



## 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
- Key Scriptures
- Facts, figures and illustrations used in the episode
- 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 19 ~ Blood Thirsty Sacrifice



### Video Summary

This episode graphically displays the extent to which people go to offer “acceptable” sacrifices to God. Millions of people, in every culture, try desperately to please God, but often follow dangerous and painful acts to win favor with Him. Many traditional religious practices, even in the Christian world, teach people they have to follow man-made rituals and painful acts to earn God’s favor. Most of our human efforts are not biblical and do nothing to please God. We can never please God by sacrificing our bodies and the bodies of our children on the altar of self-will. Chad takes you on a graphic, yet eye-opening adventure into the religious practices of a culture that is unaware of the ultimate sacrifice that Christ made for all of mankind. Any attempt, regardless of how sincere, pales in comparison to what Jesus accomplished through the work on the cross.



### Icebreaker ~ Alaska’s Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

Every year in Alaska, Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, an 1150-mile dogsled race, commemorates an original “race” run to save lives.

Back in January of 1926, six-year-old Richard Stanley showed symptoms of diphtheria, signaling the possibility of an outbreak in the small town of Nome. When the boy passed away a day later, Dr. Curtis Welch began immunizing children and adults with an experimental but effective anti-diphtheria serum. But it wasn’t long before Dr. Welch’s supply ran out, and the nearest serum was in Nenana, Alaska, 1000 miles over frozen wilderness. Amazingly, a group of trappers and prospectors volunteered to cover the distance with their dog teams! Operating in relays from trading post to trapping station and beyond, one sled started out from Nome while another, carrying the serum, started from Nenana. Oblivious to frostbite, fatigue, and exhaustion, the teamsters mused relentlessly until, after 144 hours in minus 50-degree winds, the serum was delivered to Nome. As a result, only one other life was lost to the potential epidemic. Their sacrifice had given an entire town the gift of life.



## Primary Lesson ~ Sacrifice

From the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation, the Bible makes continual reference to “sacrifice” as being a crucial element in all of our lives. This sacrifice began with the death of an animal in Genesis and culminated in the ultimate sacrifice, that of God’s only Son. Humans are sinful by nature and that nature cripples our ability to comprehend the true nature of what true sacrifice entails and how it applies to our lives. We somehow can’t accept the fact that God sacrificed His only son for us and the only requirement needed to receive the benefits of this sacrifice is repentance in faith, believing that the completed work of Christ, through His cross, is the one and only sacrifice we can bring before God.



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

**Romans 12:1** ~ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

**Hebrews 10:5-6** ~ *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you had no pleasure.*

**Hebrews 7:27** ~ *who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*

**Genesis 22:3** ~ *So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.*

**Hebrews 10:6** ~ *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you had no pleasure.*

**Hebrews 10:12-13** ~ *But this Man, (Jesus) after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.*

**Psalms 51:17** ~ *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart. These, O God, You will not despise.*

**Psalms 74:20b** ~ *For the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.*



## Facts, Figures & Illustrations

- The largest Thaipusam celebrations take place in Singapore, Mauritius and Malaysia. Hindus celebrate Thaipusam on the tenth month of their calendar. It coincides with the full moon at the end of January and beginning of February.
  - *Thai* ~ (the first part of Thaipusam) is the Hindu month which falls between January 15 to February 15.
  - *Pusam* ~ (the latter part of Thaipusam) refers to a star which is at its brightest during the period of this festival. This is celebrated in all parts of the world where there is a concentration of South Indians.
  - All those who wish to ask for a future favor, fulfill a vow in return for a granted favor, or to repent for past sins participate in this festival (basically, all Hindus fall in one of these groups).
  - *Kavadis* ~ Ritualistic yokes carried by Thaipusam devotees. The most elaborate Kavadis can weigh as much as 80 pounds, a platform ornately decorated with peacock feathers, Christmas decorations, even plastic dolls!
- *Sacrifice*: (from a Middle English verb meaning “to make sacred”) is commonly known as the practice of offering food, or the lives of animals or people to the gods, as an act of propitiation or worship. The term is also used metaphorically to describe selfless good deeds for others, or a short term loss in return for a greater gain.
- The Romans beat Jesus with a flagrum or cat of nine tails. This is a short whip consisting of several heavy, leather thongs with two small balls of lead attached near the ends of each. The heavy whip is brought down with full force, again and again, across Jesus’ shoulders, back, and legs. At first the thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles.

Source: [http://www.aryabhattach.com/fast\\_fair\\_festival/Festivals/Thaipusam%20Festival.htm](http://www.aryabhattach.com/fast_fair_festival/Festivals/Thaipusam%20Festival.htm)



## Discussion Questions

1. Why is sacrifice important? What did the sacrifice of Jesus provide you and me?
2. Discuss the Old Testament principle of sacrifice, and why it was important to Israel. When Christ came, His sacrifice was the culmination of God's requirement for blood. What made His blood different than previous sacrifices?
3. Considering Hinduism, and all other major world religions, what distinguishes Christianity from the fundamental belief of *how* to please God, and receive favor from Him?
4. What are the areas in your life where you have misunderstood Christ's sacrifice and are attempting to add something to Christ's completed work on the cross?



## Complimentary Story ~ Bridge of Sacrifice

There once was this turnable bridge which spanned a large river. During most of the day, the bridge sat parallel with the tracks, allowing ships to pass freely on both sides. At certain times each day a train would come along, and the bridge would be turned sideways across the river allowing the trains to cross. A switchman sat in a small shack on one side of the river where he operated the controls to turn the bridge and lock it into place as the train crossed.

One day as the switchman was waiting for the last train of the day to come, he looked of into the distance through the dimming twilight and caught sight of the train's light, he stepped to the controls and waited until the train was within prescribed distance when he was to turn the bridge into position. To his horror, he found that the locking control didn't work. If the bridge was not locked into position, securely, it would wobble back and forth at the ends when the train came onto it. This would cause the train to jump the track and go crashing into the river. It was a passenger train with many people aboard. He left the bridge turned across the river, and he hurried across the bridge to the other side where there was a lever he could use to operate the lock manually.

He could hear the rumble of the train now. He took hold of the lever and leaned backward to apply pressure to keep the mechanism locked. Many lives depended on this man's strength. Then, coming across the bridge from the direction of his control shack he heard a sound that made his blood run cold, "Daddy, where are you?" His four year old son was crossing the bridge to look for him. His first impulse was to cry out to the child, "RUN RUN" but the train was too close, and his tiny legs would never make it across the bridge in time. The man almost lifted the lever to run and snatch up his son, and carry him to safety, but he realized he could not get back to the lever in time. Either people on the train or his son must die.

He took only a moment to make his decision. The train sped safely and swiftly on it's way, and no one aboard was aware of the tiny, broken body thrown mercilessly into the river by the rushing train, nor were they aware of the pitiful figure of a sobbing man still clinging tightly to the lever long after the train had passed. They didn't see him walking home more slowly than he had ever walked, to tell his wife how he had sacrificed her son.

Now if you can comprehend the feeling which went through this man's heart you can understand the feeling of our heavenly Father when He sacrificed His Son to bridge the gap between us and eternal life.

How does God feel when we speed along through life without giving a thought to what was done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ? Can there be any wonder that He caused the earth to tremble and the skies to darken when His only Son died?