineveh, its position as the capital of the Assyrian Empire, and its historical geographic location near modern Mosul, Iraq.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Jesus said the only sign given to His generation was the "Sign of the Prophet Jonah." How does a man coming out of a fish alive after three days point directly to the resurrection?

Phase 4: The Birth of the Messiah (Days 21–25)

DAY 21: JOHN THE BAPTIST (Ornament: Water Drop)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Luke 1:13-17** and **Mark 1:1-8**. Study the phrase: "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness.*" Write a list of vocabulary words describing a herald's duties.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **John the Baptist (The Water/Shell)** – John was sent to "prepare the way" for Jesus. How can our family prepare our hearts and our home to focus entirely on Jesus this season?
- **Math:** Liquid measurement adjustments. Solve conversion word problems shifting between fluid ounces, cups, pints, and gallons using clear water pitchers.
- **Science (Hydrology):** Learn about the water cycle (evaporation, condensation, precipitation) and the unique physical properties of river currents and ecosystems.
- **Art:** Cut a large teardrop shape out of clear blue plastic packaging or blue cardstock, edging it with silver glitter glue to make a glistening **Water drop ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Blue plastic transparent packaging or heavy blue cardstock, silver glitter glue.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a large, 4-inch teardrop shape from the blue paper or plastic. Have the children squeeze a thin border of silver glitter glue all the way around the outside edge of the water drop to make it catch the light and glisten on the tree.
- **History:** Study the cultural wardrobe, food sources (locusts and wild honey), and historical ascetic communities operating in the Jordan River valley during the Roman era.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*.
- **Critical Thinking:** John's mission was to make the paths straight for the Lord. How can we make the paths straight in our own lives to welcome Christ this season?

Phase 4: The Birth of the Messiah (Days 21–25)

DAY 22: MARY'S HUMILITY (Ornament: White Lily)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Luke 1:26-38**. Analyze Mary's response: "*Behold the handmaid of the Lord.*" Define the biblical term *Submission*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Mary (The White Lily)** – Mary humbly accepted God's wild, miraculous plan for her life. What is something big you can surrender to God's hands today?
- **Math:** Symmetry exercises. Draw a lily flower petal pattern on a grid sheet, ensuring both sides reflect matching mirrored proportions across a central axis line.
- **Science (Botany):** Study the structural anatomy of a flower (petals, stamen, pistil, pollen). Research how seasonal bulbs store energy underground through winter to burst forth in spring.
- **Art:** Twist white pipe cleaners into smooth loops to form five distinct petals, anchoring a yellow pipe cleaner center to complete a **Bending white lily ornament**.
 - **Materials:** White pipe cleaners, yellow pipe cleaner scraps.
 - **Directions:** Take two white pipe cleaners and cut them in half to make four pieces. Bend each piece into a loop petal shape and twist the bases together to form a flower. Take a small 1-inch scrap of yellow pipe cleaner and twist it into the center to look like a pollen stamen.
- **History:** Research the daily home life, domestic tasks, weaving methods, and historical village structures common to small towns like Nazareth in Galilee under Roman administration.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Silent Night*.
- **Critical Thinking:** The angel told Mary, "*With God nothing shall be impossible.*" How does Mary's willing trust encourage us when facing circumstances we don't fully understand?

Phase 4: The Birth of the Messiah (Days 21–25)

DAY 23: JOSEPH'S FAITH (Ornament: Carpenter's Hammer)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Matthew 1:18-25**. Look at how Joseph responded to his dream. Write an essay focused on the name **Emmanuel**: *God with us*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Joseph the Carpenter (The Hammer/Tools)** – Joseph trusted the angel's message and protected Mary and baby Jesus. Why is it important to protect and care for the people in our family?
- **Math:** Practice precise wood shop or craft measurement down to sixteenths or eighths of an inch using a standard carpenter's tape measure.
- **Science (Simple Machines):** Study the mechanical physics of hand tools. Learn how a hammer operates as a classic class-one lever to multiply physical force when pulling or driving nails.
- **Art:** Cut out two small matching interlocking shapes of a hammer head and handle from cardboard, painted metallic gray and brown, bound with twine to make a **Carpenter tool ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Brown and gray cardstock sheets, glue stick.
 - **Directions:** Cut a narrow 4-inch rectangle out of brown cardstock for the wooden handle. Cut a classic T-shaped hammer claw head out of gray cardstock. Glue the gray hammer head securely onto the top of the brown handle. Punch a hole at the base of the handle.
- **History:** Research the historical trade of a *Tekton* (the Greek word used for Joseph's craft, meaning an artisan working with wood, stone, and building structures in antiquity).
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.
- **Critical Thinking:** Joseph obeyed God's instructions immediately when he woke up. Why is quiet, steady obedience often the greatest indicator of a person's faith?

