

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 24th November

TITLE:	Connecting @ Christmas 1:- Waiting
THEME:	Advent points to Jesus. Patience and the way God uses it to train us not to waste our time whilst waiting for Him!
AIM:	God's timing is not always fast, but it is perfect. How do we use our time for God?

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Advent is a time when we are preparing for Christmas, the arrival of Christ on earth. Many people find waiting frustrating and have no patience. They just want to get on with it. For many children, Christmas Eve seems like the longest day! Remember that the Jews had been waiting centuries for their Messiah to arrive. The one who would set them free from oppression, defeat their enemies and reign over them as King forever. The question is... why does God wait so long sometimes before He acts. After all, He began His plan of salvation for humans right after Adam and Eve ate the apple! How come He took so long?

WARM UP

Play a round of pass the parcel! Can have music off Youtube. Don't forget to share the present in the middle! Let's hope it is worth waiting for. If they are disappointed by the gift... use it as an opportunity to discuss not being disappointed by Jesus.

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1: Scripture look up and match to explanations stuck on wall or hidden around the room (you will need to set this up.)

Feedback: What were the verses and what did they mean? What is a common theme? (time distance before event happened)

Key teaching point. God waited a long time before sending Jesus to rescue the world.

Why? Discussion ... why did God wait so long?

Activity 2 : Is waiting a good thing? What can we learn when we are waiting? What are the frustrating things about waiting?

Key teaching Point: look up the verses on the PPT use them as a basis for discussion

Activity 3. Jesus has already arrived, lived, died and rose again. God's rescue plan is under way. Is it finished? What are we still waiting for? What should we do whilst waiting? Use questions on the PPT to start a discussion.

Key Teaching point: Christians are waiting for Jesus to return and take us to heaven.

Our lives should not be wasted by just sitting around waiting.

Ask: How do we prepare for Christmas during ADVENT?

We prepare for Christmas by decorating, shopping, singing carols, doing nativity plays, and we get quite excited by it. So we need to live for Jesus whilst waiting for Him to come back! What does that look like? Are we as excited by living and waiting for Jesus as we are for Christmas?

Develop a discussion about how we can live a productive life for Jesus whilst waiting for Him to return.

Use PPT questions to help

Watch clip (American but ok!) idea... we prepare for everything else in life so we need to prepare for Jesus' return.

Activity 4

Waiting can be boring. Waiting can cause anxiety. Waiting can be painful. What do you do to get through the difficult times when you are waiting?

Discuss what people do to distract themselves from the boredom of waiting for a bus /train etc

What about waiting for someone to recover from illness? Waiting for exam results?

Key teaching Point

Parable of ten virgins Matt 25:1-13. We need to stay focussed and alert or we will miss out

Philippians 4: 6-7 Prayer. Isaiah 40:31 Hope gives strength Romans 5:3-4 Suffering produces hope

Focus on Hope... even in tough times, when the waiting for Jesus to come back is hard, we have hope because Jesus promises He will return. We are His children He will not leave us.

TAKEAWAY

Sheet with summary of all the key verses

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

Sheet with verses.

PPT with questions and video clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=5rpIVnPo0rI>

I've tried the link... sometimes it works sometimes it takes you to a cover page for YouTube. You might need to copy and paste link into You Tube ... sorry