**Visitors**

Advent/Christmas - Loving

**BIG question**

Are visitors always welcome?

Write your ideas on our class blog.

**KEY WORDS**

Joys, demands, visitors, Isaiah, Messiah, Advent, Annunciation, The Visitation, Magnificat, Joyful Mysteries, Nativity

Advent marks the beginning of the Church’s year (Church’s Story 3 page 86). A traditional way of remembering that we are drawing near to Christmas is the use of a Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree represents the family of Jesus. The name is taken from Isaiah 11:1, in which says;

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Select some symbols:

Adam and Eve – apple (Genesis 2:4-3:24)

Abraham – star (Genesis 22:12-19)

Joseph – colourful coat (Genesis 37, 39:1-50:21)

Moses – tablets of the law (Exodus 2:1-4:20)

David – harp (1 Samuel 16:17-23)

Isaiah – lion and lamb (Isaiah 1:10-20, 6:1-13, 8:11-9:7)

Mary – lily (Luke 1:26-38)

Joseph – hammer or saw (Matthew 1:18-25)

Roots are important parts of a tree, providing strength and a source of life just as our ancestors have done for us.

**KEY QUESTIONS**

Why is a tree a good symbol of a family?

Explain the meaning/relevance of chosen symbols on the Jesse tree?

Why are our family roots important to us as people?

Why would ancestors (roots) of Jesus be important to him?

**ACTIVITIES**

Make a Jesse tree. First, take a large, bare branch and secure it in a pot of sand or rocks. (You can also use a large potted plant or evergreen.)

Distribute cards with the relevant name and scripture passage. Ask the children to design an appropriate symbol to accompany their text, giving reasons for and discuss why they chose to draw a particular symbol.