Phase 4: The Birth of the Messiah (Days 21–25)

DAY 24: THE BETHLEHEM STAR (Ornament: Bright Star)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Matthew 2:1-12** and **Luke 2:1-7**. Contrast the journey of the local shepherds with the long-distance journey of the Wise Men. Define *Adoration*.
- **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **The Shepherds & Angels (The Star/Sheep)** – Simple shepherds were the very first people to hear the good news of Jesus' birth. Why do you think God chose regular working people to hear the news first?
- **Math:** Map coordinates and angles. Solve simple grid navigation puzzles calculating a route based on traveling toward a single fixed directional point.
- **Science (Astronomy & Navigation):** Study the properties of stellar luminescence, mapping how light travel distances are measured, and learn how early astrolabes tracked planetary alignments.
- **Art:** Cut out an elegant 8-pointed star from thick cardboard. Cover it entirely in metallic gold foil or fine gold tinsel to finish your **Bethlehem Star ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Corrugated cardboard, aluminum foil sheets.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a large, long-pointed star layout from heavy corrugated box cardboard. Wrap the entire cardboard star tightly in shiny aluminum foil, smoothing down the edges with your thumbs so that the star reflects the warm ambient light of your Advent tree candles.
- **History:** Study the Roman census system under Caesar Augustus and map the historical travel routes from Nazareth down to Judea.
- **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Angels We Have Heard on High*.
- **Critical Thinking:** The star led the wise men straight to where Jesus was. In what ways can our personal daily lives act like a star to guide other people to find Christ?

Phase 4: The Birth of the Messiah (Days 21–25)

DAY 25: CHRIST THE SAVIOR (Ornament: Baby in a Manger)

- **KJV Reading & Language Arts:** Read **Luke 2:8-20**. Analyze the declaration of the angels. Write a final festive journal entry summarizing your full 25-day tracking of the lineage of Christ.
 - **LA:** Selected reading from **The Jesse Tree**
 - **Jesus Christ (The Manger)** – The whole Bible story points directly to this moment: Jesus coming to dwell with us. What is the greatest gift Jesus has given to you personally?
 - **Math:** Cumulative calculations. Add up all 25 days of your tracking. Calculate the total number of KJV scriptures read across your Advent unit.
 - **Science (Insulation properties):** Study why early agricultural managers used packed straw or hay to keep livestock insulated from cold ground temperatures during winter seasons.
 - **Art:** Glue a few small strands of real raffia or yellow paper grass inside a walnut shell half or mini wooden craft box. Place a small peg doll wrapped in white linen inside for your **Baby in a Manger ornament**.
 - **Materials:** Brown cardstock, a small scrap of white felt, yellow yarn clippings.
 - **Directions:** Cut out a simple U-shaped basket or manger from brown cardstock. Glue a small cluster of chopped yellow yarn strands inside the basket to look like hay. Cut a small oval out of white felt to represent a swaddled baby and glue it gently over the hay.
 - **History:** Study the global impact of the birth of Christ on human timeline recording, analyzing why western history split clean between BC and AD.
 - **Hymn Coordination:** Sing *Joy to the World*.
 - **Critical Thinking:** From the creation of the globe to the baby in the manger, we have seen that every story in the Old Testament points directly to Jesus. How does knowing this complete history strengthen your trust in God's promises today?
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Here are four suggested nightly prayers, organized by weekly themes that connect your Jesse Tree symbols (from the Patriarchs to the Prophets and the Wall). Your family can easily pray together right after hanging their daily ornament.

 Week 1 Theme: Foundations & God's Promises

For the days covering Creation, the Fall, Noah, Abraham, and Isaac.

"Father, thank You for this evening and for the chance to slow down as a family. As we hang our ornament tonight, we remember that You are our Creator and that Your promises never fail. Thank You for always providing exactly what we need, just like You did for Abraham and Isaac. Fill our home with Your peace tonight. In Jesus' name, Amen."

