



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 5 ~ Tongue Tied Eternal Seeds



Video Summary

In this episode, the power of words is looked at from the angle of seeds and fruit. Either for good or bad, seeds produce fruit, which produce more seeds... and so the cycle continues. Chad specifically talks about seeds of anger, sex, lust and depression and explains to young people how those seeds found a place in their lives and how to deal with them. The ultimate good seed that produces great fruit is God's Word and young people are challenged to allow God to garden the bad seeds and fruit in their lives and to populate their gardens with good seed. This episode will actually work for any age group.



Icebreaker ~ Blonde at the Movies

A blonde and her friend went to the movies to watch a Western. At one scene, the cowboy in the movie was riding his horse around a sharp bend in the road. The blonde turned to her friend and said, "I bet you \$20 that the cowboy will not fall off his horse at that bend in the road."

"It's a bet," said her friend, "I bet you he will fall off his horse." Well as the cowboy came around the bend in the movie, he fell off his horse. After the movie was over, the blonde reached into her pocket and handed the \$20 to her friend. The friend looked guilty. "I don't know if I can take your money," the friend said, "you see I saw the movie last week and I knew the cowboy was going to fall off his horse at that bend. To take your money would not be fair."

"No, it's OK!" the blonde said, "I also saw the movie last week, but I did not think that cowboy would be stupid enough to fall off his horse a second time."



Primary Lesson ~ The words that you speak are seeds that produce fruit.

The Bible clearly teaches the principle of sowing and reaping. Nowhere is this more relevant than with our words. This lesson will help young people understand how words contribute to areas like anger, lust and depression. We need to know that those struggles are mostly the result of the words others have sown into our lives. As a result, we must be careful what seeds we allow to take root in our hearts. Chad also shows that when the bad fruit of another's life is thrown at you, it can hurt.

Without God's help, we will never be able to overcome all of the bad seeds and fruit sown by others into our lives. Jesus is the great gardener and the Father is depicted in John 15:1 as the vinedresser who prunes us as branches of Christ. May we each allow God to uproot the bad seeds and to strengthen the good seeds, and the resulting fruit of each, in all of our lives!



Facts, Figures & Illustrations ~ Max Jukes vs. Jonathan Edwards

MAX JUKES

In the late 19th century, sociologist Richard Dugdale published "The Jukes: A Study in Crime, Pauperism, Disease and Heredity" [Published by Putnam's Sons in 1877 and Arno Press in 1970]. Dugdale investigated the hereditary line of a family he called the Jukes in upstate New York. He traced the Juke lineage back to a notorious character named Max, a Dutch immigrant who arrived in New York in the early 1700s. Two of Max's sons married into the notorious "Juke family of girls," six sisters, all of whom were said to be illegitimate. Max's male descendants were reputed to be vicious, and one woman named Ada had an especially bad reputation and came to be known as the "mother of criminals." Dugdale then traced hundreds of descendants of the Juke family through successive generations.

Dugdale managed to study 709 persons with the Juke name. Those that married into the family and thereby not considered of pure Juke lineage totaled 169. Dugdale once estimated that if he were able to track every single member of the Juke family, the total would have exceeded 1,200 people. But of the 709 he was able to study, 180 had been in the "poorhouse" or received public assistance. Dugdale found 140 criminals or offenders. There were 60 thieves, 7 murder victims, 50 prostitutes and 40 women who had contracted sexually transmitted diseases. Dugdale was able to estimate that the Jukes had cost the State of New York almost \$1.4 million dollars to house, institutionalize and treat this family of deviants.

A follow-up study conducted in 1915 by Arthur H. Estabrook encompassed 2,820 Jukes and found similar depressing results, only on a larger scale.

Source: Mark Gado, police detective with the City of New Rochelle Police Department, NY, writing on CourtTV's www.crimelibrary.com.

JONATHAN EDWARDS

In contrast, Jonathan Edwards was the last and greatest of the New England Puritan preachers. Some historians say he was the greatest intellect of the Western Hemisphere before 1900.

He "was a godly minister who was credited with igniting The Great Awakening through his sermons. He served for a brief period, just before his death, as president of what is now known as Princeton University. He believed in leading by example. He authored two books on the subjects of physical fitness and kindness. Mr. Edwards later became involved in teaching people to be responsible for their daily actions. An investigation was made of 1,394 known descendants of Jonathan Edwards of which 13 became college presidents, 65 college professors, 3 United States senators, 30 judges, 100 lawyers, 60 physicians, 75 army and navy officers, 100 preachers and missionaries, 60 authors of prominence, one a vice-president of the United States, 80 became public officials in other capacities, 295 college graduates, among whom were governors of states and ministers to foreign countries."

