



## YouthBytes.org - A Powerful Tool for Youth Workers

YouthBytes is a simple, yet effective tool in the hands of those who have a passion to reach and teach this generation. The Episode Guide is designed to help you implement YouthBytes into your particular setting at whatever level you choose: from a full meeting schedule to just a small video to enhance your meeting. We encourage each worker to add his or her own stories, experiences and illustrations to make your particular scenario work. The discussion questions are also just a starting point and we encourage each group to go further and deal with local issues and topics that might be relevant.

Each YouthByte Episode will include :

- Video summary
- Icebreaker
- Primary Lesson
- Facts, figures and illustrations used in the episode
- Key Scriptures
- Discussion Questions
- Complimentary story

We look forward to getting your feedback and comments for these Episode Guides. Also let us know what subjects you would want new YouthBytes to cover. As always, testimonies are welcome. Comments, ideas, and testimonies can be sent to [feedback@youthbytes.org](mailto:feedback@youthbytes.org).

## Disc 1 ~ Sin City Skydive



### Video Summary

Would you jump out of an airplane to teach young people a lesson? Chad did his first tandem sky dive for this episode. It's amazing that after falling at 120 miles per hour, he had the presence of mind to share insights on faith and risk while parachuting to the ground. This is a gutsy piece and Chad deserves to be heard!



### Icebreaker ~ Airsick

A little guy gets on a plane and sits next to the window. A few minutes later, a big, heavy, strong mean-looking, hulking guy plops down in the seat next to him and immediately falls asleep. The little guy starts to feel a little airsick, but he's afraid to wake the big guy up to ask if he can go to the bathroom. He knows he can't climb over him, and so the little guy is sitting there, looking at the big guy, trying to decide what to do.

Suddenly, the plane hits an air pocket and an uncontrollable wave of nausea passes through the little guy. He can't hold it in any longer and pukes all over the big guy's chest. About five minutes later the big guy wakes up, looks down, and sees the vomit all over him.

"So," says the little guy, "are you feeling better now?"



### Primary Lesson ~ Learning to put yourself in the Hands of Jesus

This lesson is a very graphic illustration of faith in action. Chad had never before jumped out of an airplane. He put faith in his instructor just like we must put faith in Jesus. We trust that if we put ourselves in His Hands, He will get us safely to the ground. The importance of faith and the different oppositions to faith are clearly taught in this lesson. Simple trust in God's faithfulness, goodness and care for us is ultimately what this lesson is all about.



## Facts, Figures & Illustrations

Spinning violently out of control as he fell toward Earth and an almost-certain death at hundreds of miles per hour, skydiver Michael Holmes had a split second to consider his demise when his parachute and a reserve failed high above New Zealand in December.

“Oh, I’m dead. Bye,” said Holmes, who landed in a bush and lived to tell about it.

Holmes’ harrowing escape from death, desperate farewell, wave goodbye and hard landing in a blackberry bush were captured by the helmet-mounted cameras he and fellow skydiving instructor Jonathan King were wearing. The incident happened on Dec. 13, 2006 after jumping from a plane at 14,000-ft — more than two miles up.

Holmes landed in a conservation area near a New Zealand lake. A short time later, King’s camera captured a moaning Holmes laying in the bush in the fetal position.

He suffered a collapsed lung and a broken ankle that may require further surgery, but he does plan to jump again. He called the incident a “freak accident” that has changed the way he looks at life.

On average skydivers jump from about 15,000-ft above the ground and open their parachutes at about 3,500ft above ground. It takes between 45-seconds to one minute to fall from 15,000-ft to 3,500-ft.

The ancient Chinese and Leonardo Da Vinci are both credited with conceiving the idea of a parachute but it was in France in the 18th century that the first parachutes were made and used.

In 1797 the Frenchman, Andre Jacques Garnerin made the first parachute drop from a gas filled balloon using a basket under an open parachute which was made of silk and stiffened with supporting poles.

The first limp parachute descent was made in 1897 by an American, Tom Baldwin.

Another American, Leslie Irvin, made the first ever international free-fall parachute jump near Dayton, Ohio in 1919 using his own hand operated chute, a design which revolutionized parachuting and gave birth to a new sport.