 Week 2 Theme: Deliverance, Loyalty & Leadership

For the days covering Joseph, Moses, the Ten Commandments, Ruth, and Samuel.

"Lord, thank You for being our Deliverer and our Guide. As we place this ornament on our tree, we thank You for giving us Your Word to protect us and show us how to live. Give us hearts like Samuel to listen to Your voice, and hearts like Ruth to be loyal and kind to others. Guard our family as we sleep tonight. Amen."

 Week 3 Theme: Kings, Prophets & God's Power

For the days covering the Root of Jesse, the Shepherd's Crook, the Altar of Stone, and the Righteous Branch.

"Father, thank You for being our Good Shepherd and our Righteous King. Looking at our ornament tonight reminds us of Your incredible power. Just like You answered Elijah with fire, we know You hear our prayers today. Help us to stand up boldly for what is right and to rest safely under Your care tonight. In Jesus' name, Amen."

 Week 4 Theme: Rebuilding & Preparing for the Messiah

For the days covering the Brick Wall, John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, and the Manger.

"Lord, thank You for the reminder that You can rebuild what is broken and that You always finish the good work You start in us. As we get closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus, prepare our hearts to welcome Him fully. Let our home be a place of joy, hard work, and deep peace this week. Amen."

THE ADVENT WREATH WEEKLY CANDLE LITURGY

Christ-Centered KJV Prayers to Accompany the Lighting of the Four Weekly Candles

The traditional Advent Wreath features four perimeter candles (three purple, one pink) and a central white Christ candle. Use these shortened, high-utility scripts on each corresponding Sunday of Advent to set a reverent atmosphere before transitioning into your nightly Jesse Tree study.

THE WEEKLY LIGHTING SEQUENCE

[SUNRISE / TWILIGHT] —► 1. Gather the Family Around the Wreath

|



2. Kindle the Weekly Candle(s)

|



3. Read the KJV Prophetic Proclamation

|



4. Recite the Coordinated Themed Prayer

WEEK 1: THE CANDLE OF HOPE (Prophecy)

To be lit on the First Sunday of Advent. Light one single purple candle.

- **The Scripture Proclamation:**

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." — Isaiah 9:2

- **The Themed Prayer:**

"Almighty God, we light this first candle to represent the **Hope** that shone through the ancient prophets. In a world broken by the darkness of sin, Thou didst promise a coming Redeemer. Lord Jesus, Thou art our ultimate Hope. Keep our hearts anchored in Thy steadfast promises, wake our souls out of spiritual slumber, and fill our home with the joyful expectation of Thy coming Kingdom. In Thy precious name, Amen."

WEEK 2: THE CANDLE OF PEACE (Preparation)

To be lit on the Second Sunday of Advent. Light the first purple candle and a second purple candle.

- **The Scripture Proclamation:**

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
— **Mark 1:3**

- **The Themed Prayer:**

"Lord God of Israel, we kindle these candles tonight to reflect the **Peace** that only Christ can bring. As we prepare our hearts and our home to celebrate Thy birth, clear away all worldly anxieties, pride, and distractions. Fill our household with a quiet stillness. Teach us to walk in holiness and integrity, and let Thy supernatural peace—which passeth all understanding—keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen."

WEEK 3: THE CANDLE OF JOY (The Shepherds)

To be lit on the Third Sunday of Advent. Light two purple candles and the single pink candle.

- **The Scripture Proclamation:**

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." — **Luke 2:10-11**

- **The Themed Prayer:**

"O Lord our King, we lift up our hearts tonight with overflowing **Joy**! Just as the humble shepherds rejoiced in the open fields of Bethlehem at the good tidings of the angels, we rejoice in the reality of our salvation. Thank Thee for sending a Savior to break the chains of death and sin. Let our home ring out with praise, and let Thy gladness be our strength every single day of this season. In Jesus' holy name, Amen."



WEEK 4: THE CANDLE OF LOVE (The Angels)

To be lit on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Light all three purple candles and the pink candle.

- **The Scripture Proclamation:**

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." — 1 John 4:9

- **The Themed Prayer:**

"Heavenly Father, as all four candles burn brightly tonight, we stand in absolute awe of Thy boundless **Love**. Thou didst not look down on our fallen world with indifference; instead, Thou didst give Thy precious, only-begotten Son so that we might live through Him. Melt away all selfishness, coldness, and discord from our family. Teach our children to love one another with a pure heart fervently, just as Jesus loved us and gave Himself for us. Amen."



