



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.

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Disc 3 ~ Fool's Gold Wild West



Video Summary

Jedediah and Poncho have spent five years mining in the mountains of California and have decided to sell their gold at a local mining town. As they enter the city they are confronted by some un- scrupulous characters who are determined to take the gold off their hands. These confrontations lead to the ultimate fight of faith, and Jed and Poncho are faced with some hard choices. Will they surrender the gold they worked so hard for or will they resist the point of shedding blood to keep what is rightfully theirs? Faith meets fear head on in this fight to the death, who will prevail?



Icebreaker ~ Whenever it Breaks

There is a story about a monastery in Europe perched high on a cliff several hundred feet in the air. The only way to reach the monastery was to be suspended in a basket which was pulled to the top by several monks who pulled and tugged with all their strength. Obviously the ride up the steep cliff in that basket was terrifying. One tourist got exceedingly nervous about half-way up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed.

With a trembling voice he asked the monk who was riding with him in the basket how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a moment and answered brusquely, "Whenever it breaks."



Primary Lesson ~ Fight the Good Fight of Faith

Each of us who are in Christ have been given a measure of faith. And we are required to do everything we can to hang onto that faith which is more precious than gold. This journey of faith can be a difficult one and our biggest challenge is to stand in that faith

Isaiah 7:9 in the NIV states "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all." Everything around us is telling us to give up; the World, friends, families and your emotions will all play a part in this great struggle. We need to be very discerning during our trials and realize that it is not the people we should fight, but the spirit operating through that person. Whether it be deception to convince you what you have is not real or a temptation to get you to trade your "birthright" for something of lesser value, the emotional battle that is produced can put anyone in a compromising situation.

If these first set of challenges do not sway you, then you will be confronted by the big three: Fear, doubt and unbelief, and it is this group that has the most fire power. When you are confronted with these enemies there is only one choice that will determine your future with God: Stand and fight the good fight of faith!



Facts, Figures & Illustrations ~ Stories of the Wild West

The most important lesson I learned was the winner of gunplay usually was the one who took his time. The second was that, if I hoped to live on the frontier, I would shun flashy trick-shooting as I would poison. I did not know a really proficient gunfighter who had anything but contempt for the gun-fanner, or the man who literally shot from the hip. - Wyatt Earp

Two businessmen looked west in the 1800s and saw an opportunity. Sensing the unsettled atmosphere in California, they offered what many miners desperately wanted: stability. They offered secure, honest banking, transportation, and even mail delivery. They were Henry Wells and William Fargo. Their company, Wells Fargo, became a giant in the banking industry.

The chemical symbol for gold is "Au" from the Latin word "Aurum", meaning "shining dawn". Gold is the most malleable and ductile of all metals, and can be hammered into a sheet thin enough so that light will pass through it. It is a great natural conductor of heat and electricity, as it is unaffected by air and most chemicals, and serves as a good barrier to radiation. It is used in jewelry, sculpture, currency, dentistry, computers, space helmets, satellites, and more.

A one-ounce gold nugget is more rare to find than a five-carat diamond.

Less than 2% of the earth's gold is found in nugget form, making it one of the earth's most precious metals.

Gold is so heavy that one cubic foot of it weighs half a ton.

It is recorded that only 88,000 tons of gold have been taken from the earth since recorded history, leaving far more yet to be discovered.

The largest gold nugget found in the U.S. weighed 195 pounds; it came from California.

In every cubic mile of sea water there is 25 tons of gold! That's a total of about 10 billion tons of gold in the oceans; however, there's no known way to economically recover it.

Source: www.pbs.org/goldrush



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

1 Peter 1:7 ~ *That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than **gold** that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

1 John 5:4 ~ *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

John 8:44 ~ *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

Mark 4: 13-19 ~ *The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

1 Timothy 6:12 ~ *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

Isaiah 7:9 ~ *If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. (NIV)*

Matthew 11:12 ~ *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

Luke 22:32 ~ *But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

Hebrews 11:27 ~ *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.*



Discussion Questions

1. Why does Satan fear your faith? If your faith is not valuable, then why does he oppose your faith? Discuss some of the ways that Satan uses to discourage you.
2. Discuss the ways we can fight the good fight of faith and not fight the person opposing us.
3. Discuss the temptations and deceptions Satan uses to discourage you and attempt to get you to give up what you have in Christ.
4. What areas is God asking you to enlarge your "frying pan" so that he can do new things through you? What has limited your thinking, or been your excuses, up till now?



Complimentary Story ~ Small Frying Pan

Two men went fishing. One man was an experienced fisherman, the other wasn't. Every time the experienced fisherman caught a big fish, he put it in his ice chest to keep it fresh. Whenever the inexperienced fisherman caught a big fish, he threw it back. The experienced fisherman watched this go on all day and finally got tired of seeing this man waste good fish. "Why do you keep throwing back all the big fish you catch?" he asked.

The inexperienced fisherman replied, "I only have a small frying pan."

Sometimes, like that fisherman, we throw back the big plans, big dreams, big jobs, big opportunities that God gives us. Our faith is too small. We laugh at that fisherman who didn't figure out that all he needed was a bigger frying pan; yet how ready are we to increase the size of our faith?

Whether it's a problem or a possibility, God will never give you anything bigger than you can handle. That means we can confidently walk into anything God brings our way.