

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 15 December 2024

<b>TITLE:</b>	Connecting @ Christmas :- Sending and receiving
<b>THEME:</b>	We have received the gift of Jesus. What does He send us to do?
<b>AIM:</b>	Understand that Jesus is the best gift we can receive. We respond by our

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Christmas is a costly business! The shops look forward to it as it is the biggest time for making money! The bigger your family, the more costly Christmas becomes. A gift may cost us a great deal to buy or send to someone, but it will be free to receive. It cost God everything to send Jesus to die for us, to remove our sin. It is of course free for us to receive this incredible gift. However a gift is only successful **IF** it is received with thanks and not lost in transit! This is true of the Gospel. We need to personally receive it to make it worthwhile. How should we respond to God's grace? By allowing Him to **SEND** us out to serve Him. We **RECEIVE** a free gift and are **SENT** out to share it with others.

### WARM UP

Play ... good gift bad gift on PPT . What makes a gift good or bad? Have a discussion.

### MAIN TEACHING

**Activity 1:** In pairs. 30 second discussion. Person 1 explains, "Why God sent Jesus at Christmas?" Person 2 explains the different names people give to Jesus.

**Feedback** responses; Perhaps use flip chart

**Key teaching point.** Jesus came to earth as The Son of God because of His love for us. God had promised to send the Messiah, to rescue Israel, to be their King. God is fulfilling His promise. Jesus came to fulfil the Law (He was/is the embodiment of the Law) to live a righteous life and reveal God to us. To rescue us, to be our saviour, to bring us back in to relationship with God the Father.

Emmanuel (God with us), Messiah, Saviour, Lion of Judah, etc... explain names and why Jesus fits the name. (Depends on what names they come up with)

### **Activity 2: God's gift to us**

Divide YPs in to pairs/threes. Distribute the small sheets with Bible verses on. Ensure that the three separate sections are distributed. No problem if there are repeats.

1. **What gift does Jesus bring us?** Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8, John 1:12
2. **Why did Jesus offer us these gifts?** 1 John 4:9, Romans 8:39, Jeremiah 31:3
3. **What did it cost God to give you His gift?** John 3:16, John 15:13, Ephesians 5:1-2

Get YPs to look up verses and answer the questions. Take feedback from groups.

**Key teaching point:** God's gift to us is salvation and eternal life with Him. He gave it because He loves us, it cost Him His only son. It cost everything.

### Activity 3

How would you respond to someone who just saved your life?

Tell this story ( see separate sheet) then ask the questions on the sheet (on PPT too)

### REMEMBER.... Jesus died to save our lives!

What does the Bible say is the way people respond to God's gift of salvation? If time, read parable of the sower. ( Matthew 13:3-8).

John 14 :15-17, 23-24 ( see PPT)

**Key teaching point:** People respond to Jesus' gift to us in many ways, from total rejection to complete surrender to Jesus, with many stops in between. Jesus calls us to believe in Him and obey His teaching, and to love one another. This can be demonstrated in many different ways.

Two greatest commandments: Matt 22:37-39 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* <sup>40</sup> *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

**Discussion:** How do you love God and obey His commandments? What does that look like?

How does Jesus "send" His followers to be a gift to others?

### TAKEAWAY

**Reflection and prayer time.** How will they respond to Jesus' free gift?

Gift to give out to all YPs present. Should have spares too for those not there.

### POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

## Story of a hero saving others

(picture on PPT)

In 2017, a shooter attacked innocent men, women, and children at a Las Vegas music festival. The attack was the deadliest mass shooting in the history of the United States, leading to 58 deaths and hundreds of injuries.

From the horror emerged stories of great courage. One of the night's survivors, Jonathan Smith, went to considerable lengths to help fellow concertgoers. The 30-year-old ushered dozens of people to safety, **putting himself in the line of fire**. Smith was eventually struck in the arm and neck. "It was like a heavy punch to my arm. At that point my whole body spun around. I hit the gravel," explained Smith.

Smith was himself saved by an off-duty police officer. San Diego police officer Tom McGrath rushed to Smith's aid and stemmed the bleeding. "He's somebody who inspires me," said Officer McGrath. "I know he might not want to give himself all the credit, but he definitely did a wonderful job, and I was just happy to be there to help him towards the end, and get him out of there when he was hit."

A GoFundMe page was set up to cover Smith's medical bills. The campaign raised over \$80,000.

In quite an extraordinary display, **ordinary people** throughout Las Vegas set to work helping each other. Lindsay Lee Padgett used her truck to ferry the wounded to the hospital. Carly Krygier used her own body as a human shield to protect her young daughter. And US Army veteran Rob Ledbetter tended to the injured.

### Questions:

1. If someone saved your life by putting themselves in danger or even dying so you could live, How would you respond?
2. How grateful should we be that someone (a stranger) chose to protect and even rescue us?