

# DISCIPLESHIP LESSON 24

<b>1</b>	<b>PRAYER</b>
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*Pray* for God's guidance through his Spirit, for awareness of his presence and for listening to his voice. Dedicate this lesson about disciple making to the Lord.

<b>2</b>	<b>SHARING</b> (20 minutes)	<b>[QUIET TIMES] ROMANS 13 - 16</b>
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*Take turns* and *share* (or *read* from your notes) in short what you have learned from one of your quiet times out of the assigned Bible passages (Romans 13 - 16).

Listen to the person sharing, take him serious and accept him. Do not discuss what he shares.

<b>3</b>	<b>MEMORISATION</b> (20 minutes)	<b>[NEW LIFE IN CHRIST] REVIEW OF SERIES B</b>
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## A. METHOD OF REVIEWING MEMORISED BIBLE VERSES

Reviewing previously memorised Bible verses has the following parts:

### 1. Review the new memorised Bible verses.

Review means to repeat the last 5 Bible verses you have memorised once every day. Repetition is the best method to remember Bible verses and to quote them accurately. Therefore, review the last 5 Bible verses you have memorised at a minimum of once a day for the duration of 5 weeks. Thus, you review every new Bible verse about 35 times before it comes into the "back-review" system.

### 2. Review the old memorised Bible verses.

"Back-review" means to review all your previously memorised Bible verses once every 3 weeks. Back-review is the best method to remember all the Bible verses you have previously memorised. Therefore, for every 100 previously memorised Bible verses, back-review 5 of them every day. Thus you back-review all these previously memorised Bible verses once every 3 weeks.

### 3. Keep cardholder at hand.

Every day place the last 5 memorise Bible verses and 5 out of every 100 previously memorised Bible verses in your memorisation cardholder and keep it all day at hand. Use travelling time and spare moments during the day for review, meditation and prayer.

### 4. Check accuracy.

Check one another to see whether you still know the Bible verses that you have memorised accurately. During every group meeting check two by two one another's last memorised Bible verse. Once in a while check two by two one series of 5 Bible verses that you have previously memorised. Check one another to see whether you still know the topic or title, the Bible reference as well as the whole Bible verse *without one mistake*. As a cue, sometimes give the topic or title, sometimes the Bible reference and at other times only the first few words of the Bible verse.

## B. REVIEW TWO BY TWO SERIES B: "NEW LIFE IN CHRIST"

**1. Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:17.** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**2. Word. Matthew 4:4.** Jesus answered, It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'.

**3. Prayer. John 15:7.** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

**4. Fellowship. 1 John 1:7.** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**5. Witnessing. Matthew 10:32.** Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

Make use of the five steps method of Bible study and study 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 together.

**STEP 1. READ.****GOD'S WORD**

*Read.* LET US READ 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 together.

Let us take turns to read one verse each until we have completed the reading.

**STEP 2. DISCOVER.****OBSERVATIONS**

*Consider.* WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU?

Or WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE TOUCHES YOUR MIND OR HEART?

*Record.* Discover one or two truths that you understand. Think about them and write your thoughts in your notebook.

*Share.* (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, take turns to share).

Let us take turns to share with one another what each of us has discovered.

(The following are examples of people sharing what they have discovered. Remember, in every small group, the group members will share different things, not necessarily these things)

**6:14****Discovery 1. Christians must stop every compromising situation and compromising relationship.**

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers” In the original language of the New Testament, the verb literally says, “Do not go *on and on and on* being unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” The implication is that some Christians in the congregation at Corinth were already being unequally yoked together with unbelievers. The apostle Paul commands these Christians to no longer continue these compromising situations! Because I live among non-Christians all the time, I must evaluate my personal life to see whether I am unequally yoked together with unbelievers in some area of my life. I must stop every compromising situation or compromising relationship!

**6:17****Discovery 2. Christians are forbidden to start compromising relationships.**

“Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.” In the original language of the New Testament, the verbs literally say, “You *must immediately* come out from among the unbelievers and you must definitely be separate from the unbelievers”. Again the implication was that some Christians in the congregation at Corinth were still continuing to have forbidden relationships. The apostle Paul commands them to make a once for all time definite or final break with their compromising situations.

- Christians are definitely forbidden to have certain relationships
- And Christians are forbidden to be involved in certain activities.

Because Christians live among non-Christians all the time, I must teach the Christians which relationships and activities are forbidden for Christians.

**STEP 3. QUESTION.****EXPLANATIONS**

*Consider.* WHICH QUESTION ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS PASSAGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK TO THIS GROUP?

Let us try to understand all the truths in 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 and ask questions about the things we still do not understand.

*Record.* Formulate your question as clearly as possible. Then write your question in your notebook.

*Share.* (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, let each person first share his question.)

