

CHORUS



David, the king
A man after God's heart
Loved the Lord
From the very start

Esther used her beauty
As queen of the land
To save her people
From an evil hand

Jonah was a prophet
Three days in a fish
Should have learned more
About forgiveness

CHORUS

The Baptist, John
Forerunner of Christ
Prepared the way
For Jesus' sacrifice

Last before the
Holy Incarnation
God made the pinnacle
Of his creation

Mary, second Eve,
Wife of Joseph,
Who believed
The mother of our God

CHORUS



Jesus' Family



JONAH



MOSES

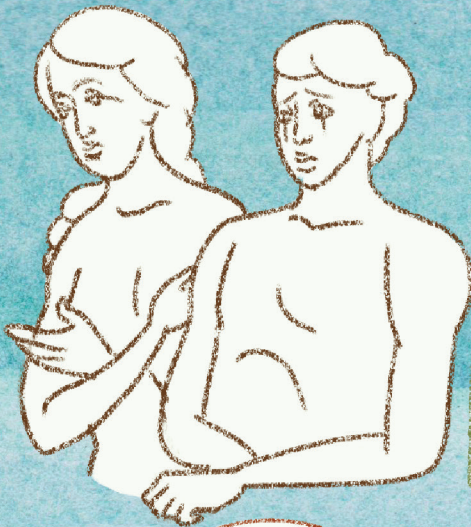


RUTH

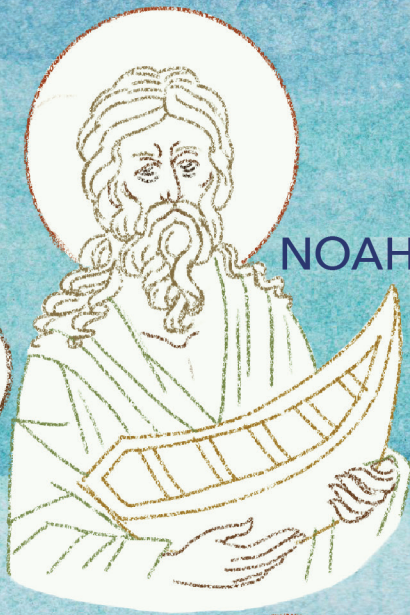


ABRAHAM

ADAM & EVE



NOAH



Jesus' Family

PATRIARCH JOSEPH



ESTHER



JOHN THE BAPTIST



KING DAVID



FINGER PUPPET TEMPLATE

TRACE AND CUT OUT 10

- CUT ON THE DASHED LINE AND FOLD THE DOTTED LINE
- WRAP THE STRIP AROUND YOUR FINGER TO SIZE AND CUT IT LEAVING ENOUGH TO GLUE
- PLACE GLUE ON THE UNDER SIDE OF THE SMALL RECTANGLES AS THEY OVERLAP
- THIS WILL KEEP THE RING FROM SLIPPING OFF YOUR FINGER
- AFTER COLORING JESUS' FAMILY CUT THEM OUT AND GLUE THEM TO YOUR 10 FINGER TUBES



KNOW YOUR FAITH

The Story of Salvation;
Excerpts from The Jesse Tree, written by Lynne Wardach

Written to accompany finger puppets

Adam & Eve: 5508 BC

In the Beginning, God tells man and woman to be fruitful, fill the earth and take care of it. That is why we have our families, and why we accept all life as God has created it to be. We know from our bible stories that Adam and Eve committed the very first sin when they ate from the tree they were forbidden to touch. This made God very sad and disappointed. You see, only sinless beings can be with God in heaven. Now the souls of all men had to go to a special place where they would have to wait, without the presence of God, until Christ would come. Here begins God's plan to save human beings from sin.

Noah: 3250 BC

Time went on and people began to grow very lax in their devotion to God, and commit all kinds of terrible sins. He was sorry He ever made people in the first place, so selfish and wicked had men become; but not Noah. Scripture tells us that Noah was the only just and good man alive whom God did not regret. Did God punish Noah along with all the wicked men? No. God is just. Because Noah respected God, God respected Noah and kept his covenant with him. Noah was told just what he had to do to be safe. Just as those who were inside the ark passed safely through the tribulations of their day, those who remain safely inside the true Church will navigate the turbulent times in which we live. God will see to it that those who love Him are safe, just as He did for Noah.

Abraham: 2000 BC

We believe that there are three Persons in One God. We call this the Trinity and we commemorate our belief in the Trinity each time we make the sign of the cross, using three fingers. One finger is for the Father, one for the Son, and one for the Holy Spirit, pressed together to represent the Holy Trinity. In this way, we understand that God is not a singular being, but a family, like our family on earth. Our

family is a type of trinity too! God is showing us something about His complex nature by giving us a family structure that mimics the nature of Himself. Scripture clearly says that the Lord God appeared to Abraham as three men, not just one. Although this is so, it is difficult to understand exactly how; it is a mystery. Yet, here we see scriptural support for our belief.

