



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 4 ~ Target Practice Combat Weapons



Video Summary

An explosive message (literally) about the weapons every Christian believer has at his or her disposal. This episode is a succinct and graphic teaching about the Christian weapons of prayer, the name of Jesus, and worship. There are plenty of munitions and bullets flying everywhere, but the message of spiritual firepower comes through with clarity and impact.



Icebreaker ~ US Naval Communication

This is the transcript of an ACTUAL radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October, 1995.

- Americans:** Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.
- Canadians:** *Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.*
- Americans:** This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.
- Canadians:** *No! I say again, you divert YOUR course.*
- Americans:** THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.
- Canadians:** *We are a lighthouse. Your call.*



Primary Lesson ~ Learning to use spiritual weapons

The primary lesson of this episode is to teach people how to fight against the attacks of spiritual darkness on their lives. The spiritual weapons God gives us are actually much more potent than the guns illustrated on the video. The lesson encourages young people to get into the battle and to actually begin to pick up these three weapons (prayer, the name of Jesus, and worship) and start using them.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

In this lesson, the message is about spiritual weapons. In the episode, natural weapons are used to illustrate spiritual truths. The piece is not meant in any way to endorse the use of violent natural weapons. The Bible is, however, full of war and full of weapons. The stone in David's slingshot was the closest Old Testament equivalent of a modern day bullet. When it comes to weapons and the 20th Century, it would be fair to say that the most significant weapon developed in past 100 years was the atomic bomb. There are some interesting facts about the development of the atomic bomb, which you should know.

- Many of the key scientists who developed the atomic bomb were Jewish and fled from Hitler's Germany to save their lives. Hitler did not realize that the very people who could have won the war for him were God's chosen people who he was trying to kill. Hitler killed more than 6 million Jews during World War 2.
- The United States government invested, in today's figures, about \$26 billion to develop the atomic bomb. It was the most money, in relevant terms, ever spent on a single weapon in the history of the world.
- The project to build this one weapon was called the Manhattan Project. At the end of World War 2, the Manhattan project employed 200,000 people, which was more people than the entire automobile industry of the United States at that time.
- The project to build the atomic bomb was so secret that even the Vice President of the United States did not know about it until after President Roosevelt died.
- The plant built in Washington State to obtain the plutonium needed for the atomic bomb was 2 million square feet in size. It was the largest square foot building that had ever been built and the energy needs of that one building were 10% of the consumption of the entire United States.
- Within one month of the first successful testing of an atomic bomb in New Mexico, Japan signed an unconditional surrender in its war against America. This only happened after two bombs were dropped on Japan killing 214,000 people.

The weapons God has given us as Christians are more powerful than any atomic weapons. We just need to learn to use them right and we must invest our time to develop God's weapons in our lives and bring them to a place where they can do damage against our spiritual enemy, the devil and all of his demons.



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

Romans 10:13 ~ *For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

2 Corinth. 10:3-4 ~ *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.*

Philippians 4:6 ~ *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

2 Chron. 20:22 ~ *Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss a time when either prayer, the Name of Jesus, or worship helped you to get out of a difficult situation. If you cannot think of one in your personal life, find an example in the Bible where at least one of these three helped someone.
1. Read Acts 16:16-26 going around in a circle and each person reading a verse. This is the story of Paul and Silas getting out of prison. Can you find all three spiritual weapons being used in this story? How was it possible for Paul and Silas to be singing to God when they must have been in so much pain after having been beaten?
2. Have there been times when you have been filled with fear or fright? Discuss these times and occurrences and how the name of Jesus helps you against the spiritual forces of evil that attack you in your thoughts, in your dreams and especially when you are alone.
3. Read Acts 19:13-16. What was the difference between Paul using the Name of Jesus and these non-Christian sons of Sceva trying to use His Name? (Hint: If Jesus is in your heart, you can use the Name of Jesus just like Paul did, but if He is not in your heart, watch out.)



Complimentary Story ~ Saved by a last, desperate prayer

This is a true story, rewritten and used with permission.

Mirjana came from an artistic family in Germany. Her great-grandmother was an opera singer, her great-grandfather a sculptor. She took up ballet and by the age of 7 she was already performing in the State theatre in Wiesbaden. Her dream, however was to become an actress. At 17 she entered a special drama school to study theatre, which seemed the fastest track to stardom.

To earn money for her studies, Mirjana worked in bars. As a beginning artist, it seemed like the world of parties, alcohol and drugs just came with the territory. Externally she seemed to have everything together, but on the inside she felt a deep sense of emptiness that never seemed to go away.

Mirjana tried to drown her depression with alcohol and drugs. This almost killed her. On March 5th, 1978 after she finished work at 4am in the morning. She left a nightclub where she worked, but not before she had downed almost half a bottle of vodka.

When she stepped onto the street outside the bar, she suddenly collapsed with an acute case of alcohol poisoning. In her mind, she knew she was about to die but decided that she had no fear of death. She felt that her life was already so awful and depressing, that if she died it could only get better.

But death was not the bliss she had expected. Mirjana felt her life slowly being sucked out of her. Suddenly she felt herself falling into a deep dark abyss. As she was falling into the darkness she had a strong impression of hell and a huge panic rose in her. It was at this moment of terror that suddenly a Scripture verse came to her mind. It was a verse a friend from America had sent her in a letter only two weeks earlier. It was short and easy to remember: "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved". (Romans 10:13)

Mirjana was still falling deeper and deeper into this black void and there was nothing she could do to stop what was happening. But it was at that moment that this sentence came to her consciousness and she whispered "Jesus, please help!". She had always made fun of the faith of Christians. Even in this situation, her conscience bothered her because she was asking this Christian God for help. What was amazing is that something really happened. It was like a giant hand reached under her and caught her in the fall and lifted her out of that deep place of darkness. She was suddenly conscious again and knew that Jesus had saved her from Hell and from death.

Mirjana was saved from an early grave but not yet eternally saved. The next day she went into a Christian bookstore to find out how to become a true Christian. The bookshop people connected her with other Christians in the city and they helped her become truly born again by giving her heart and her life fully to Jesus Christ.

Mirjana and her husband John now pastor a wonderful church in Munich, Germany. She has not lost her love for the arts and now uses her talent in acting to put on dramatic plays that God is using to reach many for the Kingdom of God.