

# Youth Group Lesson Outline

## Instructor's Answer Sheet



### Is it OK to Date a Non-Christian?

There are many things that I believe the Bible gives very clear instructions on, but at the same time gives room for “heart intent” and grace for limited understanding and times of personal growth and maturity in the Word. The subject of this lesson, I believe, falls into this category.

#### 1. No Communion with Unbelievers

Let's start by looking at 2 Corinthians 6:14.

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

The word yoked means to be “joined” together or to be “attached.”

When people fellowship or when you have a “communion”, there is some type of common association in which an “exchange” of some sort is happening.

Here are a few types of words used to describe fellowship and communion:

*Share, community, association, joint participation...here are some deep ones...intimacy, intercourse (Oooo...)*

Based on these words, this scripture is basically asking us:

**“How can two people that are unequal have a true, intimate relationship?”**

We are not saying that one person is better than the other. That's not what this means.

It's asking, “**How can two people who believe differently, have different values and morals have an effective relationship?”**

*If you have made a decision to live a life according to God's Word, it's important that you do your best to put people in your life that have decided the same. If not, you may have a harder time, maybe even impossible time, trying to live a life pleasing to God and one filled with His blessings. You also will open your life up to a boat load of conflicts, arguments, disagreements, and DRAMA. From how to spend your money, how to raise your kids, how to resolve issues...when one person wants to do the Word and the other can care less about doing the Word...you get my drift. The Bible tells us that two people living like this CANNOT do any of the above effectively:*

*Amos 3:3 (New Living Translation)*

*Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?*

*1 Corinthians 6:15 (New Living Translation)*

*What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an*

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unbeliever?

After reading this, it should be pretty clear what the Word of God instructs in regards to being in a **romantic** relationship with someone that does not confess Jesus as Lord AND does not desire to live according to the Word.

The answer is: We should **not** do it!

### 2. I Know People That Are **Married** but Only **One** Spouse is Saved...What About Them?

There are many, many **circumstances** where a couple is married and one person is **saved** and the other person isn't.

This could happen for a number of reasons:

1. Neither was saved when they got married, but one became saved **after the fact**.
2. The saved partner didn't **know** any better (regarding what the Word says) at the time they got married.
3. The saved partner really didn't **care** that the other person was not saved and married them anyway.

Whatever the reasons are, God in His **infinite wisdom** has made **allowances** in His Word for this and has given the saved partner **instructions** on how to apply the Word:

*1 Corinthians 7:12 – 15*

*<sup>12</sup> Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. <sup>13</sup> And if a Christian woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. <sup>14</sup> For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy. <sup>15</sup> (But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the Christian husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.)*

God also gives instructions on how a saved spouse can **lead** an unsaved spouse to Christ:

*1 Peter 3:1 – 2*

*<sup>1</sup> In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over <sup>2</sup> by observing your pure and reverent lives.*

Even though this scripture is talking to wives, the principle of living a **godly** life in **front** of your spouse applies to husbands as well in order for them to **lead** their unsaved wives to God.

In one area of the Word, God is clearly instructing us to **not** join ourselves in close relationships (like courting and marriage) with **unbelievers**, but also shows us **how to live** if we end up in a marriage with someone that does not believe the Word. God is so good to us.

### 3. What This is **NOT** Saying

OK, just to make some things clear, let's outline a couple of things that these scriptures are NOT saying:

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- a. They are not saying that you have a **choice** to enter into "**either**" a relationship with a Christian or one with a non-Christian.

Yes, ultimately it is our own choice and free will to do what we want to do, but the Word is instructing us on the **best way** to enter into a relationship, while also **extending grace** to those that did not enter into a relationship the best way.

- b. They are not saying that a relationship will not work out if you **don't** follow instruction #1.

On the contrary, God wants His **goodness** in our lives and has done all that He can to ensure we experience His goodness, even in our **missteps**.

Some may have parents that are not both saved. Life can **still be good** – for both them and for you.

Either application of the Word explained above will produce God's goodness for all involved. One path may be a bit more **challenging** than the other, but good nevertheless.