

## Jesse Tree – Jesus, The Root of Jesse's Tree

December 2/3, 2020 (1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in Advent)

Pastor Jeff Hesse



### Discipleship Stories / Opening Prayer / Opening Conversation

#### Read: Genesis 22:1-18

1. Put yourself in Abraham's shoes... he didn't have the benefit of looking back. In the moment of God's call, what did Abraham do?
2. What was God's promise?
3. How did Abraham and his descendants receive God's promise? How do you receive God's promises?
4. What about God's Advent promises for His Church?
5. Is walking in God's promises easy? Does God promise immediate bliss, blessing, lollipops, sunshine, and rainbows?

#### Read: Hebrews 11:1-19

1. What is faith? What do you hope for... seen and unseen?
2. **READ out loud Hebrews 11:1-3, 8 and 17b** →
3. Why is Jesus the Root of Jesse's Tree... God's promises?
4. *Read Colossians 1:15-20 & Hebrews 11:19* - How does this reality and the daily events of life collide?
5. How can you draw a connection from the "heroes of the faith", their joys, sadness, challenges, fears... and apply them to your journey of faith right now? What is faith... for you?
6. Read: Matthew 1:1-17
  - Why do you think the Holy Spirit inspired Matthew to write these words? *Re-read Genesis 22:17-18.*
  - Look at these names! What stories do you remember about these people that helps us answer Question #5?

### Closing Prayer

***<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.***

***<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. **And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*****

***<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, **when he was tested...*****

(Hebrews 11:1-3, 8 & 17b)