



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.

Disc 13 ~ All Roads Lead to Rome Pulling Strings



Video Summary

In this 6-minute piece, Chad uses a marionette puppet to teach about manipulation and control. The devil's strings are there to bind you, but the strings God attaches to our hearts are there to guide us and lift us to new heights. Chad uses the wonderful illustration of a kite to demonstrate how the tugs of God can cause our lives to be lifted high. Chad also shows how all lives have some strings attached to them and he encourages believers to let God pull the strings in their lives rather than the devil.



Icebreaker ~ The Price

In the Hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where their family member lay gravely ill. Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber. "I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces. "The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, semi-risky, and you will have to pay for the brain yourselves." The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a great length of time, someone asked, "Well, how much does a brain cost?" The doctor quickly responded, "\$50,000 for a male brain, and \$2,000.00 for a female brain." The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually looked. A man, unable to control his curiosity, blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, "Why is the male brain so much more?" The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and to the entire group said, "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to mark down the price of the female brains, because they've been used."



Primary Lesson ~ Who is pulling the strings of your heart?

This is a light-hearted piece that is full of encouragement. Its purpose is to teach people to discern between the devil's 'strings attached' methods of operating and God's gentle tugs. Jesus came to set us free from the bondages of the devil and He wants to cut every string of bondage that Satan tries to attach to our lives. Chad encourages Christians to walk in freedom and to also help cut string of bondage in the lives of other people. He also shows how God's tugs on our hearts are there for direction, correction and encouragement. They are full of peace and always designed to advance our walk in Christ. Chad also shows how God never lets go, as it would be disaster for us if He did.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

- People were flying kites 1,000 years before paper was invented.
- Benjamin Franklin used a kite to prove that lightning was electricity.
- Some Japanese kites weigh over 2 tons.
- It is now thought that the first kites flown over 3000 years ago, were made from leaves.
- Kite flying was banned in China during the Cultural Revolution, anyone found flying a kite was sent to jail for up to three years and their kites destroyed.
- The world record for the longest 'kite fly' is 180 hours.
- The record for the highest single kite flown is 12,471ft (3801 meters).
- The smallest kite in the world, which actually flies, is 5mm high.
- The longest kite in the world is 3394 ft (1034 meters).
- The largest number of kites flown on a single line is 11,284, this record is held by a Japanese kite maker.
- Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

Source: Borealis Kites Website <http://p3p.jrc.it/modelsite/kitefacts.php?protectionlevel>.



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

John 8:31-32 ~ *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Galatians 5:1 ~ *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

James 3:17 ~ *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

2 Tim 2:24-26 ~ *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss some of the ways that people pull strings in your personal life.
2. Sometimes strings can be forms of discipline in your life for good even though they don't feel very good at the time. So long as there is not manipulation or ungodly control, God can use circumstances and people to direct you where He wants you to go. Discuss some of the good strings God uses to lead your life. (Hint: Think of the story of Joseph in Genesis as an example.)
3. How do you help your friends to get free from bondages that are controlling them? How about when you see friends struggling with addictions? Discuss ways to help cut the strings of bondage in their lives.
4. Pray for each other that God will help you live in freedom and that you will not be entangled in any yokes of bondage.



Complimentary Story ~ A Water Pump in the Desert

The Africans tell the story of a weary traveler who got lost in the Sahara desert. His horse had died and his food had run out. Finally the last remaining water he had was drunk and he was close to giving up hope that he would ever be rescued. It was after three days without food or water, climbing over sand dunes, that the weary man came over a ridge and spotted a palm tree in the desert below. Hope leaped in his heart and he ran to the palm tree hoping to find water. Alas, there was no water but only a rusted old water pump. The man grabbed the pump handle and began to pump the squeaky machine. Nothing came out except a terrible squeaking sound.

After many fruitless minutes of pumping, the weary man sat down discouraged. It was then that he noticed a large hole underneath the pump. He reached his hand in and extracted out a large glass bottle full of water with a giant cork in the top. He was thrilled with the find and reached to take off the cork and drink the water when suddenly he noticed a sign attached to the outside of the bottle. It read "Do not drink this water – instead pour all this water down the pump. The water will prime the pump and will cause fresh water to come from the ground."

Now the man faced a crisis in his mind. Should he believe the words on the bottle or not? At least he had the water in his hand right then and he was desperately thirsty. What if the words were a lie? He would waste the only water he had but then, what if the words were true? Then he would have enough water for many days. He debated the matter in his mind for many minutes but finally decided to risk all and to pour the water down the hole of the pump. The man listened as the water seemed to fall a great distance deep into the earth. He gripped the pump handle and began with great hope to pump.

The old pump seemed to be no different, it just went squeeeeak, squeeeeak!!! The man was desperate, so he kept pumping for minutes with no results: 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes... He was sweating now all over his body, losing precious fluids, and he felt he was about to faint. Now his mind began to play tricks and doubts swept over him. "You fool," he felt his mind saying, "you should have never believed those words." The doubts came at him hard and fast but the poor man kept pumping as now water from the well was his only hope.

The man hit about 25 minutes of pumping. Just when he was about to give up, a tangible change in the friction of the pump in his hand began to take place. It began to get more difficult to push the pump lever down and the man knew something down in the earth was happening. Then a noise could be heard from deep below, it was a gurgling rushing noise. Suddenly there was a burst of liquid breaking forth from the mouth of the pump. The man jumped under that flow of water and drank and drank and drank. He took a shower and drank some more.

The man was able to live for many days off the water at that pump and was there until he was rescued by a group of nomads. As he was leaving that place, he asked the people who rescued him to wait. He ran back to the pump, took the large glass bottle and filled it with water. He placed the cork into its mouth and made sure the sign was clearly displayed on its side. He made sure that the next traveler would have the same opportunity to be tested as he had been.

This story illustrates the battle of faith that goes on in our lives when we are faced with acting on natural circumstances versus believing God's Word. Often we have to choose to either act on the natural situation or to put our faith fully in what God has written in His Word. The devil always is the one pulling the strings to get us to choose the natural human solution. God is the one whose gentle tug will direct us to choose to believe His Word rather than the human answer.