*Discuss.* (Then, choose a few of these questions and try to answer them by discussing them together in your group.)

(The following are examples of questions the students might ask and some notes about the discussion of the questions.)

**6:14****Question 1. What is a “yoke”?**

*Notes.* The yoke here is a “double-yoke” under which two animals (horses or oxen) work side by side. The “yoke” is an instrument that couples or binds two animals together, so that they will go in the same direction, make the same movements, walk at the same pace, stop at the same time and generally do everything in synchronisation. If one animal strays from a straight line, the other will be pulled in that direction. If one animal slows down and stops, he forces the other animal to also slow down and stop. If the two animals try to follow two different leaders, they will be tugging and pushing each other to go their separate ways and thus hinder every kind of progress. The Bible calls this a forbidden relationship.

The apostle Paul had the words of Deuteronomy 22:10 in mind, which says, “Do not plough with an ox and a donkey yoked together.” He adapts and applies this principle to the relationship between a believer and an unbeliever. The purpose is to emphasize the incongruity of believers being paired with unbelievers. A Christian who is yoked together with a non-Christian is going to experience how the non-Christian pulls him away from the right path of God, slows down his growth and even forces him to stop believing altogether.

The difference between an ordinary relationship with unbelievers and a yoke (compromising and binding) relationship with an unbeliever is the following:

- Ordinary relationships with unbelievers and non-Christians are allowed. You may for example travel in a bus with a driver that is an unbeliever. You may eat at a restaurant where the food is prepared by an unbeliever. You may go to a school where a teacher may be an unbeliever, provided that you do not believe/accept the lies he may teach. You may have a job where the boss is an unbeliever, provided that you do not obey the wrong things he may ask you to do. You may do business with an unbeliever, provided that the terms of the contract do not violate biblical principles.
- Forbidden relationships with unbelievers or non-Christians bind you for example by law to marriage or a business partnership. They force you to violate biblical principles, to share wrong values and behave or act in wrong ways.

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## 6:14

### **Question 2. What are some examples of “unequal yoke-relationships” that the Bible forbids?**

Notes.

#### **(1) The unequal yoke-relationship (team) in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.**

“I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people - not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave the world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother (a Christian) but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.”

The Bible forbids Christians to associate with people who call themselves “Christians”, but behave like non-Christians. Thus, a Christian may not form an unequal yoke (team) with a non-Christian. Of course Christians may relate to non-Christians, otherwise they would not be able to witness to them.

#### **(2) The unequal yoke-relationship (team) in 1 Corinthians 6:1-8.**

“If any of you have a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgement instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother goes to law against another - and this in front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.”

The Bible forbids Christians to take their legal disputes before non-Christian judges. When a Christian has a legal dispute with another Christian, they should allow wise Christians in the congregation to judge their dispute and then accept their verdict. If the dispute cannot be resolved, it is better to accept suffering of loss and leave the final verdict to God. Thus, a Christian may not form an unequal yoke with a non-Christian judge.

#### **(3) The unequal yoke-relationship (team) in 1 Corinthians 7:39.**

“A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.”

The Bible forbids Christians to marry non-Christians. A Christian is regarded as somebody who really belongs to the Lord, that is, the Lord lives in him through his Holy Spirit and actively guides his life. Or to put it in another way, a Christian is someone who has completely submitted himself to the lordship of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 6:14 clearly says that a believer may not be unequally yoked to an unbeliever. A (born-again) Christian may only marry with another (born-again) Christian.

This principle also forbids Christians to date a non-Christian.<sup>1</sup> The goal of dating is marriage. Intimate friendship between a Christian and a non-Christian is a dangerous thing. Intimate friends share their deepest thoughts and feelings with one another. They become more and more dependent on one another and the friendship develops into a forbidden relationship. The convictions, feelings, values and goals of the non-Christian cannot be easily set aside. The non-Christian will draw the Christian down towards worldly desires, values, and goals. Everything the non-Christian believes will deeply affect the faith and behaviour of the Christian.

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<sup>1</sup> See dota manual 2, lesson 17

The Christian can then not counter the onslaughts of the non-Christian, because he has become disobedient to God and cannot count on the protection of God. The apostle Paul warns that God gives unbelievers and disobedient people over to sexual impurity, shameful lusts and a depraved mind to do what ought not to be done (Romans 1:24,26,28).

Listen to the wisdom in the Old Testament, “Since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, in turn I will laugh when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.” “Then they will call to me, but I will not answer; they will look for me, but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease without fear of harm” (Proverbs 1:24-31).

