

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 1st December 2024

TITLE:	Connecting @Christmas :- Searching
THEME:	God is looking for us more than we look for Him!
AIM:	Understand that we are all searching for satisfaction.. Only Jesus gives it!

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Human beings are always looking for something to satisfy them. Sweets, chocolate, money, friendships, fame and a career! But all these are disappointing and will let you down. Ecclesiastes says that “God has placed eternity in the human heart.” God wants us to search for contentment and satisfaction and He knows we will only find it with Him. God is on the look out for us too. He wants us to come to Him and celebrates when we do! In the Christmas story, two groups of people searched for Jesus. The Shepherds and Magi to worship Him and Herod’s soldiers to kill Him. Searching can be positive or negative, are we looking for the right things that bring life or the bad things that bring destruction?

WARM UP

Do a treasure hunt with chocolate coins. If weather is ok do it in the garden!
Obviously will need to set up early for this! (chocolate coins will be available)

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1: Watch the **first** video clip from Friends... searching for the presents at Christmas.

1. Why are they keen to find the presents? Is it a genuine reason? Is there another reason why they want to find the presents?

Watch the **second** clip.

2. Why did Chandler decide it was wrong to look at the presents? Is it better to know or have a surprise? What was Chandler’s response to his present?

Key teaching point: People are always searching. We want to know what will make us happy. Sometimes when we discover something we are disappointed by it (Chandler’s response)

Activity 2: Bible verse... Ecclesiastes 3:11 *He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, **without the possibility** that mankind will find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.*

Ask what they think it means... Does God want us to search without finding Him?

Key teaching point: God has hidden eternity from us in order that we have faith in Him and trust Him. If we could find God without faith then we would become self righteous and proud. We search for purpose in all sorts of things but it is ONLY faith that reveals truth.

Activity 3: Divide YPs into pairs or 4s. Get them to read Matthew 2 together.

1. Which two groups of people were searching for Jesus?
2. What were their reasons for searching?
3. Do feedback

Read Luke 2 8:15

1. What is the difference with the shepherds' search for Jesus? (Told to go)

Key teaching point: Magi searched because they wanted to worship. They acknowledged who Jesus was. Herod rejected Jesus and wanted to be king of his own life. You cannot do both.

Sometimes God calls people to search for Him... (influx of people at VBC who just felt they needed to be here!)

Activity 4.

Ask who knows the parables of the Lost? (give clues if struggling Sheep, coin, son)

Get a volunteer to tell one.

Watch short cheesy clip about the "lost" parables

In all the parables which character is God and which is us?

What do we learn about God from these parables?

Knowing that God is looking for us... He loves us and wants us back (like a lost child!)

How do you feel? Do you want to be found? Do you want to stay lost? Why?

Why might people not want to be found?

Key teaching point: God is a loving Father who desires for us to be with Him. He seeks us out and welcomes us back, despite what we have done (think of lost son). If we are willing He WILL take us back.

TAKEAWAY

Stickers!

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=8Svwt4PzV90>

Sticker sheets.