Patriarch Joseph: 1875 BC

When Joseph was a young boy, his own brothers sold him to a caravan of strangers for 20 shekels of silver. Who else was sold for silver pieces? This is a story to help us understand how Jesus will deal with those of us who have sold Him unto Death by enslaving ourselves to sin. Joseph later became a prominent man in the Egyptian Pharaoh's palace and not only forgave his brothers when they came to him for help, but welcomed them and invited them to live with him in comfort and safety! How much courage and love it must have taken for Joseph to have forgiven his brothers like that, and to have seen God's plan even amidst suffering and his own isolation from them! In the same way, being betrayed by the disciples and then suffering on the cross for the sins of all of mankind must have been unbelievably hard for Jesus, but He knew that it had to be that way so that we would be safe with Him for eternity.

Moses: 1689 BC

Moses, like Joseph, was raised in an Egyptian home, even though he was a Jew. Jesus was raised in a human home, even though He was God! God the Father had special plans for both Jesus and Moses, and He has special plans for you! The people of God followed Moses into the land that was their heritage after fleeing from slavery in Egypt. When we celebrate the Passover in our Church (we call it Pascha) we celebrate the release of the souls from the slavery of Hades, that dark void, away from God, that human souls had to go into upon their deaths due to the sin of Adam and Eve. When Jesus died, he had to go there too...yet He WAS God. You can't be away from God, and BE God; that's impossible. Adam and Eve and all the other souls of every person who ever lived and loved God, entered into Heaven with Christ that day, never to be slaves to death again.

Ruth: 1100 BC

Ruth was a Caananite woman who was married to an Israelite man who passed away. Naomi, her mother-in-law, realized that it would be hard for her to live as a foreigner among the Jewish people without her husband, and so urged her to go back to her homeland. But Ruth decided to stay and live with her people, the Israelites, and so she accepted their God. Because she was faithful to God, and didn't return to her pagan gods, she later became the grandmother of King David, who was an ancestor of Jesus, so in turn, Ruth became an ancestor of Jesus! If we stand by our Blessed Mother when we find ourselves alone in the world, and if we learn from her how to worship the one true God just as Ruth learned from Naomi, we will become a member of Jesus' new family, the Church!

King David: 1000 BC

Just because you are little doesn't mean you are not powerful! David was only a child, and no match for the giant enemy Goliath. Yet with God on his side, he was courageous and overcame him. Not only did he save himself, but his whole family and all those around him. You may be younger than those around you, but you can be a powerful tool for God when you do His will for all to see. When David was a boy, his job was to herd and protect his father's flock of sheep. While he was in the pasture with them, he often played his harp and composed songs of prayer to God called the psalms, which were inspired by God. Many of the psalms speak of Jesus, who was not born for hundreds of years. How did David know about a descendent of his who would not be born for hundreds of years? God told him so, of course!

Jonah: 760 BC

Jonah had a job to do. God sent him as a prophet to Nineveh to tell those living there that they would endure a great calamity if they did not amend their ways and begin to live holy lives. Jonah tried to run away from God and from his duty to Him by sailing away on a boat, but you cannot hide from God. A storm came up and Jonah found himself overboard. He was swallowed by the whale and remained there for three days, just as Christ stayed in the tomb of the earth for three days after His death. When the whale spit him out, he was "resurrected" like Christ and walked among the Ninevites, talking with them for 40 days about God's will for them. When they heard Jonah, the people repented and were saved.

Esther: 483 BC

She was born a Jew, yet was given in marriage to the King after the first queen was found to be disobedient and was sent out of the kingdom. Esther won his favor by being respectful of his authority and obedient to his will. She then interceded for her people to rescue them from a law that would result in their deaths. Who has done all these things on our behalf? That's right! Our Blessed Mother, Mary, Queen of Heaven! She was born a human being, like us. She did not sin against God as did our first mother, Eve. Mary was given in spiritual marriage to the Holy Spirit to produce Christ our Savior and won the Eternal Father's favor by saying "yes" to his will, thereby making her a wonderful advocate for us before His heavenly throne. Remember to pray to her for intercession whenever you desire something from God the Father, and to make her our model of obedience and virtue!

John the Baptist: 3 BC

Baby John was threatened by King Herod, just as Jesus was, so he and his mother, Elizabeth, would also flee to Egypt. There he would fast and pray and build paths and roadways that would later be traveled by Jesus. When people would decide to abandon sin for good, John would encourage them to make a public proclamation of their new "rebirth" in God by performing a baptism with water. John would prepare their souls to meet the Savior of the world by preparing their minds and hearts to accept the things that Jesus would teach them so that they could begin a whole new life with Him.

Jesus & the Theotokos: Born 3 BC

In the beginning, our God made the heavens and the earth and then made man. In His infinite wisdom, God knew what would happen in the history of man, from Adam's creation and subsequent fall to his redemption through Christ. God knew of Jesus' birth, death, resurrection, ascension and the establishment of the Church all before the creation of the stars. He knew of the rise and fall of every empire, the birth and death of every soul, the beginning and end of the earth itself, all before the creation of the heavens. Amazing as this is, scripture also tells us that not only did God know these things, but he recorded them in the stars as well.

- written by Lynne Wardach

Family Tree Timeline



COLOR AND CUT OUT
JESUS' FAMILY AND PUT THEM ON
THE CORRECT BRANCH



5 BC

1100 BC

760 BC

3 BC

1000 BC

483 BC