

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan



Date 22nd September

<b>TITLE:</b>	Abraham - a call and a promise
<b>THEME:</b>	God chooses Abraham to play a part in His purposes for humanity
<b>AIM:</b>	YPs should understand that we fit into God's plans, not the other way around.

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The story of Abraham is one of the most powerful examples of God revealing His purposes to mankind. Abraham does nothing to deserve God's blessing, yet God lavishes on him His grace, and promises that his family will be a blessing to all humanity. He is promised a homeland and numerous descendants.

Teenage life is filled with school, friendships, and self-discovery. It's easy to lose sight of the big picture of our faith journey and God's purposes for us. Yet understanding God's promises, as we see in the story of Abraham, provides a solid foundation for our identity and purpose. God has a unique plan for each of us, just as He did for Abraham.

### WARM UP

Picture quiz. Guess the landmark/person. Slowly reveal the images giving chance for people to guess what or who the image is.

Jigsaw. Give each person a piece of a picture. Get them to work out what goes where to get the big picture.

### MAIN TEACHING

#### READ Genesis 17:1-2

1. How do you think Abraham felt when God appeared to him at the age of 99?
2. What do you think it means to be almighty?
3. What do you think a covenant is?
4. In what ways can we "walk before God faithfully" in our daily lives as teenagers? Why is it hard to do so?

**Key teaching:** God is almighty, His power is limitless. Sometimes that is hard to understand as we are limited. Walking faithfully with God implies an element of trust and obedience. This can be a challenge when we are faced with easier options that look more appealing in the short term. Often these are sinful.

A covenant is a special agreement between two parties. It implies the keeping of promises and agreements to do certain things. God's promises are faithful, He keeps them all, whereas humans struggle to keep their part. God's nature is to be faithful despite our failing!

### Read Genesis 17:3-7

5. Why might Abraham have struggled to believe God when He said *“for I have made you a father of many nations.”* ( get YPs to reflect back on Abrahams family life... no kids!)
6. Why do you think God changed Abram’s name to Abraham?
7. How does this covenant with Abraham reflect God’s inclusive love for all nations?

**Key teaching:** Abram’s humility is evident in his posture of falling facedown. He recognises God’s power. How do we show we recognise God’s power?

God changes Abram’s name to Abraham, signifying a new identity and purpose.

The covenant extends beyond Abraham to encompass many nations. God is revealing the big picture. Abraham will not see it completed, but he needs to believe it to be true. He must have faith. We need to do the same. We will not always see the fruit of God’s promises to us ( until we are in eternity)

### Read Genesis 17:15-16

8. What do you think Sarah might have felt upon hearing about God’s plan for her?
9. In what ways can we be sceptical like Sarah, not believing God has almighty power to do anything?
10. Anyone know how Abraham tried to manipulate God into keeping His promise? (Hagar/ Ishmael)
11. How does God demonstrate He is able to keep His promises?

**Key teaching:** Sometimes we doubt God’s ability to do anything, yet God is still faithful. He acts on our behalf even when we can’t see how He can. Sometimes we try to make God work for us for our benefit instead of submitting to God’s will. True faith calls us to submit and allow God to work through us not try to force God into our mould.

### TAKEAWAY

God is able to transform the most difficult of circumstances. He is almighty. When He is with us it can give us a new purpose and perspective on life. We begin to fit into His plans and see the big picture rather than trying to make God fit our lifestyle.

### POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

Abram, means “exalted father” in Hebrew. His new name, Abraham, means “father of a multitude”  
Sarai means princess, a personal name. Sarah means princess to all indicating her role as mother of nation.

PPT available on youth laptop. Quiz on there.

Jigsaw will be available in Garden Room