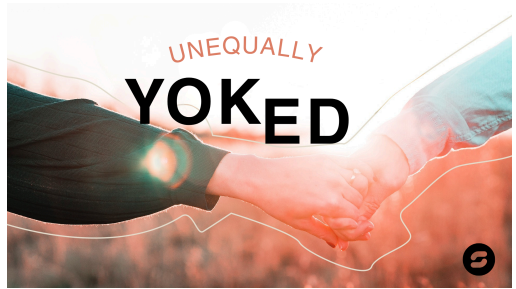


STUDY GUIDE

April 19

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt



Father, thank You for bringing us together. As we talk about our relationships and the direction of our lives, give us open hearts and honest eyes to see where we are aligned with You and where we are not. Help us to receive Your wisdom without defensiveness, and guide our conversation so it is full of grace, truth, and encouragement. Lead us closer to You in how we live and how we relate to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (main passage)

Deuteronomy 22:10 (background for the “yoke”)

Amos 3:3 – “Do two walk together unless they agree?”

1 Corinthians 7:12–16 (guidance for mixed-faith marriages)

Proverbs 13:20 – “Walk with the wise...”

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. The sermon opened with the idea of a cart that won't roll straight. Where have you experienced that kind of “pulling in different directions” in relationships or life?
2. “Attraction is real, but alignment is rare.” Why do you think attraction can be so powerful—and why isn't it enough to sustain a relationship?
3. Paul talks about being “yoked” together. What does it practically look like for two people to be moving in the same spiritual direction?
4. Pastor Ben emphasized that shared belief matters most in

- difficult seasons. How have you seen beliefs (or lack of shared beliefs) affect how people handle stress, conflict, or hardship?
5. This teaching talked about grace for those already in spiritually divided relationships. What does it look like to faithfully follow Jesus and influence your environment without trying to control others?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

Evaluate Your Alignment

Take time this week to reflect on your closest relationships:

- Are we moving in the same direction spiritually?
- Who is influencing my decisions the most?

Be honest about where there is alignment—and where there isn't.

Strengthen One God-Centered Connection

Choose one relationship where Jesus is central and invest in it:

- Pray together
- Have a meaningful spiritual conversation
- Encourage each other in faith

Move toward deeper alignment, not just connection.

Adjust One Influence

Identify one influence in your life (relationship, media, habit) that may be pulling you away from Jesus.

Take a practical step:

- Set a boundary
- Limit exposure
- Replace it with something that points you toward truth

Take a moment to thank God, confess if needed, and reset your direction for tomorrow.