

Bridled and in Control

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Suggested Props to Use:

- † A Horse's Bridle.
- † If you have access to a variety of bits, use these to show the different uses of each type of bit tying scripture illustrations with each as well.
- † Makes an excellent in arena message using a horse and placing the bit and bridle as you teach.

Ps 32:9 "Be ye not as the horse or mule which have no understanding; whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle."

James 3:3 "Behold, we put bits in the horse's mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body."

Introduction:

- When you put a bridle on your horse you are helping him "get dressed", and this should be a pleasant experience for both of you.
- *When you put the bridle on your horse and put the bit in his mouth you are NOT punishing or tormenting your horse. The opposite is true.*
- You put the bridle on him to control him so you can direct him to do what you instruct.
- You are more intelligent (I hope 😊) and you want to communicate your directions to your horse to keep you both safe.

Message:

The bit and bridle are a good illustration of how the Holy Spirit of God relates to us. The Holy Spirit lives within each Christian to **communicate** to us, **comfort** us, and to provide the right **control** to keep us from harm.

Communicate:

- The Holy spirit wants **to direct us** to keep us from stepping into trouble, **direct us away from** places where ravenous wolves are hiding, and **direct us toward** good land where we will have all we need for a prosperous life.
- With the bridle of the Holy Spirit, God can rein us **to the right** to avoid getting poked by mesquite or cactus (guide us from others that tempt us to try a little beer that their parents have hidden in the house, offer us some drugs, or the Lord can steer us away from child predators or others that would hurt you).

Comfort:

- When problems come into your life, and everyone will have problems, the bridle of the Holy Spirit **will turn you toward** a path that will walk you through a calm stream.
- He **will direct you down** a path that will help you understand God's plan for your life.

The bridle of the Holy Spirit will allow God to pull back, or rein you in.

Control:

- Temptations will be with you all your life. Some of the temptations you face now as a child will go away but plenty of different ones will come up to replace them. It could be one that seems **minor**. Like snubbing someone at school in an attempt to fit in with a certain group, or it may be what we consider a “**bad**” temptation like stealing.
- The bridle of the Holy Spirit will allow God to pull back, or rein you in.
- In some types of competitions the horse will have two bits.
- One is the normal bit that we see out here on play days.
- The other is called a “curb” bit and is built to press down on the horse’s tongue. This one is used when the horse is ignoring the regular bit and the master has to use the curb bit to keep the horse from doing something bad or dangerous.
- There are times when God will pull hard on the bit to keep us from doing something that could destroy us.
- When God exercises control in our life it may be uncomfortable, but it is always a lot better than what would happen if He had given us free rein to go ahead and do what we were heading for.

Job 41: 13 “Who can discover the face of his (the Devil) garment? Or who can come to him with his double bridle?”

God’s Word says that we will wear a bridle in this life.

God’s Word says that we **will** wear a bridle in this life.

- It can be God’s bridle, the Holy Spirit; or
- If we reject the Holy Spirit then the Devil will come and put on a bridle that you won’t like.
- The Devil’s double bridle will give him great control over your life and you will not like where he will take you.
- The Devil’s ultimate goal is to condemn you to that place called Hell after he has played with and destroyed your life.

Respond to the Holy Spirit.

Don’t reject the leadership and direction that God offers to you. You need to respond when the Holy Spirit comes and tells you that you need to be saved. Please allow Jesus to be your Savior!