

The TREE of LIFE

Attention: Christian Youth Leaders and Bible Club Organizers...

This is a simple Christmas story that involves youngsters in your Christmas Presentation.

The story can be read by one or more adults, or it can be read by one or more children.

As the reading progresses, a Christmas Tree is decorated by one or more youngsters.

Supplies Needed:

The focus is a **Christmas tree** suitable for your space – probably something about 4 feet (1.2 meters) tall, on a **small table**. (A short person may need to reach the top.) A simple **garland** will do for basic initial decoration, with very few (or no) lights. It is important that you not distract from the main decorations to be hung as the story is read.

The following **ornaments** can be purchased, borrowed, or made by hand ahead of time. (Construction can be a project in itself for the kiddies.)

- ◆ Christmas tree (to be hung on the main tree)
- ◆ An apple or fruit
- ◆ Gingerbread man, snowman, or similar character (but *not* a Santa Claus)
- ◆ Angel
- ◆ Candle or light
- ◆ Cross
- ◆ The word "Joy"
- ◆ A golden leaf
- ◆ A golden door or gate
- ◆ Another golden item (such as a castle)
- ◆ Small book or tiny Bible
- ◆ Christmas Star (for the top of the tree)

Director's Notes:

The presentation script follows on two pages. The background narrative is written in blue italics. The Scripture verses are written in black text, and the applicable ornament for each verse is listed and underlined in pink. The ornament should be held up for all to see as each verse is read, and then hung on the tree as the reading is completed.

The reading allows great flexibility in format and presentation, allowing minimal or maximal participation, as may suit your particular group. You may choose to have one narrator and then a reader for each verse. Or you may choose to have a reader for each segment (narration and its following verses). Or you could have one person read the entire work. In any case, you should try to involve as many children as you can in the decoration of the tree.

The Scripture verses are taken from the *New International Version*. Their copyright notice follows the script. As for the narration of the presentation, we hold the copyright and **permission is hereby granted for Christian groups to stage this presentation** – either exactly as written, or in a form modified for their particular circumstances but based on our version.

The TREE of LIFE

START NARRATION:

*It's Christmas... Time to choose a pretty tree, and to get out the ornaments. Some of us will have a live tree this year ...some an artificial one. But here's something to think about. One day, a long time ago, God created a very special tree. It was called the **Tree of Life**. The Bible tells us about it.*

Genesis 2:9 Christmas tree

And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the **tree of life** and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now, Adam and Eve were not supposed to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but they disobeyed God and ate from it.

Genesis 3:17 Apple / Fruit

To Adam He said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree ... cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life."

Genesis 3:22 Gingerbread Man (or Snowman)

And the LORD God said, "The man ... must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the **tree of life** and eat, and live forever."

Genesis 3:24 Angel

After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the **tree of life**.

From that day, we were all forbidden to eat from that special tree. But God gave us some blessings that remind us what the tree is like.

Proverbs 3:18 Candle / Light

Wisdom is a **tree of life** to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

Proverbs 11:30 Cross

The fruit of the righteous is a **tree of life**, and he who wins souls is wise.

Proverbs 15:4 Word "Joy"

The tongue that brings healing is a **tree of life**, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Then God tells us when we will see the real Tree of Life again. It will be in heaven.

Revelation 2:7 Golden item (e.g. - castle)

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the **tree of life**, which is in the paradise of God.

The Bible tells us that there is a river that runs down the great street in heaven.

Revelation 22:2 Golden leaf

On each side of the river stood the **tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:14 Golden door or gate

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the **tree of life** and may go through the gates into the city.

God's Word is true – we can be sure of it!

Revelation 22:19 Book or Bible

And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the **tree of life** and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

*The tree of life isn't a tree that we decorate at Christmas and then put away in a box for the rest of the year. The real **Tree of Life** is the **Lord Jesus Christ**, who is freely available to each of us, all year round. Without Him, we have no life. So when you decorate your tree this year, remember to **crown your Christmas with Christ**.*

Star for top of tree

ALL: Merry Christmas !!