CHRISTMAS EVE / CHRISTMAS DAY: THE CHRIST CANDLE (The Savior)

To be lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Light all four perimeter candles and the central white candle.

- **The Scripture Proclamation:**

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." — John 1:14

- **The Themed Prayer:**

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men! Lord Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel, the central white candle is lit to declare that **Thou hast arrived!** The long-expected King has stepped out of eternity into time to tabernacle among men.

Thank Thee for Thy manger, Thy cross, and Thy empty tomb. We crown Thee tonight as the absolute Lord and Host of our lives. Shine Thy light through our family to a world that needs Thy grace and truth. All praise, honor, and dominion belong unto Thee forever and ever. Amen!"

Other Activities:

1. A "Memory Verse" for Each Week

Pairing each weekly theme with a single, easy-to-memorize KJV Scripture gives families a shared focus for the week.

- Week 1 (Promises): *"For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth."* — Psalm 33:4
- Week 2 (Guidance): *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* — Psalm 119:105
- Week 3 (The Branch/King): *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."* — Psalm 23:1
- Week 4 (Preparation): *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* — Luke 2:14

2. An "Act of Kindness" or Service Prompt

Because the season can become very self-focused for children, adding a tiny, practical action prompt under your weekly themes turns the lesson into real-world application.

- Week of the Shepherd's Crook: Bake a quick bread or a treat from your blog archives and deliver it to a neighbor or church leader to "shepherd" them with love.
- Week of the Brick Wall: Work together to clean up a shared space, help a family member finish a hard chore, or donate food to a local pantry to help "rebuild" and serve the community.