Over the last two decades, more Americans died of heart attacks while watching horror movies in movie theaters than died while sky-diving.



## Key Scriptures (From New King James Version, unless otherwise noted)

**1 John 2:16** ~ *For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world*

**Matthew 14:28-29** ~ *And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

**Hebrews 11:1** ~ *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

**James 2:17-18** ~ *So you see, it isn’t enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn’t show itself by good deeds is no faith at all it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” I say, “I can’t see your faith if you don’t have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds.” (New Living Translation–NLT).*

**Galatians 3:6-7** ~ *...just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.*



## Discussion Questions

1. If you had jumped out of an airplane and you realized your parachute would not open. You also knew you had a microphone and camera on you. What would your last words be before you hit the ground?
2. All people without Jesus are falling throughout their life towards a certain eternal death which the Bible calls hell and eventually a lake of fire. How does the illustration of a parachute relate to salvation? (Hint: with a parachute, people have to pull a ripcord.) What is the ripcord when it comes to being saved by Jesus Christ from hell? (Hint: read Romans 10:13)
3. Chad talks about faith requiring courage. It has been said that courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to overcome your fears. Sometimes our faith has to overcome the fears that Satan tries to put into our hearts and minds. Discuss times when people have to fight fear with their faith (For example: peer pressure against you, your physical health, fear about your future, fear when human reason and the logic of the world seem to go against your faith and fear when doubt assaults your mind.)
4. The Bible says fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12). Discuss how faith is a fight. Discuss how when Peter took his eyes off Jesus in Matthew 14:28, he began to sink. Peter was just like we are. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus to keep our faith from failing. In the story of the tight ropewalker, what kept the boy's faith was his simple trust in his father's love, care and ability. That should be a lesson to help our faith.



## Complimentary Story ~ Tight Rope Walker

There once was a famous tightrope walker in the United States. He started in the circus but was so good, he decided to take his act to major cities of America and do outdoor shows. He never used a safety net and would simply set up his rope between two objects and walk between them. One time he set up a rope between two skyscraper buildings in America's windiest city, Chicago. People below looked up hundreds of feet as he walked on the thin rope between the two buildings. At the end of each show, he would always say, "you haven't seen anything yet."

Finally there came his greatest tightrope act. He set up a very long rope across the Niagara Falls stretching from New York on the one side to Canada on the other side. A huge crowd gathered on both sides of the falls. The spray from the huge waterfall made everything even more slippery. The tightrope walker spoke to the crowd before he started. "How many of you," he asked, "believe I can walk across this huge waterfall and make it back?" A few doubtful hands went up. He stepped onto the rope and easily walked to the other side and back. The crowds on both sides applauded enthusiastically. Then he spoke again. "How many of you," he said, "believe I can push a wheelbarrow to the other side and back again." The crowd rose to their feet. They all raised their hands.

The tightrope walker took a special wheelbarrow designed for the rope and easily pushed it over the waterfall and back again. The crowd now was going crazy with excitement. "He is the best tightrope walker ever", many of them said. Then came the man's final and greatest challenge. "How many of you believe I can push a person in this wheelbarrow from this side of the waterfall to the other side?" he said. The people were shouting now, "We believe you can do it!" they said, "You are the best!" Then came a stunning question. "Well, if you believe I can do it," said the tightrope walker, "how many of you are willing to get into the wheelbarrow and let me push them over the Niagara Falls?"

"Nooooooooooooo!!!!" said each one of the people. "We believe you can push somebody else but not me." Suddenly a small boy in the back of the crowd jumped up. "I believe he can push me" he shouted. He ran down to the tightrope walker and jumped into the wheelbarrow. The tightrope walker pushed the small boy over the waterfall to the other side and back. The crowd went absolutely wild. Then somebody in the crowd asked the question. "Who is that brave little boy?" Somebody in the crowd answered "Don't you know who that little boy is? He is the son of the tightrope walker."

It is not enough to simply say you believe in Jesus. You have to be willing to put your whole life in His hands and trust that He will never let you fall just like that little boy put his life in the hands of his father knowing that his Daddy would never let him fall.