

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 3rd November 2024

TITLE:	1. Joseph —a lack of wisdom leads to trouble
THEME:	Joseph demonstrates a lack of empathy and sensitivity. It causes problems.
AIM:	Our attitudes and words are dangerous if mismanaged by us. We sometimes mess up but God is still with us. We can learn from our mistakes.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The story of Joseph is pretty famous and contains many powerful truths. The character of Joseph foreshadows Jesus. Rejected by his own, yet is the one who rescues them from death. In this part of the story we will focus on Joseph's early life. As a young man, he was given a gift by God: dreams and the ability to interpret them. Yet God did not provide him with the wisdom he needed to use those gifts appropriately. He had to learn that the hard way. This is true of us too. As Christians we are gifted with the Holy Spirit and the abilities He provides, yet we need to learn how to use them appropriately.

WARM UP: Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp4Fym1KImY>

If a movie or musical was made about you and your family, what would be a funny story/experience that would make for a good scene? What would be a serious one?

What's the craziest dream you can remember? What do you dream of doing/being as an adult?

MAIN TEACHING

Read Genesis 37:1-4

1. What do we learn about Joseph and his brothers from these verses?
2. Have you ever faced jealousy of been favoured? What did it feel like?
3. Does Joseph's commitment to his father and his family responsibilities show him in a good or bad light? (He reports to his father the poor behaviour of his brothers.)
4. Is it better to be truthful and honest or maintain positive relationships with friends and family?

Key teaching: Joseph is portrayed as honest and honouring his father, his brothers are the pantomime villains. But is it as clear as this? Did Joseph act wisely by reporting to his father? His actions and those of his father, lead to jealousy. Could he have acted differently and still maintained his honesty? There is no clear answer here. For us today we have to make difficult choices about how we respond to things we know are wrong but our friends and family are involved in. How we go about deciding develops our wisdom.... Either Godly wisdom or human wisdom.

READ Genesis 37:25-11

1. Joseph shares the dreams that God has given him. What was the reaction of his brothers and his father?
2. Why do you think they reacted this way?
3. Should we remain quiet if we know the truth, even if people won't like it?
4. Could Joseph have managed the situation differently? Why didn't he?

Key teaching: Sometimes it is very hard to tell the truth because you know it might upset people. When we are young we sometimes don't always choose the right way to do things (Happens when you're older too) because we lack experience or wisdom. God often allows us to struggle in order to learn to trust Him and recognise that He is still with us even when we seem to have got things wrong.

Read Genesis 37:16-36 Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNn1iw2N8No>

(one more angel in Heaven)

Exercise: Highlight the laws of God you think are broken in this passage (printed sheet available)

Feedback how many, what are they?

1. What can we learn about the impact of Joseph's lack of wisdom in how he shared his dreams?
2. Is Reuben less guilty than the others? v 21-22 Why?

Key teaching: The impact of Joseph's lack of wisdom, despite his good intentions, was devastating on him and his brothers and wider family. It led to them breaking numerous commands. It is important for us to realise that we need wisdom in dealing with life. Even when we are trying to do the right thing. We may cause problems for ourselves and others. We should seek advice from more experienced Christians and not think that we can cope or manage. Remember Joseph was 17! He still had a lot to learn.

TAKEAWAY

Just because we have faith in Jesus and/or God has gifted us with an ability/ talent etc does not mean we have the wisdom to use it correctly. We will make mistakes. This does not mean God has left us. Sometimes God allows us to struggle in order to teach us wisdom.

Resources and activities

The robe was a visible sign of Jacob's (Israel) favouritism and a foretaste that Joseph would inherit a greater share than his brothers.

Sticker to give away *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5*