



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 16 ~ Friendship Grudge Match



Video Summary

In this 8-minute piece, Chad explains how important friendships are to life and that choosing the wrong friends can cause you, and the other person, a great deal of pain. Throughout our lives we have the opportunity to make friendships: some simple and fleeting, others have the potential to be long lasting and meaningful. However, if these relationships are not built on Jesus and the principles found in God's Word, there is the potential for problems.



Icebreaker ~ Beautiful & Stupid

A preacher and his wife were having a heated argument. Finally, in utter desperation, the minister turned to his wife and asked, "How can someone so beautiful be so stupid?"

"That's easy," the woman quickly replied. "The Lord made me so beautiful so that you'd want to marry me. He made me so stupid so that I'd marry you!"



Primary Lesson ~ Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future!

As Christians, we are called to be salt and light to the world and to those with whom we have relationship. This influence is a big responsibility and God wants us to steward our relationships based on this simple truth.

Many young people are being influenced or pressured to compromise in many areas of their lives. Daily exposure to this pressure, without Godly resistance, will cause even the strongest person to bow their knee. You are always facing choices that are either going to strengthen your relationship with Jesus or push you away. This struggle can be referred to as a spiritual **Grudge Match**.

God realizes that within your friendships there is a certain amount of required stress to help forge you and make you stronger. But if this pressure is not kept in check, you will always be pulled "down" and begin to compromise in all areas of that friendship.

The real test of any friendship comes as you begin to make choices that will benefit your relationship with Jesus. The Bible says in Proverbs 17:17 that "A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity." A true friend will listen to your concerns and will take them to heart. If your voiced concerns about the friendship's health cause that relationship to wither and die, it was never a healthy viable relationship and it is best to lay the axe to the tree.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

- March 7, 2005, Vietnam~ Nguyen, 21, had been with friends in Hanoi, when he pulled out an old detonator he had found. It was about six centimeters long and eight centimeters in diameter, with two wires hanging out. Because it was old and rusty, Nguyen said, it couldn't explode. His friends disagreed. To prove his point, Nguyen put the detonator in his mouth and asked his friend to plug the dangling wires into a 220-volt electrical receptacle. It turns out Nguyen was wrong! The victim had little time to reflect on his mistake, or whether 220 volts alone could have been fatal. According to police, "the explosion blew out his cheeks and smashed all his teeth." He died on the way to the hospital.
- A study reported in the British Medical Journal suggests that friends, not family, may be a more important factor in helping seniors citizens live longer.
- *Lucha Libre* (which translates literally as Free Wrestling or Free Fighting) is a term used in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking areas to refer to all forms of professional wrestling
- Starting in the early 1900s, this wrestling was mainly a regional phenomenon until Salvador Lutteroth brought wrestlers from the United States to Mexico in the 1930s, giving the sport a national foothold for the first time.



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

Proverbs 27:19 ~ *A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he really is, is shown by the friends he chooses.*
(Living Bible)

Proverbs 27:17 ~ *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

Haggai 2:11-14 ~ *This is what the LORD Almighty says! Ask the priests this question about the law: If one of you is carrying a holy sacrifice in his robes and happens to brush against some bread or stew, wine or oil, or any other kind of food, will it also become holy?" The priests replied, "No." Then Haggai asked, "But if someone becomes ceremonially unclean by touching a dead person and then brushes against any of the things mentioned, will it be defiled?" And the priests answered, "Yes." Then Haggai said, "That is how it is with this people and this nation, says the LORD. Everything they do and everything they offer is defiled.*

2 Corinth. 6:14 ~ *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

Prov. 6: 27-28 ~ *Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared?*



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the reasons why choosing the right friends are so vital to spiritual success in our lives.
2. Discuss how God feels about our relationships and if he were asked, what would he say about the people you call friends.
3. We are always affected by the people we spend the most time with. Can you name biblical examples of people who chose "bad company" and ended up with a corruption of character? Why do we feel that we can succeed in areas where God said we cannot?
4. Discuss the concepts of "missionary dating" (dating to win someone to Jesus) and "flirt to convert" and how these false concepts have led to many troubled lives and broken dreams.



Complimentary Story

Fox Lake, Illinois ~ A man drowned in Fox Lake after he and a friend inadvertently blasted a hole in the bottom of their rowboat with a quarter stick of dynamite. Daniel, twenty-nine, and his unidentified friend were relaxing on the lake on Sunday in a fourteen-foot aluminum boat, when they decided to toss the dynamite explosive into the water. They intended to kill fish with the blast, not themselves, said the chief deputy coroner Jim Wipper. A sudden gust of wind pushed their boat over the dynamite, and the boat sank about a hundred yards from shore. Daniel drowned; the friend swam safely to land. (16 June 1998, Illinois)

Source: <http://www.darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin1998-07.html>

Facts of Friendship (Source ~ unknown)

A simple friend has never seen you cry.
A real friend has shoulders soggy from your tears.

A simple friend thinks the friendship is over when you have an argument.
A real friend knows that it's not a friendship until after you've had a fight.

A simple friend expects you to always be there for them.
A real friend expects to always be there for you.

A simple friend seeks to talk with you about their problems.
A real friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest.
A real friend opens your refrigerator and helps himself.