



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
- Complimentary story
- Discussion Questions

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 7 ~ Essential Ingredients Leftovers



Video Summary

Recycling is the processing of used discarded materials transforming them into new usable products. This idea did not develop in the mind of man but rather in the heart of God. God's greatest recycling plan took place two thousand years ago and is still changing trash into cash in the lives of men and women all over the world.

All of our lives are filled with trash. Trash from our fallen nature and the trash we accumulate while living on planet earth. God's desire is to not only remove the trash but also find those items that He can recycle and use for His glory.



Icebreaker ~ Dumped!

(14 April 2000, Utah) A man whose domestic tranquility had been marred by a quarrel with his wife decided to sleep in the relative peace of a garbage dumpster behind a church. But his private slumber was interrupted on Wednesday morning when he was dumped into a garbage truck and caught in its hydraulic compactor.

He was "collected" from behind the church at 6AM, and the truck proceeded on to gather more rubbish at a high school. The driver had just engaged the truck's compactor when he heard a frantic pounding on the walls of the truck bay.

Fire Battalion Chief Brad Wardle commented, "Apparently, he and his wife had an argument. Who knows why he didn't just go to a hotel?"



Primary Lesson ~ God will not throw away, but recycle!

The Bible declares that we were all born in sin and that there is nothing desirable about us, and if given to our own desires, we are the most detestable of creatures. God is painfully aware of this fact, this is the very reason He came to help us through His Son Jesus. Even when we were at our worst, God saw potential and knew that if we would submit to His plan of restoration and "Recycling" we could be transformed from something detestable into something beautiful! (Romans 5:8)

We live in a world that focuses on perfection and beauty. Television, Hollywood and the culture at-large tell us what we need and when it is time to get something new. The problem arises when we, or an item of value, loses these "worldly" qualities, then it is quickly discarded and forgotten. We are a disposable society, a mindset that has left millions of precious people bleeding and dying because they did not fall into the world's standards of beauty and value. God never judges by what he sees or hears (Isaiah 11:3-4).

He always looks to the heart. Man does not have the ability to accurately assess the value of another person with his mortal eyes alone. We must have God's filter of love in place to see what He sees. With this thought in mind we need to evaluate our lives and ask God to show us the trash in our lives, offer it to him, as disgusting as it may appear, and allow His Spirit to begin the recycling process. Don't ever take for granted the weaknesses in your lives. God does not excuse sin or disobedience but does offer this exchange principle:

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

If we are willing to allow God to dig through the trash can of our heart, He will always find something he can use to bless our life and the lives of others. It is disheartening when someone else sees the trash and garbage in our life, but in Christ we have nothing to fear. He knows it is there, He is waiting for me and you to give up our pride and shame and let His heart of mercy take what we consider to be trash and turn it into an article of great value.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations ~ Recycling Facts

- A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf, as a new can, in as little as 60 days.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.
- We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year.
- To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.
- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year!
- The US population discards each year 16,000,000,000 diapers, 1,600,000,000 pens, 2,000,000,000 razor blades, 220,000,000 car tires, and enough aluminum to rebuild the US commercial air fleet four times over.
- A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year.

Source: www.recycling-revolution.com



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

John 10:10 ~ *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

John 3:6-8 ~ *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Revelation 21:5 ~ *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."*

2 Corinthians 5:17 ~ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Romans 12:2 ~ *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Ezekiel 36:26 ~ *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 ~ *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Isaiah 11:3-4 ~ *His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears;*

Romans 5:8 ~ *But God demonstrate His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*



Complimentary Story ~ Sinking by Nature

A scorpion, being a very poor swimmer, asked a turtle to carry him on his back across a river.

"Are you mad?" exclaimed the turtle.

"You'll sting me while I'm swimming and I'll drown."

"My dear turtle," laughed the scorpion, "if I were to sting you, you would drown and I would go down with you. Now where is the logic in that?"

"You're right!" cried the turtle. "Hop on!"

The scorpion climbed aboard and halfway across the river gave the turtle a mighty sting. As they both sank to the bottom, the turtle resignedly said:

"Do you mind if I ask you something? You said there'd be no logic in your stinging me. Why did you do it?"

"It has nothing to do with logic," the drowning scorpion sadly replied. "It's just my character."

The Moral of the story: Change begins in the heart. You cannot change who you are by merely white washing the outside or changing the way you think. Unless God changes you, starting from the heart first, change will never be real change and you will remain the same.



Discussion Questions

1. Why are we so afraid to let anyone see the real us? We remain superficial when it comes to the matters of the heart. Discuss why we are so afraid to let people see our weaknesses.
2. Our hearts are containers for good or evil. Most people today have never allowed God to take an inventory of what has been collected over the years. When God does ask to look inside most people say "No!" Discuss why you say no to God.
3. We all have faced rejection and been looked on as "trash". How have these rejections and judgments affected your relationship with God?
4. The Bible says Jesus was rejected, betrayed and misunderstood. Even though He was God he had to overcome the temptation to have a pity party. What are some things you can do to maintain faith and keep a good attitude, even when others don't treat you right?