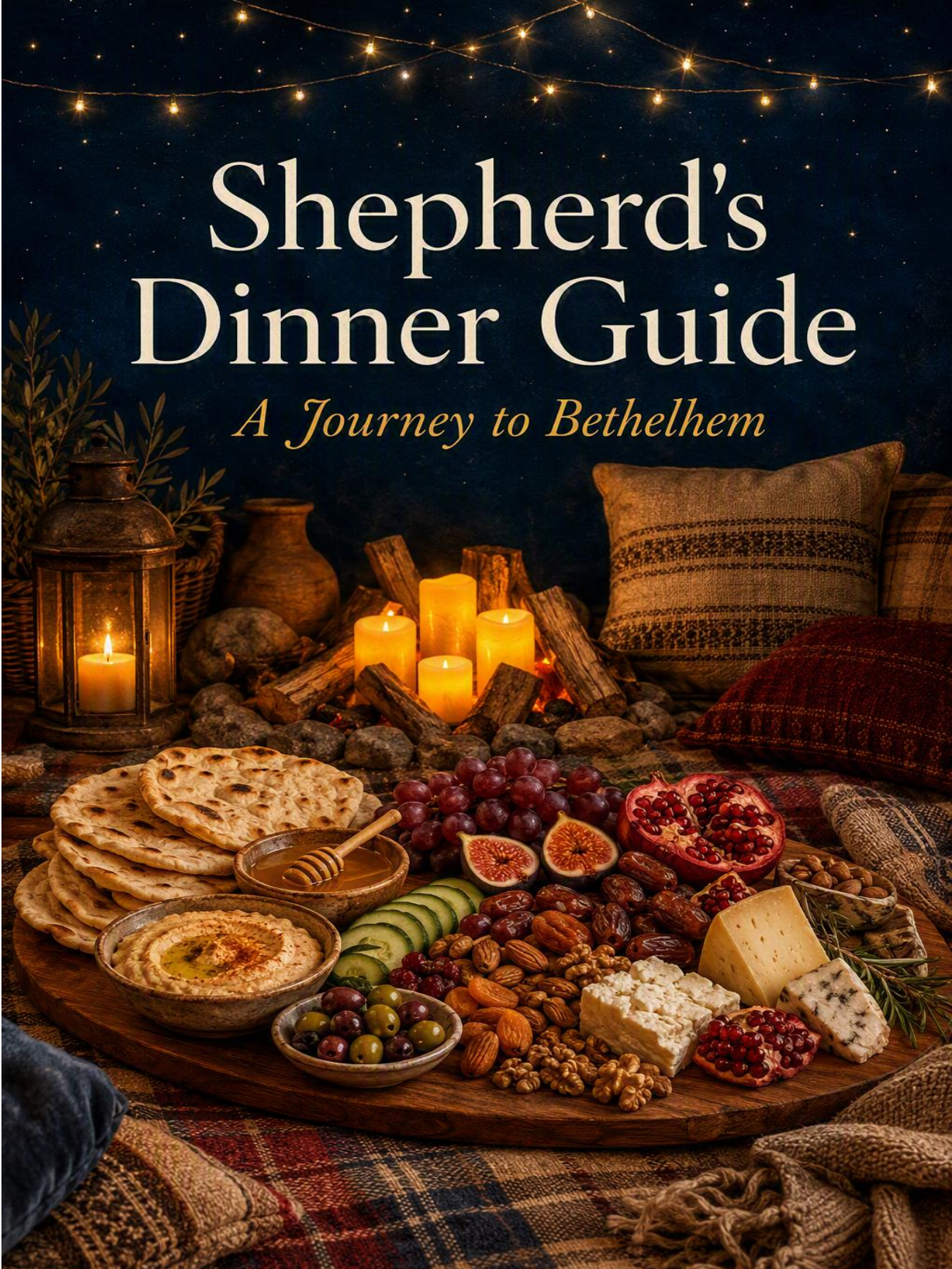
3. A Simple Song or Hymn Suggestion

Music helps stitch memories deep into a child's heart. You can suggest one classic hymn for families to sing or listen to each week before or after they hang the ornament.

- Week 1: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
- Week 3 (The Branch): *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (which directly references the Isaiah/Jesse Tree prophecy!)
- Week 4: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

4. A Shepherd's Dinner

This would be a nice way to incorporate some life skills into the routine and share what you have been doing with your family and friends.



Shepherd's Dinner Guide

A Journey to Bethelhem

Hosting a **Shepherd's Dinner** (sometimes called a *Journey to Bethlehem* dinner) is an incredible family tradition. The goal is to focus on a **simple, rustic menu** featuring finger foods and make-ahead elements that reflect the types of foods eaten in biblical times.

Since Mary and Joseph lived under Old Testament law, traditional menus completely **omit pork and shellfish**, relying instead on wholesome, humble provisions. Here is a comprehensive list of easy, kid-friendly ideas grouped logically so you can pick and choose what fits your table:

Breads & Spreads

Shepherds always relied on simple, hearty breads that could be torn apart easily with their hands.

- **Pita Bread or Flatbreads:** Warm up store-bought pita pockets or flatbreads to tear and dip.
- **Hummus Varieties:** Set out classic garlic or roasted red pepper hummus for easy dipping.
- **Honey & Olive Oil:** A small bowl of local honey and olive oil seasoned with a dash of salt or herbs.

Simple Field Proteins

In the biblical era, dense cheeses, fish, and preserved meats kept well for travelers on long journeys.

- **Goat Cheese or Feta:** Offer a block of feta or simple goat cheese balls rolled in herbs.
- **Beef or Turkey Slices:** Hard salamis or simple slices of roast beef or turkey are great finger-food substitutes for traditional cured meats.
- **Boiled Eggs:** A wonderful, effortless source of protein that children can easily peel.
- **Roasted Chickpeas:** Toss canned chickpeas in olive oil, cumin, and salt, then roast until crispy.

Fruits, Veggies, & Provisions

Bright, finger-friendly items add color to the blanket setup and require zero cooking.

- **Dried Fruits:** Dates, figs, and dried apricots look beautifully rustic and taste like candy to kids.
- **Fresh Fruits:** Pomegranates (cracked open to show the seeds), dark red grapes, or simple apple slices.
- **Crisp Vegetables:** Cucumber slices, grape tomatoes, and baby carrots pair perfectly with hummus.

- **Nuts & Olives:** A simple mixture of almonds or pistachios paired with a small dish of green and black olives.

Warm Mains (For Chilly Evenings)

If you want something hot and filling to anchor the meal, these items simmer hands-off in a slow cooker:

- **Lentil Stew:** A thick, rich lentil soup seasoned with garlic and cumin.
- **Hearty Chicken Soup:** Pull your classic chicken and drop dumplings or vegetable broth right from the stove.
- **Shepherd's Pie:** A fun, thematic ground beef or lamb casserole topped with mashed potatoes.

