



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 2 ~ SnakeBytes Camouflage



Video Summary

In this 8-minute episode, Chad uses everything from the hunting world to animals, reptiles, insects and spiders to teach about sophisticated camouflage. Chad challenges young people to live transparent lives that others can see and lives that allow God's light to reflect off of them. He traces the process of hiding from light camouflage (attitudes), to heavy camouflage that requires great secrecy. Chad asks young people to consider who they are hiding from, who they are hiding with, and what they hope to achieve by living lives in absolute secrecy.



Icebreaker ~ Wise Old Man

There was a wise old man in a village in Africa who people used to come and see from many miles around. It seemed he would always find the right answer to give every time he was asked a question.

In the same village was a small boy who used to watch the wise old man always being right. "I wish I could get him to be wrong at least once," he thought. Then he had a clever idea. He went and caught a butterfly. He put the butterfly into his right hand and put his thumb on top of the head of the butterfly but did not kill the butterfly.

Then he went to the wise old man and said to him. "Wise Old Man, I have a butterfly in my hand but I need you to tell me whether this butterfly in my hand is dead or alive." The boy thought that if the wise old man said the butterfly was dead, then he would open his hand and let the butterfly go alive, but if the wise old man said the butterfly was alive, then he would crush the head of the butterfly with his thumb and the butterfly would be dead. Whatever happened, the boy thought, the wise old man would be wrong at least once.

The wise old man did not immediately answer so the little boy said again, "Wise Old Man, is the butterfly in my hand dead or alive?" He kept repeating this again and again until, after a long silence, the Wise Old Man looked up slowly and said to the boy. "Young boy, whether the butterfly is dead or alive depends upon you." Remember, where we end up for eternity depends upon us and our decisions down here on earth.



Primary Lesson ~ Don't Hide Your Relationship with Christ

From the time we are kids, we love to hide in places others can't find us. That means often blending into our surroundings and acting invisible to others. It's fine for a game of hide and seek, but it can be deadly in our Christian walk. God has called us to be salt and light. He has called us to stand out in our faith and to be seen by a world that desperately needs to perceive truth in our lives. This lesson on camouflage unmasks the game that many teenagers and adults find themselves in. Chad challenges all believers to walk in the light and to have no areas of hiding and darkness.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

- The *ghillie* suit was developed by Scottish gamekeepers as a portable hunting blind. The name derives from *ghillie*, the Scots Gaelic for "boy".
- Once on location, the *ghillie* suit is customized with twigs, leaves, and other elements of the local foliage as much as possible, although these local additions must be changed every few hours, due to wilting of green grasses or branches.
- In most climates, the temperature inside of *ghillie* suits can soar to over 120 °F (50 °C).
- The arctic fox changes the color of its coat as the seasons change. In the spring and summer, it has a dark coat, to match the brown dirt in its environment. In the fall and winter, it turns white, to match the surrounding snow.
- Chameleons can produce a wide range of colors and patterns on their skin, but they do this primarily to express mood, not to blend in with different environments.
- To a lion, a herd of zebras doesn't look like a whole bunch of individual animals, but more like a big, striped mass. The vertical stripes all seem to run together, making it hard for a lion to stalk and attack one specific zebra. The stripes may also help a single zebra hide in areas of tall grass. Since lions are colorblind, it doesn't matter that the zebra and surrounding environment are completely different colors.

Source: www.wikipedia.org



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

John 3:19-21 ~ *[Jesus said] And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.*

Luke 8:16-17 ~ *No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.*

2 Corinth 4:1-2 ~ *And so, since God in his mercy has given us this wonderful ministry, we never give up. We reject all shameful and underhanded methods. We do not try to trick anyone, and we do not distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know that. (NLT)*



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss some of the key ways that young and old people camouflage sin in their lives.
2. If Jesus provides such forgiveness and if His salvation is so awesome and free, why is it that so many young people still do not come to Him? (Hint: John 3:20-21)
3. Discuss times when either you or someone you know may have hidden something for fear of getting into trouble even though it was hurting someone else for it not to be told.
4. Pray for one another that God will help you to live transparent lives free from camouflage.



Complimentary Story ~ The Talking Train Rescue

The following was a true story documented some years ago on a major news channel. Although I do not recall the names and places of the events (somewhere in the Midwest of the United States), the actual content of the story was so shocking that I could never forget it.

In the story, a reporter told of two young boys about 10 or 11 years of age that had been playing at a train yard, their parents had forbidden them to play there but they could not resist climbing on the trains while the train cars were being shifted back and forth. It was while one boy was on top of an empty, shiny grain silo train car that a horrible incident happened. The boy was looking into the empty silo when suddenly the train started, throwing the boy off balance and causing him to fall down into the inside of the silo car. The boy screamed and tried to get out but the smooth inside of the silo train car prevented him from getting any traction. It was right then that the train began to move and to take off from the station. The other boy managed to jump off the slow moving train and watched as it disappeared out of the station. That boy ran back to his home and did the unthinkable, he pretended like nothing had happened and told nobody. When his friend did not come home for dinner, the parents were frantic, alerted the police and started a massive search for their son. They interviewed the friend but he lied and said they had played earlier but he did not know where his friend had gone or what had happened to him.

The community was now involved, walking through fields, running the boy's photo on TV and frantically searching for the missing boy. This went on for three days and still the friend held to his story and said nothing. He was still more concerned about not getting into trouble for playing in the train yard than he was about saving his friend's life. Meanwhile the silo train car had traveled hundreds of miles across the country. The scared boy inside had yelled and beaten the metal inside of the silo car but nobody had heard him. Now the empty silo car was approaching a grain mill where they were getting ready to fill it with grain. It was at this point that a mother and a toddler came into the story. The mother was inside her home and her 3 year old son was playing outside in their yard when suddenly the toddler came running inside saying, "mommy, mommy the train is talking, the train is talking!" Their home was near the railway line but the mother also knew her child had been watching Thomas the Tank Engine shows that morning. "Its okay honey", the mom said, "that's just on TV." But the boy was insistent, "Mommy, come outside, the train is talking."

Finally just to placate her persevering son, the mom went with the toddler outside. It was only then that she heard the desperate cries of the boy trapped inside the silo train car as he shouted and banged against the smooth metal inside. The mom gasped and called 911. That was how the boy was rescued; his silo car was only a few hours away from being filled with grain, which would certainly have killed the boy.

Right up until the rescue the boy who had been playing with his friend at the train yard, never said a word about what had happened. He was living under camouflage but his silence nearly cost his friend's life. Imagine that secret on a person's conscience for the rest of their life!