Sources with additional information: Leonard Ravenhill, "Portrait of a Revival Preacher," <http://www.ravenhill.org/edwards.htm>
James Kiefer "Christian Biographies," <http://elvis.rowan.edu/~kilroy/JEK/> http://www.homestead.com/timothyreport/June14_2004.html



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

Galatians 6:7-8 ~ *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will or the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

Genesis 8:22 ~ *While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.*

John 15:4-5 ~ *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

John 15:7-8 ~ *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*



Discussion Questions

1. The Bible says whatever you sow, you will also reap. Discuss this when it comes to:
 - a. Sports and practicing or training to do well.
 - b. Being generous to God and to other people.
 - c. What you speak to others and how you say things.
 - d. How you treat other people with your actions.
2. Jesus said only if we abide in Him will we bear much fruit. To abide in Him, we must keep His words. Discuss what it means to you to “abide in Jesus”.
3. Sometimes we see evil people doing really well. They seem to have no problems, have plenty of money, nice homes and cars. Read Luke 12:16-21 and discuss the rich wicked man’s life when it comes to sowing towards God or towards himself.
4. Seeds and fruit go from generation to generation. Discuss the life of Max Jukes versus the life of Jonathan Edwards. Pray for each other that each of you will live lives that bless many generations to come.



Complimentary Story ~ The Story of Jacob in the Bible

The stories in the Bible of the patriarch Jacob provide a very interesting study in the area of sowing and reaping. Those familiar with Jacob’s life, know that the meaning of his name was “deceitful” or “supplanter”. It seems like, in his early years, being deceitful was a way of life for Jacob. He first of all tricked Esau into selling him his birthright for a bowl of soup. Then when Jacob’s father Isaac told his brother Esau that he wanted to bless him as the firstborn son, Jacob made a plan to deceive his father and take the blessing. While his brother was out hunting for wild venison, Jacob pretended to be Esau, fooled his father and took his brother’s blessing. Esau was so upset when he found out that he wept and pleaded with his father to still bless him. The damage, however, was already done and Isaac could not change the blessing. Esau then made plans to kill Jacob. With the help of his mother, Jacob escaped and fled to a far off city called Padan Aram where he stayed with his uncle Laban.

At this stage in the story it seems as if Jacob has gotten away with his deceptions and his sins. Remember, however, that God is not mocked and that whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. Jacob ends up falling in love with one of Laban’s daughters. Her name is Rachel and Jacob makes a deal to work for Laban for 7 years so he can marry Rachel. This he does with great joy and the wedding day arrives. His new wife is under veils as was the custom of the day. Jacob probably had too much to drink that wedding night but when he woke up the next morning, he discovered he had been deceived. Instead of Rachel, he had actually married her older sister Leah.

Jacob worked another 7 years for Rachel and then another six years for a paid salary. There was only one problem and that was his pay. Laban kept changing his pay according to what suited him. He kept deceiving and deceiving Jacob and changed his wages ten times.

During his stay with Laban, Jacob had 11 sons and one daughter. He only actually had one son from Rachel who was the original woman he loved. All the other children were from other wives. That son from Rachel was Joseph. When Jacob left Laban to go back to his father Isaac and his brother Esau, his wife Rachel stole some goods from her father Laban. She then lied to Jacob and to Laban and hid the goods in her tent. Again Jacob was deceived. It was not long after this that Rachel gave birth one more time, this time to Benjamin. Unfortunately Rachel died during that childbirth.

As years went by, Jacob was to have the greatest deception of all. His other sons hated Joseph because he was his father’s favorite child and because he had dreams that they did not like. The brothers conspired against Joseph and sold him into slavery. He was taken by slave traders to Egypt where he served in the house of a man called Potiphar. Joseph’s brothers killed a baby goat, dipped Joseph’s robe in the blood and convinced Jacob that a wild beast had killed and eaten Joseph. Jacob lived in this last deception for 13 years. There were other deceptions that Jacob faced in his life but we can see that as he deceived his father early in his life, he ended up being deceived by others again and again and again throughout his life. Even though you may seem to be getting away with doing something wrong, please remember the Scripture: *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life* (Galatians 6:7-8).