Simple Beverages

- **Grape Juice:** Served in small glasses or stone mugs to mimic biblical wine.
 - **Mint or Herbal Tea:** Warm or cold tea sweetened with a dollop of honey.
-

Shepherd's Dinner & Activities

MENU

Baked/Smoked Fish or Turkey/Chicken/Lamb

Boiled eggs, Flat Breads, crackers

Goat/Feta Cheese (maybe some other cheeses as well)

Summer Sausage, cold meats,Olives

Fruits including Figs, Pomegranates, Dates, Grapes, etc.

Cucumbers, carrots, etc., Hummus, Lentils

Almonds, Pistachios, or other nuts Honey, Baklava

Sparkling Grape Juice or Wine or Hot Apple Cider

Other simple finger foods

READ/LISTEN

- The Nativity Story Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-12

MUSIC

- Mary, Did You Know?
- When Joseph Went to Bethlehem
- Little Town of Bethlehem
- Silent Night

VIDEOS/MOVIES

- The Christ Child on YouTube -or The Nativity Story on YouTube

Hostess Guide: Setting the Mood for Your Shepherd's Dinner

A Shepherd's Dinner is a beautiful, low-stress way to pause and experience the humility of the first Christmas night. The goal is not a picture-perfect, formal dinner party, but a cozy, sensory experience that helps children and adults alike imagine what it was like waiting in the fields of Bethlehem.

Here are some simple tips to help you set the mood, prepare your home, and guide your family through the evening.

1. Setting the Atmosphere (The Fields of Bethlehem)

To make the night feel completely distinct from a regular family dinner, shift your lighting and sounds to mimic a night under the stars:

- **Starry Skies:** Turn off your bright overhead dining room lights. Instead, string white fairy lights across the ceiling, drape them over furniture, or use battery-operated tea lights safely scattered around the room to look like stars.
- **The Campfire:** Build a "campfire" in the center of your living room. If you have a fireplace, get a real or electric fire going. If not, pull up a video of a crackling fireplace on your TV or phone, or cluster warm battery candles over a few real logs or twigs from the yard.
- **Sounds of the Night:** Play a gentle background audio track of a crackling fire or soft nighttime nature sounds (crickets and soft wind) to give the illusion of being out in the open fields.

2. The Shepherd's Table

Shepherds didn't eat at formal tables with fine china. Bring that rustic simplicity into your dining setup:

- **Picnic Style:** Lay down heavy quilts, plaid blankets, and plenty of pillows directly on the floor around your living room campfire.
- **The Low Table:** If eating entirely on the floor is tricky, you can use a low coffee table wrapped in a rustic drop cloth, or place a sturdy piece of wood on top of crates or sturdy pillows.
- **Rustic Serving:** Use wooden cutting boards, cast-iron skillets, or simple stoneware to serve the food. Instead of neatly slicing your homemade Challah or quick bread ahead of time, place the whole loaf in the center of the blanket and let everyone tear off pieces with their hands, just like travelers would have done.

3. Flow of the Evening

Keep the schedule relaxed and open, allowing plenty of time for discussion and resting in the quiet atmosphere:

- **Welcome the Flock:** As family members or guests arrive, have them take off their shoes, grab a cozy blanket, and find a spot around the fire.
- **The Meal:** Serve your hearty slow-cooker stew or chicken soup alongside your fresh bread. Let the conversation flow naturally around the fire.
- **Scripture and Song:** Once everyone is full, dim the lights even further. Read the account of the shepherds from Luke 2:8-20. Because you are sitting in the dark by "campfire" light, the story will feel incredibly real to the children. Close the night by singing a simple acoustic hymn together, like *Silent Night* or *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Here is a creative, visual layout guide for a "Vigil Board" or Shepherd's Charcuterie Platter.

Arranging these simple foods on a large wooden cutting board, a slate tile, or a rimmed baking sheet makes the meal feel like an interactive, rustic campfire feast on the living room floor!

The Vigil Board Layout Strategy

When building a charcuterie board, the trick is to start with your larger anchor items (like bowls) and build outward in a flowing pattern, filling in any gaps with small snacks.

Step 1: The Anchors (The "Oasis" Bowls)

Place three small rustic bowls or small mason jars on your board in a loose triangle shape to anchor the display:

- Bowl 1 (The Dip): Smooth hummus drizzled with olive oil and a dash of cumin.
- Bowl 2 (The Sweet): Local honey or a thick fruit spread (like fig or apricot jam).
- Bowl 3 (The Savory): A mixture of green and black pitted olives.