Some disobedient Christians argue that they may date a non-Christian in order to lead that person to Christ. But this argument does not please God, because God clearly forbids forming an unequal yoke relationship with an unbeliever (Deuteronomy 7:3-4; 1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14)! The Bible says, “How do you know whether you will save this man or women?” (1 Corinthians 7:16). Thus, a Christian may not pull in “an unequal marriage yoke” or “unequal dating yoke” together with a non-Christian.

It will be a very sad day, when you leave Jesus Christ for the sake of an intimate friendship with an unbeliever! It would not be any better if your non-Christian friend decides to become “a Christian” just to please you or follow Christ half-heartedly just to please you. Your friendship will suffer in either way and ultimately fail. Although nothing is impossible for God, we must be wise and obey what God has commanded. God forbids a binding relationship with a non-Christian or unbeliever, because he really has our happiness in mind.

#### **(4) The unequal yoke-relationship (team) in 1 Corinthians 10:7.**

“Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry’.”

The Bible forbids Christians to participate in non-Christian (pagan) revelry. Such parties were characterised by excessive indulgence, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry (1 Peter 4:3); sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscene foolish talk and coarse joking (Ephesians 5:3-5). These kinds of celebrations in disco’s and clubs, where people indulge in drugs and sexual immorality are forbidden for Christians. Thus, a Christian may not pull in the same “unequal and wild party yoke” together with non-Christians.

**Summary.** God forbids all such kind of relationships, because Christian harmony cannot be expected to flourish in them. Such binding relationships are compromises with unbelievers and non-Christians and cause people to become slaves.

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### **Question 3. Which other unequal yoke-relationships are forbidden for Christians?**

**Notes.** The teaching about unequal yoke-relationships is applicable to all areas that involve intimate or close (binding) relationships with non-Christians. For example:

#### **(1) A Christian may not have a business partnership with a non-Christian.**

A Christian may be employed by a non-Christian, as long as he does not do things that are forbidden by God. But an unlawful business partnership would be a partnership between a Christian and a non-Christian in which both invest money and in which decisions and responsibilities are shared. Such situations could lead to the non-Christian believing in giving and receiving bribes or cheating in business, and thus involve the Christian unwittingly in the consequences of his evil deeds.

#### **(2) A Christian school may not employ a non-Christian teacher in a Christian school.**

Otherwise students will be exposed to misleading teachings of demons, false teachers and hypocritical liars whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

#### **(3) A Christian may not join a church that disobeys the Bible.**

A Christian may not participate in a church which does not regard the Bible as God’s inspired and infallible Word, authoritative for doctrine and life, or where the Bible is not taught or obeyed. A Christian should not choose a teacher who does not regard the Bible as trustworthy and as the absolute authority for human thought and behaviour.

#### **(4) A Christian may not become a member of a secret organisation.**

Jesus says, “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil, hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God” (John 3:19-21). And the apostle Paul says, “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible” (Ephesians 5:11-13).

**(5) A Christians may not form an unequal yoke with non-Christian values and non-Christian activities, because they are habit forming.**

Examples of such non-Christian values and activities are: watching wrong TV programmes, reading wrong books and magazines; visiting wrong clubs; joining wrong organisations; etc. Christians must keep away from people who consider the Christian truths and Christian values as “outdated” and “over the hill”. They must reject all anti-Christian religious ideas and values as well as all anti-Christian social and judicial thoughts and values.

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**6:15**

**Question 4. What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?**

*Notes.* The believer has certain things in common with the unbeliever. For example, both eat the same food, wear the same clothes, ride in the same bus and use the same kind of money, etc.

However, there are specific things that are peculiar to believers. While the unbeliever’s life is centred on himself, the believer’s life is centred on Jesus Christ. The treasure of the non-Christian is on earth, while the treasure of the Christian is in heaven. The values of the non-Christian are the values of this present world that are constantly changing, while the values of the Christian are those of the kingdom of God that never change! The unbeliever seeks the glory of man, while the believer seeks the glory of the God of the Bible. Thus, Christians and non-Christians have nothing in common with regard to such things as the purpose of life, the direction of life and the values in life.

Righteousness and wickedness have nothing in common. Light can have no fellowship with darkness. There is no harmony between Christ and Belial, the god of another religion! How can a believer then have the same interests as an unbeliever? How could the temple of God (a symbol for the Christian Church) ever have any agreement with the religious buildings of the other religions? How could the God of the Bible ever have any agreement with the god of another religion? These “gods” are called “idols”, because they are devised and made by people and do not even have any real existence (Isaiah 43:10-11)! The God of the Bible not only forbids these things, but commands people to be separate from them. He says, “Therefore, come out from them and be separate. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters.”

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**6:17**

**Question 5. What should a Christian do if he is still unequally yoked together with unbelievers in some area of his life?**

*Notes.* He should do what 2 Corinthians 6:17 says, “Come out from them and be separate.” The negative command: “Do not be unequally yoked together with an unbeliever” carries with it the opposite and positive command: “Come out from them and be separate!” Christians should take immediate active steps to change a wrong situation.

