



I'm Not Yoking!

By Deborah Wassenberg

I first used this lesson in Kid's Church to counter Halloween, focusing on 'how can light and dark live together?' It made an impact. One four year old told me, 'I am never doing Halloween again!' I recommend teaching 'The Yoke's on Me' the week before.

You Tube Song Suggestions:

- This Little Light of Mine (Listener Kids)
- I Am a Christian and My Name is Pilgrim (Newsong – Lyrics)
- As the World Shakes (Hillsong Kids)

Bible Lesson: We Are God's Temple

Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Isaiah 52:11

Visuals for Flashcards or PowerPoint presentation:

- Visual 1: Egg yolk with a red cross through it.
- Visual 2: Picture of yoke on oxen
- Visual 3: Jesus and children
- Visual 4: Picture of ox and donkey, or ox and horse
- Visual 5: Apostle Paul writing letter
- Visual 6: Pictures depicting right and wrong
- Visual 7: Pictures depicting light and dark
- Visual 8: Pictures of a Jesus and the Devil (Careful! Perhaps a picture from the Temptation of Jesus)
- Visual 9: Pictures of black heart and white heart to depict Christian and non-Christian
- Visual 10: Pictures of God's temple and idols
- Visual 11: Picture of child with Holy Spirit Dove over heart

Words for the Bible Lesson:

- Words 1: Do you know what a yoke is? No, not a yolk. A yoke.
- Words 2: It's a wooden beam normally used between a pair of oxen or horses so they can pull together. Before tractors were invented all heavy work was done by animals wearing a yoke. Everything from ploughing to pulling trees. The yoke was made of wood and hand carved to fit the neck and shoulders of the animal.
- Words 3: Jesus said, 'Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'
Jesus is saying, 'I will walk beside you. We'll work together. My yoke isn't heavy, it's light and easy to wear. If we walk side by side the load is shared. Yes, I am God's Son, but I am a servant, too. (That's why Jesus said He was gentle and humble of heart.) If you don't let me help, life is hard work!'
- Words 4: In the Old Testament, God told His people not to yoke different animals together. God knew it was unkind to make different animals pull the same load. If a donkey was on one side and an ox on the other, the ox would pull or carry most of the weight. A donkey is stubborn and might not want to move at all! Or it might want to go right or left instead of straight ahead. The ox might have to carry the entire load plus drag the donkey along. (Deuteronomy 22:10) This is called being 'unequally yoked'.
- Words 5: In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul used the illustration of animals being unequally yoked in one of his letters to the Corinthians. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) He was warning Christians not to be 'yoked together' with non-Christians. They just don't pull together in the same direction!
- Words 6: Paul said, 'How can right and wrong be partners?'
- Words 7: 'How can light and darkness live together?'
- Words 8: 'How can Jesus and the Devil agree?'
- Words 9: 'Or what does a believer (Christian) have in common with an unbeliever (non-Christian)?'
- Words 10: 'How can God's temple come to terms with pagan idols?'
- Words 11: 'For we are the temple of the living God...' God lives in you so you are a **holy place** and need to be protected. So be careful what you allow into your life through TV, technology and music.

Ministry to the Children:

Don't be unequally yoked. One is going to have power over the other. The Apostle Paul is talking about:

- Don't be unequally yoked by marrying someone who is not a Christian because you won't agree on things like attending Church, giving money and time, or one day letting your own children go to Kid's Church. One of you is going to lose. Marry someone who is going in the same direction as you.
- Don't be unequally yoked going into business with someone who is not a Christian. What if your business partner wants to cheat on paying tax? Or underpay staff? Are you going to allow that? Partner with someone who will not pull away to the left or the right.
- Don't be unequally yoked with best friends who are not Christians. What if they want you to wag school? Bully someone. Get drunk or steal a car? Maybe it's not as extreme as that. Maybe they'll want you to go to a movie you know is wrong. Your non-Christian friends may be stubborn and never want to go the same way as you.

God is not saying you shouldn't care about non-Christians. Not at all. But He wants you to love Him more than anyone or anything else! Remember, God lives in you. You are a holy place. *Altar call and prayer for children who want to put God first in their lives.*

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:10

...that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Three Legged Race

You will need:

- 2 sets of the Memory Verse words onto card
- Ties or lengths of fabric

Divide the children into two teams. Then teams must pair up. Each pair ties one leg together to create '3' legs. Place a set of words opposite each team at the end of the room. On 'GO' the first pair of each team must walk as fast as they can to retrieve a word and bring it back to their team. When they return the next pair is allowed to go. When all the words have been collected, the team who puts the verse in the correct order wins. Say the verse aloud together.

Game 1: Animal Sounds

You will need:

- Picture cards of animals (you need a pair of each animal)
- Blindfolds

What to do:

- Give each child an animal and tell them not to show anyone
- Blindfold children
- On 'GO' children must make the sound of their animal to find their match

Game 2: Tug-O-War

You will need:

- Rope (with red handkerchief tied to the centre and white handkerchiefs either side of it)
- Centre marked on the ground
- Two teams either side of the centre mark

What to do:

- Align the red hankie on the rope with the mark on the ground
- Use these three commands
 - Pick up the rope
 - Take the string
 - Pull
- On 'Pull' teams pull the rope to get the other teams white hanky across the centre mark on the ground.

Craft: Twine Plant Pot

You will need:

- Clean tin can for each child (make sure there are no sharp edges)
- Glue and brushes
- Lengths of twine (you could use raffia)
- Foam shapes or letters or die cut labels
- Plant (optional)

What to do:

- Beginning from the bottom brush the glue onto tin can
- Wind a length of twine around the tin until you reach the rim
- Decorate by gluing on foam shapes, letters or die cuts