



# YOUNG PEOPLE Yeah, right!

## BIBLE PASSAGE Genesis 18.1-10a



### Set the scene

- Borrow a pop-up or dome-style tent and set it up in the middle of your meeting space.
- Erect a gazebo in the middle of your meeting space and conduct the session under it.
- Get hold of a potted 'tree' and position it in the middle of your meeting space. You could add a bowl of water and loaves of bread around the base.
- Use lining paper to create a huge graffiti wall around the space where you meet (for *Pray it through*).



### Get started

#### Never!

Using a toy or mobile phone, invite members of the group to act out the most surprising and unexpected thing someone could tell them over the phone. What one phrase, if they heard it when they answered their mobile, would change their entire lives?

#### So important

Invite one person to pretend to be a VIP. Ask the others to come up and, one by one, mime how they would greet this VIP. Give out prizes for the most over-the-top and unexpected greeting they produce!

#### Imagine

Provide art materials and paper. Give the young people time and space to reflect on the first verses of this passage and produce some art in response to what they read and how they imagine the scene.



### Use the Bible

#### You said what??

Invite the group to read verses 9 and 10. Divide them into pairs to produce a short scene to continue the conversation started in these verses. What might Abraham and Sarah have said to each other? Give the pairs five minutes to practise their sketches and then let them perform for the rest of the group if they wish.

#### They looked so...

Use a whiteboard or flipchart and invite the young people to show how Abraham might have felt at different points in the story. Read the story, stopping after verses 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. At each point, invite the young people to draw a simple face with the expression that best represents how Abraham may have felt.

*Bible notes can be found on page 17 and on the website [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com).*



### Be active

#### All in a year

Invite the group to think of something that will have happened to them or something they will have done within the next year. Invite them to mime it to the others. The rest of the group should try to guess what they'll have done in twelve months' time.

#### Model meal

Food has a place at the centre of hospitality throughout the Bible. When Abraham knew he had guests, he had a meal prepared of the best he had to offer. Provide modelling materials and invite each member of the group to make a model of the meal they would serve an honoured guest. Encourage creativity and artistic flair!



### Make connections

- Before the session, download and print out some images of Jesus from around the world (see *Resources*). Make sure you include traditional and more unusual and unexpected versions of what Jesus may have looked like. Abraham instinctively knew there was something special about his visitors – ask the young people to describe why they chose their particular picture of Jesus.
- Abraham honoured his guests by preparing them a lavish meal and making them comfortable in his home – a customary honour for a guest. Ask the young people to think about how they might honour someone special. If a celebrity turned up unexpectedly at their front door, how would they treat them?



### Pray it through

#### Roll of honour

Abraham chose to honour God through his hospitality, but we can honour God in other ways. Give the young people some time to write up words and phrases on the graffiti wall (see *Set the scene*) to honour God, in praise or thanks.

#### Possible impossible

Becoming pregnant seemed laughable to Sarah, yet it was clearly not impossible for God, who doesn't have our limitations – anything is possible for God. Hand out paper and pens, and give the group time to write a prayer asking for God's help in a situation or scenario, even if it seems impossible!



### Resources

#### Websites

[www.rejesus.co.uk/expressions/faces\\_jesus/index.html](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/expressions/faces_jesus/index.html)  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Images\\_of\\_Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Images_of_Jesus)  
<http://holyphil.blogs.com> and click on 'images of Jesus'.

*The Christ We Share*, CMS, Methodist Publishing House & USPG, 2004.