



## 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).

### **NOTE:**

**THIS EPISODE CONTAINS DISTURBING AND REAL-TO-LIFE IMAGES. LEADERS AND PARENTS SHOULD PREVIEW THIS VIDEO TO MAKE SURE IT IS AGE-APPROPRIATE.**

## Disc 20 ~ Ravenous Escaping Reality



### Video Summary

In this 11-minute piece, Chad attempts to escape reality by becoming someone else. The background for this adventure is called a "Rave" (a 12-hour California youth party). Through Chad's attempts to be accepted and blend in to his surroundings, he prepares to introduce you to the process of escaping reality and exposes the lengths that some young people go to in order to deal with stress in their daily lives, naturally and spiritually. This headlong dive into rave subculture promises life but often produces only death and confusion. Through purchasing new clothes, a new car and donning a new attitude, Chad delivers practical insight into the world of escape.



### Icebreaker ~ Bridge to Nowhere

Two young men driving a dark-blue two-door vehicle removed a barricade festooned with numerous warning signs indicating bridge closure, drove past several heavy construction vehicles, and launched themselves off the end of a demolished bridge in Albuquerque, NM on Saturday. The car careened across a roadbed of unpaved I-beams before plunging 30 feet and burying its front end in a dirt embankment at the junction of I-25 and I-40. The young men were taken into police custody unharmed.



### Primary Lesson ~ Ways We Try to Escape Reality

The message in this first rave episode is to show people how a seeming fun party that thousands of people attend is actually a spiritual experience. It is not just the drugs and costumes that create the atmosphere, but the music that provides what is close to a worshipful atmosphere – yet Jesus is not the one being worshipped. What seems harmless and fun can actually be very destructive to a person's life. While many young people don't attend raves, they do often have other forms of escape in their lives. That escape may be video games with demonic themes and images, substance abuse, Internet-related addictions or a variety of other lures from Satan. The lesson in these two episodes is to show people how most worldly forms of escapism are a trap that can seriously hurt their lives.



### Facts, Figures & Illustrations ~ Escapism

**Escapism** ~ defined as the excessive mental diversion by trivial entertainment as an escape from a dull reality or routine.

**Rave** ~ The term rave first came into use in Britain in the late 1950s referring to the wild bohemian parties of the time. A rave is an all night event where people go to dance, socialize and generally have fun in an uninhibited way with other like-minded people. Some have said it's about creating a community and escaping from reality.

The Rave scene attracts people from ages 13 to 50 from all walks of life and different demographics. This phenomenon has been compared to the peace and love movement of the 1960s and 1970s. This subculture is designed for one thing: to allow people to experience the supernatural outside of mainstream church or organized religion.

A credo of the rave culture is P.L.U.R., which stands for "Peace, Love, Unity, Respect".

**When were lollipops invented?** ~ There is some dispute about who exactly invented lollipops as we know them today. George Smith claimed to have invented the candy-on-a-stick idea in 1908 - he thought a stick would make the candy easier to eat. He named his invention after Lolly Pop, a racing horse, and later trademarked the name. Eventually, Smith stopped making the sweets, and "lollipop" became a generic name.

**Junk food** ~ Junk food is an empty-calorie food. These foods have few enzyme-producing vitamins and minerals and contain high levels of calories.

If the ingredients make junk foods appealing, it is the same reason that makes them health hazardous too. The fat content, barring a few manufacturers, have high cholesterol levels. Second, the sugar and sodium salts have their effects on health. High calorie content with sugar can lead to obesity. Cholesterol and salt are known to set off high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease in a chain. Excessive salts can also affect functioning of kidneys.



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

The one substance in the Bible that was readily available for people to use to escape reality was alcohol. The effect on a life was similar to many other forms of escape.

**Proverbs 20:1** ~ *Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.*

**Proverbs 23:29-35** ~ *Who has anguish? Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks. Don't let the sparkle and smooth taste of wine deceive you. For in the end it bites like a poisonous serpent; it stings like a viper. You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things.*

**Ecclesiastes 7:18** ~ *The man who fears God will avoid all extremes.*

**Proverbs 14:8** ~ *The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.*



### Complimentary Story ~ The Death of Neil Wilson

**29 November 1995, Australia** ~ The body of Neil Wilson of Melbourne was discovered in a paddock near Toolondo Reservoir. Neil's passing was shrouded in mystery, tragedy, and a fish costume.

Local law enforcement officials said the 49-year-old man was wearing a "heavy green plastic bodysuit," constructed from old waterbed material. The costume, from which one could only be extricated painstakingly after unfastening a full-length zipper along the spine, constricted his legs into one mermaid-esque tail. The only openings, aside from the zipper, were two eyeholes.

Neil's garb, enclosing his entire body like a maritime mummy costume, restricted his breathing as well as his movement. He was discovered in this attire, which the Melbourne Fish Costume Bureau stresses was "not approved," less than a kilometer from Toolondo Lake. He apparently had attempted to swim home.

"He wanted to be a fish," disclosed one unnamed resident, recalling incidents in which Wilson would swing from a rope while wearing the suit at the lake.

Source: 1995 Darwin Award Nominee

(<http://www.darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin1995-05.html>)



### Discussion Questions

1. What are the ways young people use to escape reality? Discuss the attraction of an alternate reality and how it can be dangerous.
2. Society and the media push young people to look for a life in an alternate reality. This is done through movies, clothes, video games, cyberspace web sites, fantasy books, drug use, excessive alcohol consumption, gambling, glamour and other addictions. What are the things that people you personally know do to try and avoid reality?
3. Discuss this statement: "*The grass is not greener on the other side; it is only green where you water it.*" How can this simple principle help keep young people out of fantasy-based reality?
4. Discuss the dangers found in the escapism mindset. Why is it healthy to learn to face reality and cope with problems rather than to avoid them? How can people guard their hearts and minds against the temptation to run away from problems?