

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan



Date 6th October 2024

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| <b>TITLE:</b> | Isaac—Happy Families?                                       |
| <b>THEME:</b> | Families are not perfect but God still fulfils His purposes |
| <b>AIM:</b>   | YPs   |

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Isaac's family appears to be somewhat dysfunctional yet God still uses the chaos, lies and deceit to fulfil His purposes. We don't know too much about Isaac except that his wife Rebekah was chosen for him by the Lord. She was barren for twenty years before she bore Jacob and Esau. It was a miraculous birth, a response to Isaac's prayers. Jacob and Esau were the opposite of each other and their parents had favourites. Isaac loved Esau, the outdoor kid whilst Rebekah favoured Jacob, the homely boy! This in itself caused division. Jacob's desire to become first in the family causes all sorts of problems.

### WARM UP

Show pictures of families... guess who? (they are not hard!) Get YPs to respond to the questions on slide 5... initiate a discussion... (families are diverse chaotic, and bound by love)

Watch clip from "Cheaper by the dozen." What is causing the chaos? How could it be remedied?

### MAIN TEACHING

Read Genesis 24:1-66 OR watch cheesy Sunday school video of story on PPT

1. Why do you think Abraham wanted Isaac to marry someone from "back home" and not a local girl?
2. Does it seem weird that Abraham's servant is tasked with choosing a wife for Isaac? What problems do you foresee in this?
3. How is God involved in this decision? v7, v12ff
4. Does God still get involved in how we choose our husbands or wives? Is it important?

**Key teaching.** Marrying someone who does not share our beliefs can be dangerous in that they can easily lead you away from faith. It was common practice for parents to choose wives for sons etc. Marriages were often political or financial rather than love based. God is directing these events to ensure His purposes are fulfilled. Remember God had promised Abraham that his descendants would fill the earth. Rebekah was a blood relative, so God is ensuring His promise is fulfilled. Today we must ensure we allow God to lead our personal relationships. If you are a Christian then a future wife/husband should be one too. God's plans will be to use couples to grow His kingdom. Both need to be sharing the faith.

**Read Genesis 25:19-34 and Genesis 27:1-40. OR watch cheesy video**

1. If parents have favourite children why can this lead to problems?
2. What problems did it cause for Isaac and Rebekah?
3. Siblings often fight, but what was so wrong about Jacob's attitude to Esau?
4. How did Esau disrespect his family?

**Key teaching.** Family life can be chaotic, but if parents love their children equally many issues can be avoided. There are dangers in favouring one. It causes deceit, lies and disharmony, leading to the break up of Isaac's family. This can be true today. Both Jacob and Esau showed disrespect to their parents and family. Esau, because he failed to understand his role in the family. He was only concerned with his own interests. Jacob, because he wanted what was not his to have. His ambitions got the better of him and destroyed his relationship with his brother.

**How can we avoid this in our own families?**

God needs to be at the centre of our families. There will still be disagreements and our families will never be perfect but God still uses us and our families to fulfil His plans and purpose for our lives.

In the mess that was Isaac's family, God still worked out His plan to bless Jacob.

Ask the question: **What can I do in my family to honour God?**

**TAKEAWAY**

Our families are not perfect, nor are we, but despite this God is still able to bless us, use us and help us in the midst of our family life. YPs must not worry about their family not being "perfect" or blended, diverse or broken. His love and compassion is far more powerful than our circumstances and our flaws and failings. **What can I do in my family to honour God?**

**POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrwZrMzX09o> Isaac and Rebekah video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGs1WfRKIoM> Jacob and Esau

[Cheaper by the dozen dinner issues](#)