

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 29th September

<b>TITLE:</b>	Abraham: Faithful but not perfect
<b>THEME:</b>	Abraham trusts God but still makes mistakes and gets things wrong.
<b>AIM:</b>	YPs should understand that even Christians are not perfect. We all sin.

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The story of Abraham is a vital one in the big picture of the Bible narrative. It is when God really begins to put into action His plan to rescue humanity from sin. He chooses one man and woman to be the founders of a nation, despite them being old and childless. This nation would of course go on to give birth to Jesus, whose life, death and resurrection would bring salvation to the world. The key idea is God chose Abraham, he did nothing to merit God's selection. All he had to do was to have faith. This is the picture all the way through scripture. God chooses, people respond with faith. They make mistakes but God is still faithful to them. We too will make mistakes but we can rest assured that if we trust Jesus, God will remain faithful to us, forgive us and redirect us on to His path again.

### WARM UP

**Would I lie to you?** A series of pictures/statements and the group guess if they are true or a lie. All on the PowerPoint (links to Abraham lying about Sarah!)

Possible trust exercises can be done.

### MAIN TEACHING

#### Read Genesis 12: 10-20

1. What mistake did Abram/Abraham make?
2. Why was it a mistake?
3. What was the impact on Pharaoh?
4. In what way was God faithful despite Abram's sin?
5. What are the kind of errors of judgement young (new to faith) Christians might make?
6. When you make a mistake (sin) what should you do? Look up 1 John 1:9

#### Key teaching:

Abraham is quite new in his journey of faith with God. He has not understood that God is faithful in all circumstances. If God has called him, promised him things, then God will deliver. Abraham fails to trust God at His word, thinking he knows better. In ch12:2-3 God promises Abram that he will be a blessing to

all nations and will become a great nation. By ch12:11 he has forgotten all that!

Abraham leaves Egypt with a blessing! The wealth he has accumulated. Despite messing up, God remains faithful. This is a key idea for us today, especially our YPs. They will mess up, make mistakes, but God will not give up on them. They need to seek forgiveness and start again. 1 John 1:9

**READ Genesis 15:18 - 16:10**

1. What does the Lord promise Abram? Why would this have been a strange promise to him and his wife Sarai?
2. How do Abram and Sarai try to make God's promise happen?
3. Why do they do this?
4. Why is this another example of not trusting God?
5. What problems does it cause?

**Key Teaching:** Humanly speaking Abram and Sarai were too old to become parents. But God wants to ensure people see His hand in it. It is a miracle. By trying to force God's hand and do things in a way that was culturally acceptable but not God's way Abram and Sarai have failed to trust God. Even in this situation we see God's grace towards Hagar. Blessing her and her child. God will go on to fulfil His promise His way with Abram. Sometimes we think we know better than God and make poor choices that cause problems and divisions.

**READ Genesis 22:1-19**

1. How does Abraham display great faith?
2. How is his faith and obedience rewarded? v17-18
3. How do we know Abraham had great faith in this story? How do we know he still believed in God's promise?

**Key Teaching:** Abraham must have believed that God could raise the dead or provide another son for Sarai otherwise why would he obey the command? Sometimes our obedience is done in faith and we can't see the Big picture, but we know God will provide (v8,13). Faith in Jesus requires us to trust the promises in the Bible without necessarily knowing all the answers, but trusting in God's faithfulness.

**TAKEAWAY**

Like Abraham, we will mess it up, it does not mean we have blown it! God is merciful and forgiving. We need to keep going back to God and seeking forgiveness, learning from our mistakes and starting over. The more we aim to please God and be obedient to Him the more blessing we will receive. ( Not cash! But spiritual blessing, treasure in heaven) **Bible verse sticker to give away Proverbs 3:5-6**

**POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES**

In Abram's time it was acceptable to use a servant to bear children if a wife could not. The children would have the same rights as a "true" son and would inherit. Hagar's son Ishmael would become the father of the Arab culture.