

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 22nd December

TITLE:	Connecting @ Christmas :- Connected
THEME:	Humans love to be connected, we desire relationship ... so does God
AIM:	How do we connect to God? How do we stay connected?

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Humans love connection. There is something within us that likes to make connections. For most of us it is with other humans, we are social creatures. For some we connect with animals or nature. Others find connection through literature or music. God has made us this way! He has designed us to be connected to Him in relationship. That is why as we saw in the “searching” session we are always looking for something to make us happy. So how do we connect to God and how do we stay connected? What are the benefits of connection to God?

WARM UP

1. Play connect 4... but with a 30 second time limit. Winner must win within 30 seconds. Keep it moving. Alternatively do a blindfold connect 4. How hard is it to win if you can't see.
2. Connections quiz on PPT

MAIN TEACHING

Introduce the idea that we all like to be connected. Discuss the following.

Activity 1

Who likes silence? (many don't, makes them feel alone!)

What if your parents took you on holiday to a place with no WIFI? (some of us struggle to put down our mobiles... they make us feel connected to others. For many WIFI is the first thing they ask for when they go anywhere!)

Why do you think we like to be connected? (sense of belonging, not being isolated, security, friendship, help, survival!)

Activity 2

Has God created us to be connected? Give out strips of paper with verses on. Read them out and identify how the verse links to connection/ connected etc. Some are more challenging than others

Key Teaching Points: We can be connected without being present. Prayer connects us to God. God wants us to be forgiven and connected to Him. It is only through being connected to Jesus we can be part of His kingdom and family. We need each other, we must help each other and serve each other... this is how we connect.

Activity 3 We connect with the wrong things. Think back to the session on searching. What are some of the poor connections people make to try and find contentment, peace and happiness?

Give each person a small piece of playdoh. They are to make a model of a treasured possession, some money, the latest gadget, or a person they like! Only give them very limited time.

Key Teaching Point: When we try to find happiness or contentment in man made things, they will be a disappointment, a poor quality replica for contentment with God. If our mobile connects to an unsecure network what can happen? ... mobile/ pc infected and gets damaged!

Activity 4: Connecting to Jesus. How do we connect to Jesus?

Look up the verses on the screen. Get YPs to read them and ask for feedback about how they reveal a connection to Jesus.

Key Teaching point. Belief in Jesus, faith in His death and resurrection. Forgiveness of sin, The Holy Spirit living in us, loving God and our neighbour and obedience to God's word are all markers of a relationship with Jesus... being connected.

It is the easiest and hardest thing to do at the same time... easy because it is a simple ,honest, truthful prayer said by a person... hard because it will, if honestly done, transform everything in your life (Not all at once!) It will give you a new perspective on life!

Activity 5. Staying connected. How do we stay connected to Jesus?

What happens when you forget to charge your mobile? Can you keep a fire going with just one coal/log?

How do we stay connected to Jesus?

Key teaching point: Faith in Jesus is both personal and community. You must develop habits of prayer and study as well as worship together, study together. Live out the teachings and commands of Jesus. It will be costly but you will remain connected. Ephesians 6 Armour of God is a good illustration of how we can keep connected by "putting on" things every day.

TAKEAWAY

Bowl of water... peeled satsuma and a non peeled satsuma. Drop peeled bit in to water... it sinks

Drop unpeeled one in... it floats!! The skin acts as a protection a buoyancy aid.

Armour of God can keep us from sinking in the circumstances of our life!

Satsumas to takeaway at the end of the session as a reminder

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

[You tube clip about fruit and water](#)

Satsumas will be available