

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 13 October 2024

TITLE:	2. Isaac -blinded by his stomach
THEME:	Isaac's love of food led him astray and caused family issues
AIM:	YPs should learn to recognise things in their life that distract them

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Isaac is an old man and is losing his sight. He seems to be a person who loves his food, and Esau takes after him! It is this love of a good meal that distracts him. He allows his passion for food to blind him from what is going around him. Ultimately it causes a family bust up. We too can be a little like this. There are things in life that we become passionate about... sport, music, fashion social media, friends, work, a hobby etc. Sometimes these consume us and blind us to other important things such as "What does God want to do with my life?" We can exclude God to protect our passion!

WARM UP

If you could eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Would you eat these pictures on PPT? (these were the nice ones I found!!)

MAIN TEACHING

RECAP: Isaac's family is a little dysfunctional. Isaac and Rebekah favour different children. The two boys dislike each other and one has cheated the other out of his birthright (The right to inherit!). It is a family in a mess. In this story the old man Isaac has a passion for food and it is this passion that is his downfall.

NB see notes about the blessing in resources section.

Read: Genesis 27:1-35 it is quite long but divide it up into sections.

1. Not only was Isaac physically blind, but he appears to be "blinded" by a passion. What passion?
2. Who is the worst person in this story? (Isaac for falling for the trick? Rebekah for eavesdropping and planning the trick? Jacob for agreeing to deceive his father? Esau for being tricked by his brother twice!)
3. What advice would you give to Isaac to prevent what happened?

Key teaching: It seems Isaac liked his food and it was this passion that distracted him from understanding what was going on. His favouritism of Esau and his desire to have Esau's stew freshly caught and cooked distracted him from the main thing... Blessing his son. This enabled a deception to take place. It is possible that his desire to bless Esau prevented him from "seeing" the deception.

Activity

Using the flip chart... Get YPs to list the things that

- Could “blind” you from doing the right thing?
- Could “blind” you from seeing the truth about Jesus
- Could “blind” you from being loyal and respectful to your family

Discussion in groups or together

1. Are there common things?
2. Which do you think are the most dangerous or most likely to “blind” you? Why?
3. What might be your “blind” spots? (this is a challenging question, it may not be appropriate)

Key Teaching:

The world is full of distractions and things that “blind” us from the truth and our responsibilities to others/family. These things can appear to be acceptable and ordinary in life but if they consume us they become a danger, preventing us from developing our faith and Christian walk. We need to be aware of our own weaknesses and pray for the Holy Spirit’s help in redirecting attention towards Jesus.

TAKEAWAY

Reflection activity on strengths and weaknesses. Identifying possible “blind spots”

Separate sheet with activity. **Personal, not to be shared.**

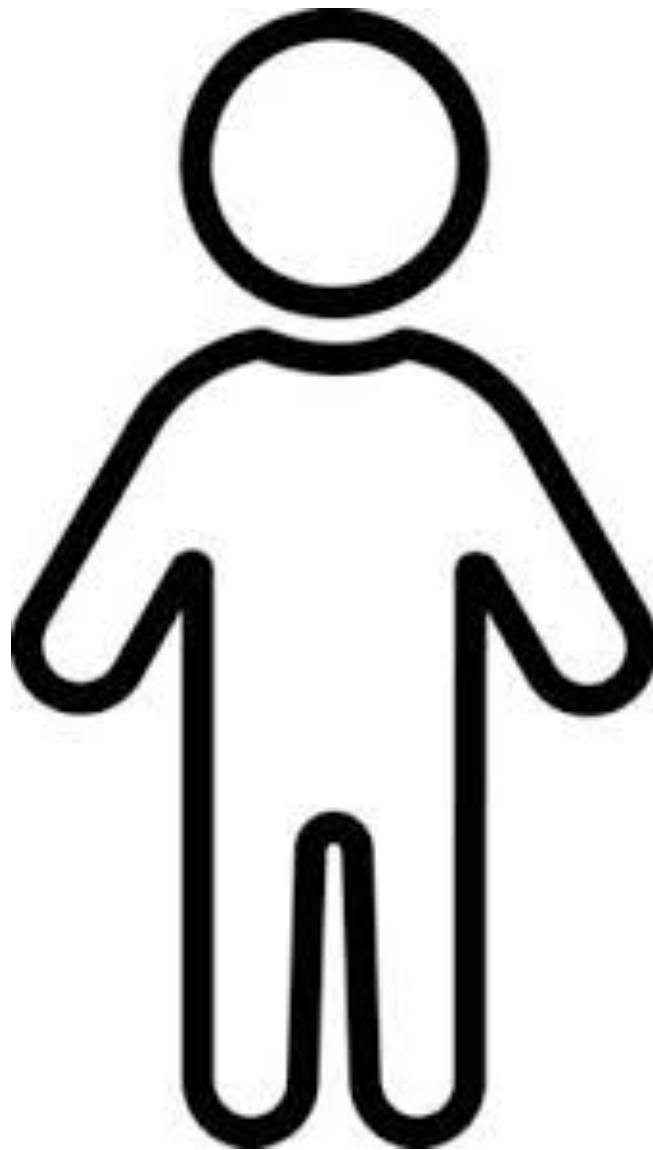
Pray about it as a group at the end.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

The blessing. The ancient world believed that blessings and curses held almost magical power and were regarded as sacred. God had promised blessing to Abraham. (The whole world would be blessed through him and God would give him the land of Canaan) This was passed to his son Isaac. He was now about to pass it on to one of his sons. Traditionally the eldest got the blessing.

My strengths and my “blind spots.”

We all have strengths and blind spots. Can you identify yours?



STRENGTHS

- Hard worker
- Compassionate
- Caring
- Kind
- Helpful
- Thoughtful of others
- Trustworthy
- Reliable
- Loyal
- Generous
- Gracious
- Joyful
- Self controlled

Blind Spots?

Obsessed by...

- Sport
- Music
- Fashion/appearance
- Make up
- Friends
- Boyfriend/ girlfriend
- School work
- Hobby

Spend too long on...

- Social media
- Gaming
- Texting mates

Write a short prayer for help with the strengths and to tackle the blind spots.

Think too much about

- Food
- Money
- Possessions I want
- What others think of me
- What I want out of life