Step 2: The Foundations (The Bread Paths)

Create "paths" across the board using your breads and crackers, wrapping them gently around your bowls:

- The Flatbread Fan: Slice round pita bread into triangles and fan them out across one side of the board.
- The Tear-and-Share Bread: Cut a loaf of your fresh Challah or Quick Bread into thick slices or cubes, stacking them in a neat pyramid in the center.

Step 3: The Sustenance (The Protein Clusters)

Group your hearty finger-food proteins together in distinct sections on opposite corners of the board:

- The Cheese Mound: Cubes of feta cheese, a small log of goat cheese rolled in rosemary, or simple white cheddar slices.
- The Meat Fold: Roll or fold thin slices of roast beef or turkey neatly into small ribbons.
- The Egg Nest: Arrange peeled, halved hard-boiled eggs in a small cluster, lightly dusted with coarse salt.

Step 4: The Harvest (Fruits & Veggies)

Use bright, colorful fruits and vegetables to add life to the board and separate the heavier meats and cheeses:

- The Vineyard: Lay a couple of small, uncut clusters of dark red or purple grapes directly onto the board.
- The Garden Rows: Arrange crisp cucumber rounds and bright red grape tomatoes in neat lines filling the spaces between the bowls.
- The Desert Treasures: Scatter handfuls of dried dates, figs, and dried apricots around the edges of the board.

Step 5: Filling the Gaps (The Wilderness)

If you can see any open wood or empty space on your board, tuck in these small, crunchy items to make the platter look completely overflowing and abundant:

- Nuts: Fill any tiny spaces with whole almonds, walnuts, or pistachios.
- Herbs: Tuck a few fresh sprigs of rosemary or thyme under the cheese or bowls to add a beautiful woodland aroma.



Presentation Tip for the Vigil Night

Place your finished board right in the middle of your living room picnic blanket next to your family's "campfire" (fairy lights or candles). Surround the platter with small stone mugs filled with grape juice or warm herbal tea, and let everyone graze freely while you read the account of the shepherds!

SAMPLE INVITATION SCRIPT FOR DESIGNING YOUR OWN INVITATION

✨ You're Invited to a Shepherd's Dinner! ✨

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them..." — Luke 2:8-9

Before the grand celebrations, let's pause to step into the boots of the humble shepherds who were the very first to hear the good news of our Savior's birth! Grab your blankets, dim the lights, and join us for a simple, cozy evening of food, fellowship, and remembering the night the skies lit up with praise.

 **Date:** [Insert Date Here]

 **Time:** [Insert Time Here]

 **Location:** The [Insert Last Name] Living Room "Field"

What to Wear & Bring:

Pack your favorite cozy blankets, pillows, and warm slippers! We will be dining "field-style" on the floor around a low table or blanket to mimic a campfire under the stars.

On the Shepherd's Menu:

We will be keeping our meal simple, rustic, and comforting—just like a shepherd would eat under the night sky!

- **The Main Feast:** Warm, hearty Smoked Fish and Lentil Soup
 - **Breaking Bread:** Fresh, homemade Flat Bread from our kitchen
 - **Sweet Treats:** A rustic fruit crisp and warm cider
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"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." — Luke 2:15

Please RSVP by [Insert Date] so we can prepare enough provisions for the flock!



The invitation card features a dark blue night sky background with a star, a crescent moon, and a shepherd with sheep. The card is framed by a decorative border of green leaves and yellow string lights. The title "SHEPHERD'S DINNER" is written in a large, stylized font. Below the title are four lines for guest information, each starting with a label and a star icon. A paragraph of text follows, and the card ends with the phrase "COME LET US ADORE HIM".

SHEPHERD'S DINNER

Date: ★ _____ ★

Time: ★ _____ ★

Location: ★ _____ ★

On the Shepherd's Menu: ★ _____ ★

*Please join us for a cozy evening of story fellowship, food, and celebration under the stars!
Bring warm clothing! | Please RSVP to your host by: _____*

COME LET US ADORE HIM



This is an identical copy of the invitation card template above, featuring the same night sky illustration, decorative border, title, and guest information fields.

SHEPHERD'S DINNER

Date: ★ _____ ★

Time: ★ _____ ★

Location: ★ _____ ★

On the Shepherd's Menu: ★ _____ ★

*Please join us for a cozy evening of story fellowship, food, and celebration under the stars!
Bring warm clothing! | Please RSVP to your host by: _____*

COME LET US ADORE HIM

Fill in the information and then make copies on cardstock.

