

Youth Lesson – July 5, 2020

Focus Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Purpose: To discover what Jesus meant when he said, “Put on my yoke and learn from me.”

Summer Sessions: June 7 to August 31



An Awesome Adventure: “SEEKERS AFTER JESUS”

Clue #1: Where We Find God

Clue#2: How Does God Work in Our World

Clue#3: Joining God in Creating Shalom

Clue#4: Give and You Will Receive

Clue #5: Take My Yoke Upon You

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth
Backpack

Pictures for activity are at the end of the lesson
books/ something light

Lighting the Christ Candle: “We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.”

Prayer

God, you have called all kinds of people together to be your presence of goodness in the world. Thank you for calling us together here. Let your diverse spirit fill each of us in the way you know is best for each. Amen.

Introducing the Theme: Role Play

Ask your child(ren) to take a backpack and put some heavy books in it. Then they are going to carry the backpack around the room for one minute. After they are done they will empty the books and put something light in the backpack and walk around the room for one minute. Talk about the difference they felt which is what this week’s story is about. Carrying heavy loads and then using yokes to make it easier to carry.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

In the first part of today's reading Jesus is saddened by the lives of many people. He compares them to two groups of children playing in the marketplace. One group says to the other, "Let's play wedding," and the others respond, "We don't feel like being happy today." So they suggest, "Let's play funeral," and the others respond, "We don't feel like being sad today." No matter what was suggested, they didn't want to do it. No matter what was offered, they could find fault with it. John the Baptist had come fasting, retreating to the desert to reflect, and emphasizing repentance as a road to God. Jesus' ministry has been more like a wedding, with guests included from all classes of society and with much eating and drinking in celebration of God's gift of new life. The people thought John was mad, and dismissed Jesus as a lax party-goer.

What has escaped the intellectuals and religious leaders here has been understood by the humble and the outcast. Jesus offers his listeners a way to fullness of life, working together, yoked as a team, guided by his teachings. Jesus' yoke is light and easy to bear in contrast to the legalistic yoke of the religious teachers and leaders. For them the law tended to be a burden or code by which to judge others. From Jesus' perspective the law becomes a guide showing us how to make good choices. Peace comes when we make choices in tune with God's purpose.

Activity or Craft – "Spinning Wheel"

Materials: pencil

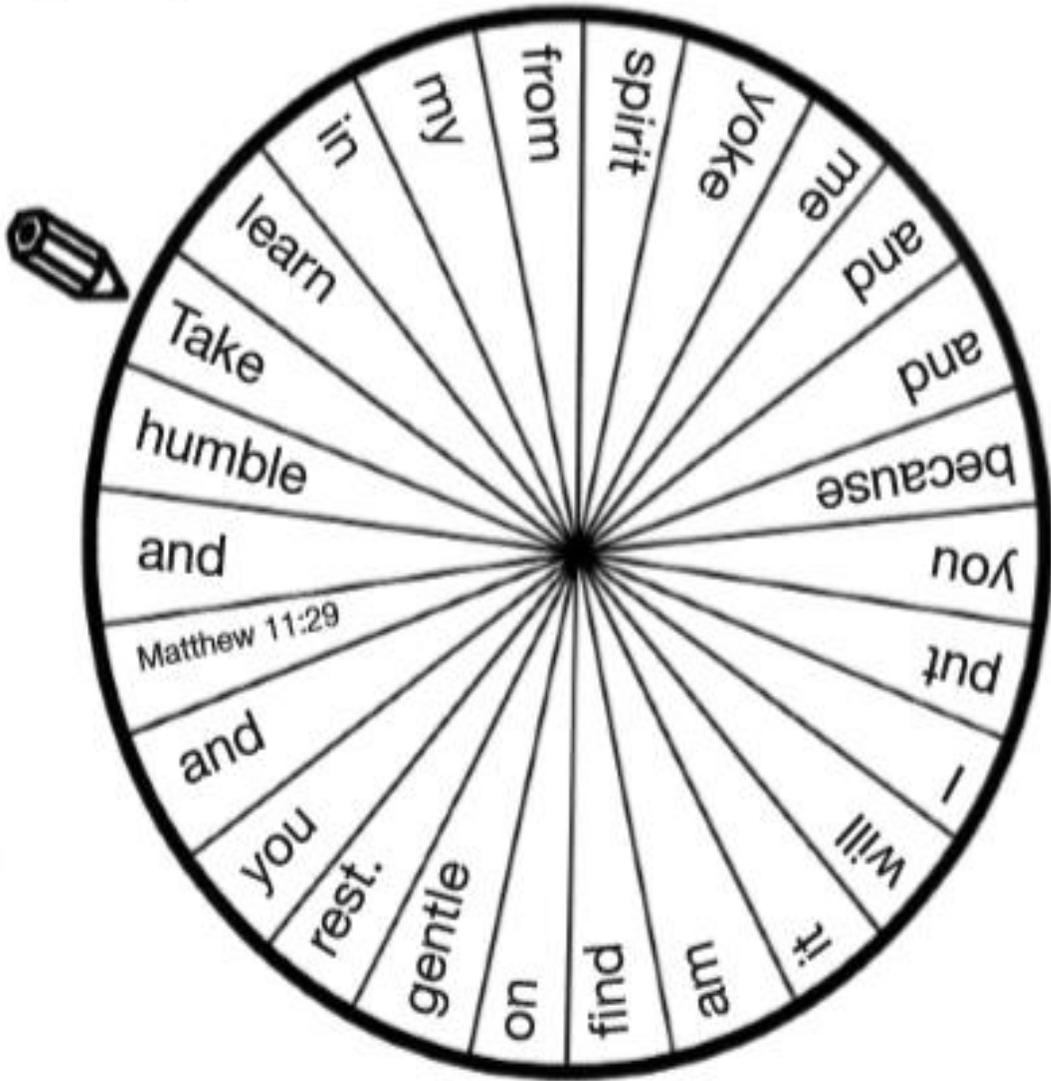
Make copies of the spinning wheel and have child(ren) work out the puzzle.

Closing Prayer

Thank you God for giving us lips to praise you,
Hands to serve you and hearts to love you!
Amen.

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Spinning Wheel



To find the verse from today's Bible reading, start with the word marked with an arrow and go around clockwise, writing down every third word.