Christians should get equally yoked together with other Christians and pull in the same direction, encourage and help one another in the faith and serve together in unity (Philippians 1:27). Christians should get equally yoked together with Christians in marriage, in service and in public witnessing.

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**7:1**

**Question 6. What should a Christian do when he has been negatively influenced by his wrong relationship with a non-Christian?**

*Notes.* The Christian must immediately make a clean break with the wrong relationship and “purify himself in body and spirit, that is, from all physical and spiritual sins”. Out of reference for God he should sanctify his whole life. When a Christian confesses his sin, God will forgive him and cleans him from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

A Christian must perfect<sup>2</sup> holiness out of reference for God. He should advance constantly in the area of holiness (Romans 6:13,19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3,7; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

**STEP 4. APPLY.**

**APPLICATIONS**

*Consider.* WHICH TRUTHS IN THIS PASSAGE ARE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTIANS?

*Share and record.* Let us brainstorm with one another and record a list of possible applications from 2 Corinthians 6:14 -7:1.

*Consider.* WHICH POSSIBLE APPLICATION DOES GOD WANT YOU TO TURN INTO A PERSONAL APPLICATION?

*Record.* Write this personal application down in your notebook. Feel free to share your personal application.

(Remember that people in every group will apply different truths or even make different applications of the same truth. The following is a list of possible applications.)

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<sup>2</sup> Greek: epiteleó, bring (holiness) to a complete and perfect end

**1. Examples of possible applications from 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1.**

- Do not pull in the same ‘social yoke’ together with a person who calls himself a “Christian”, but behaves like a non-Christian (1 Corinthians 5:9-13).
- Do not pull in the same “legal yoke” together with a non-Christian judge. Never settle legal disputes in front of non-Christian judges. Only settle disputes in front of Christian elders or other wise Christians (1 Corinthians 6:1-11).
- Do not pull in the same “marriage yoke” or “dating yoke” together with a non-Christian. Never take a non-Christian out in order to get to know that person with a view to marriage. Only get to know other Christians with a view to marriage (1 Corinthians 7:39).
- Do not pull in the same “wild party yoke” together with non-Christians. Never go to any wild party. Only go to celebrations where Christian values are not compromised (1 Corinthians 10:7).
- Do not pull in the same “business partnership yoke” with non-Christians. Never get involved in a business partnership with a non-Christian.
- Only join and participate in a church where the Bible as God’s infallible and authoritative Word is clearly preached and obeyed.
- Never join a secret organisation (John 3:19-21; Ephesians 5:11-13).
- Do not get entangled with non-Christian values and habits.

**2. Examples of personal applications from 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1.**

Unmarried person. I especially want to be careful that I will only go out with a genuine Christian in order to get to know this person with a view to marriage.

I especially want to be careful what kind of books, magazines and newspapers I read. I do not want to defile my thoughts and heart with the values, imaginations and desires of the non-Christian world. Concerning values and habit-forming activities, I will not get unequally yoked with the non-Christian world.

<b>STEP 5. PRAY.</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
LET US TAKE TURNS TO PRAY ABOUT ONE TRUTH THAT GOD HAS TAUGHT US in 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1.	
(Respond in your prayer to what you have learned during this Bible study. Practise to pray only in one or two sentences. Remember that people in every group will pray about different issues.)	

<b>5</b>	<b>PRAYER</b> (8 minutes)	<b>[INTERCESSION] PRAY FOR OTHERS</b>
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*Continue to pray* in groups of two’s or three’s. Pray for one another and for the people in the world (Romans 15:30; Colossians 4:12).

<b>6</b>	<b>PREPARATION</b> (2 minutes)	<b>[ASSIGNMENT] FOR NEXT LESSON</b>
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*(Group leader.* Give the group members this preparation for at home in writing or let them copy it down).

1. **Commitment.** Be committed to make disciples.  
Preach, teach or study the Bible study of 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 together with another person or group of people.
2. **Personal time with God.** Have a quiet time from half a chapter of **Genesis 1:1 – 4:26** each day.  
Make use of the favourite truth method. Make notes.
3. **Memorisation. Review the series B: “New Life in Christ”.** (1) Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17, (2) Word. Matthew 4:4, (3) Prayer. John 15:7, (4) Fellowship. 1 John 1:7, (5) Witnessing. Matthew 10:32. Daily review the last 5 memorised Bible verses.
4. **Prayer.** Pray for someone or something specific this week and see what God is doing (Psalm 5:3).
5. **Update your notebook** on making disciples. Include the notes on your personal time with God, memorisation notes, Bible study notes and this preparation.