

## Chrismon Tree

### Week one:

**Luke 21: 25-36:** signs in the sun, moon and stars; the fig tree parable

**Set up your tree** in the foyer or the sanctuary. It doesn't have to be a fig tree as the reading says "Look at the fig tree and all the trees" – but it could be a fig tree, or a branch of Australian eucalypt with summer flowers, or a traditional Christmas tree.

**Talk about** getting ready for a special occasion. What do you do to get ready for a special day, or special visitors?

**Symbolism:** The wise men looked to the sun, moon and stars for signs of Jesus' coming. Suns and moons can be linked to Jesus as the Light of the world. The star led the wise men to Bethlehem.

**Crafts:** Make stars, moons and suns for the tree:

- ♦ felt stars
- ♦ suns and moons

(see **Chrismon Crafts: sun, moon & stars**)



A **Chrismon Tree** is a Christmas Tree with a difference – all its decorations are Christian symbols, as a way of reminding us that it is Jesus' birth that we celebrate. The Chrismon Tree was an idea developed in the 1950s by the Lutheran Church in Virginia, USA. The name is a contraction of 'monograms of Christ' – or 'pictures of Jesus'. Why not use Advent this year to create a Chrismon Tree for your church foyer? See *The Christmas Tree* from *ALTERnativity* © 2003 for more.

### Week 2:

**Luke 3: 1-6:** John the Baptist begins his preaching; preparing the way...

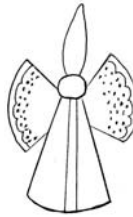
**Talk about...** How did God announce the birth of God's Son? With a host of angels. Tell the story of the shepherds; the angel told the news to people who were not rich or important but to ordinary people doing their daily work.

**Symbols:** Angels, shepherd's crook: Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd

#### Crafts:

- ♦ Cone angels
- ♦ shepherd's crook

(see **Chrismon Crafts: angels & shepherds**)



### Week 3:

**Luke 3: 7-18:** John's preaching about the coming Messiah

**Talk about...** What sort of a Messiah were they expecting? What sort of a Messiah did they get?

**Symbolism:** Tell the story of the wise men. Explain the symbolism of the three gifts: gold because Jesus is a king, frankincense because Jesus is holy, God's son; myrrh because Jesus would suffer and die on the cross.

#### Crafts:

- ♦ crown for a king
- ♦ cross – the rest of Jesus' story

(see **Chrismon Crafts: crown & cross**)



### Week 4:

**Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55):**

Mary visits Elizabeth; the Magnificat.

**Talk about** preparing for the birth of a baby. Tell the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. (**Luke 2: 1-7**) Talk about how different that birth was from the birth of a child in modern Australia.

#### Symbol/Craft:

Hanging crib: the central image of Christmas: every Chrismon tree should have a crib (see **Advent Crafts: Hanging Crib**)



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