Shepherd's Dinner: Vigil Night Sample Discussion Script

This script is divided into three natural parts: a welcoming thought as you begin grazing, a sensory discussion during the meal, and a closing Scripture reading before dessert.

Part 1: Setting the Stage (As Everyone Sits Down)

Parent says:

"Take a look around our living room tonight. The lights are low, we are sitting on the floor wrapped in blankets, and we have a simple feast right here in front of us. Tonight, we are stepping into the shoes of the Bethlehem shepherds.

Before Jesus was born, the world was waiting in a lot of spiritual darkness. The shepherds were out in the cold, dark fields doing their everyday, ordinary jobs. They weren't kings or priests; they were just regular people keeping watch over their sheep. Let's enjoy this food together and think about what it would have felt like to be out under the stars on that quiet, ordinary night."

Here are three simple options for a Shepherd's Meal prayer. They range from a traditional scriptural blessing to a simple, rhyming option that is easy for young children to follow along with.

Option 1: The Traditional Shepherd's Blessing (Heartfelt & Scriptural)

This option focuses on God as our Shepherd and the humility of the night.

"Father, as we gather around this simple blanket tonight, we thank You for bringing our family safely to the end of another busy week. Our hearts are so grateful for this food, which reminds us of the humble provisions You gave to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem.

Thank You for being our Good Shepherd, for watching over us in the dark, and for leading us in paths of righteousness. As we break this bread together, fill our home with the same peace and immense joy that the shepherds felt when the angels broke through the night sky. Bless this food to our bodies. In Jesus' (Yeshua's) name, Amen."

Option 2: The "Good Shepherd" Prayer (Short & Simple)

Perfect if you have younger children with shorter attention spans.

"Lord God, You are the Great Shepherd of our lives. Thank You for this cozy campfire evening, for our family, and for this delicious food on our board. Thank You for loving regular, ordinary people like the shepherds, and for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Please bless our meal tonight and keep our hearts close to You. Amen."

Option 3: A Child's Shepherd Prayer (Rhyming & Easy to Memorize)

A sweet, poetic option that kids can learn to read or repeat.

"The stars are out, the fields are still,
We thank You, Lord, for Your good will.
Bless this bread and simple food,
Your love is safe, Your heart is good.
Like the shepherds watching by night,
Fill up our home with Your peace and light.
Amen."

Part 2: Sensory Discussion (While Eating From the Board)

Use these interactive questions to get children talking while they eat. You don't have to rush through them—let the conversation flow naturally!

- **Question 1 (The Food):** "Look at our Vigil Board. We are eating flatbreads, honey, dried fruits, and cheeses—very similar to what a shepherd would pack in his bag for a long night in the fields. If you had to sleep outside under the stars every single night, what is one thing you would miss most about your regular bed or house?"
- **Question 2 (The Field):** "Imagine how quiet and dark the fields must have been. There were no streetlights, no cars, and no phones. What do you think shepherds did to pass the time during the long, pitch-black night shift?"
- **Question 3 (The Good Shepherd):** "A shepherd's main job was to protect the sheep from wild animals and keep them from getting lost. Jesus calls Himself our 'Good Shepherd.' How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is constantly watching over you, protecting you, and leading you, even when things feel dark or scary?"

Part 3: The Light Breaks In (Before Serving Dessert)

*Dim the lights even lower, leaving only your 'campfire' or fairy lights glowing. Open your Bible to **Luke 2:8-15**.*

Parent says:

"The shepherds were sitting in the quiet darkness, probably tired and cold. And then, in a single second, everything changed. Let's read what happened next."

*(Have a parent or an older child read **Luke 2:8-11** out loud)*

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Parent closes in prayer:

"Father, thank You for sending the greatest news of joy to simple, humble shepherds first. Thank You that You don't look for the richest or most powerful people—You look for hearts that are ready to listen. As we celebrate this season, help our family keep a 'shepherd's heart.' Keep us humble, keep us watching for You, and fill our home with the same great joy they felt when they hurried to find baby Jesus in the manger. In Jesus' (Yeshua's) name, Amen."

Now, pass around your warm cider or fresh fruit crisp, and enjoy the rest of your cozy evening together!

