



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 2 ~ SnakeBytes Nature of Sin



Video Summary

When Chad takes a bath with Monty, his 16 foot python, he discovers that this massive snake, like sin, is not that easy to control, and has a massive appetite. Remember, "Whatever you feed is going to grow" and he, like sin, starts off small, but is able to turn into a deadly monster before you know it. If that fact is not bad enough, you should try hitchhiking with this 180-pound snake around your neck. Nobody wants to stop and help for obvious reasons. This episode concludes as Chad takes you to India and encounters a deadly cobra, teaching you a thing or two about healing.



Icebreaker ~ Blind and Blond

A blind man walks into a bar, taps the man next him, and says, "Hey, want to hear a blond joke?"

The man says back to the blind man, "Look buddy, I'm blond. The man behind me is a 400-pound professional wrestler and he is blond. The bouncer is blond. The man sitting over to your left is also blond. Still want to tell that blond joke?"

The blind man is silent for a moment and then says, "Nah, I wouldn't want to have to explain it five times."



Primary Lesson ~ What sin is What we need to fight it

As Chad says, understanding sin is like grabbing a cloud. In this lesson we want to use Monty, our giant Burmese python to teach about sin's qualities. Understanding sin is a universal problem and only Jesus can actually deal with it and remove it from our lives. Through this video you will understand the consequence of feeding the appetite of sin in your life and the consequences that are inevitable. Everyone has a choice, every day, to either feed their flesh and its desires or to feed their spirit man where Christ dwells which is eternal. If sin is allowed to grow unchecked, it will reach a stage where it cannot be hidden and eventually it will bring destruction to a life. If people feed their spirit man God's Word, it will grow to dominate and destroy the sinful nature in their lives and they will reach a place of victory over sin.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations – Feeding a Python, like sin, can be dangerous

According to the New York Times, 19-year old Grant Williams of 365 East 183rd Street Bronx died as the result of an attack by his 13-foot Burmese Python which may have mistaken him as food.

The victim was found at about 1:30 PM on October 9th, 1996 by a neighbor lying with the snake coiled around his torso in the hallway of his apartment building. He was pronounced dead at Jacobi Medical Center. An ambulance crew removed the snake from the victim and it was taken to the Bronx Zoo.

According to the report, Williams and his 17 year old brother, Lamar, purchased the snake at a local pet store known as Pet City about five months ago for \$300.00.

This attack may be a feeding related incident as a live chicken was found nearby, still in the box. Williams was apparently getting ready to feed the snake, out of its cage. Pythons, like other snakes, have an acute sense of smell. The mere presence of the food in the vicinity can set off a sort of feeding frenzy. Therefore feeding snakes, especially large ones capable of inflicting significant injury or death, should be done with extreme caution

Snakes inspire both fear and fascination in us, and rightly so. Venomous snakes and even some non-venomous snakes—such as the giant constrictors—can be lethal to humans and animals much larger than the snakes themselves. How strong are giant constrictors and how do they take down such large animals? **It's constriction, not suffocation**, squeezing the very life out of you. Sin will squeeze the life of God out of you, spiritually speaking!

Constriction is a method snakes use to subdue their prey, by coiling their muscular bodies around their otherwise unwieldy victims and squeezing, the constriction prevents even their largest prey from biting or kicking their way free from the snake's grasp.

Traditionally it was believed that constrictor snakes killed their prey by suffocation, by squeezing their victims so tightly they could no longer breathe. But suffocation can take up to several minutes, which can give a prey animal plenty of time to fight back, and we now know that prey animals are often killed much faster than that. Constriction kills so quickly because it squeezes the blood vessels closed and causes the circulation to stop.

If constriction is strong enough to squeeze the blood vessels closed in the body of a prey animal, then the animal's circulation stops immediately, which causes the tissues to run out of oxygen and die in seconds rather than minutes. Even *small* constrictors can squeeze with pressures up to 4 PSI (pounds per square inch). This is strong enough to squeeze blood vessels closed in mice and kill them by circulatory arrest.

An 18-foot Burmese python (Monty) can constrict prey with 12 pounds per square inch of pressure. Measure the number of square inches of surface area of the prey and multiply by twelve to get the total pressure exerted. **Essentially it ends up being hundreds of pounds of pressure being exerted from all sides.**

Experts strongly recommend that owners of large pythons feed them only in their enclosures or cages. Under no circumstances should such snakes be fed in the open or in an unrestrained manner. Food should be inserted into the cage quickly and carefully, preferably using long-handled tongs such as barbecue tongs. It need not be alive and should be pre-killed to facilitate handling. Feeding a large python is not the same as feeding your dog or cat.

Large pythons should not be allowed to roam free. They can unpredictably attack anyone in the household or escape by pushing out a window or screen with relative ease. Anyone considering the acquisition of such an animal should have the space and funds to house it adequately and safely without resorting to allowing it free roaming privileges. Such snakes should not be handled before or after feeding for several days. In addition such animals should not be handled unless two or more people are present, capable of removing the snake should it attempt an attack.



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

Romans 8:12-13 ~ *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors-- not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Galatians 6:7 ~ *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

John 3:14-15 ~ *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

1 Peter 2:24 ~ *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.*

Genesis 4:7 ~ *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.*

Jeremiah 17:9 ~ *The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?*

1 John 1:7-9 ~ *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*



Complimentary Story ~ A Circus Act to Die For

The following story illustrates the dangers and consequences of trusting in what seemed trustworthy but which had an untrustworthy nature. That's ultimately like us trusting the devil.

Many years ago a young boy started working at a circus. He was very keen about working with the snakes and reptiles. The ring master saw the boy's interest and how he worked very hard for a long time and one day, when he was old enough, decided to let him begin to work with the snakes. The boy was thrilled.

He quickly became a headliner in the Circus' main attraction in the big top. Night after night he would bring out his friends, pythons and boas of varied lengths and weights, to amaze and thrill audiences. People marveled at his ability and fearlessness with these giant creatures. Year after year he would entertain thousands of people as he allowed these giant snakes to wrap around his body with little fear

for his own life. Once fully covered he would walk around the ring, proudly displaying his mastery of the serpents, the crowds loved him!

Then one night, as he had done thousands of times before, he brought out his giant snakes and let them drape their enormous lengths around him. The people were thrilled and shouted loudly as the serpents embraced him from head to toe. This night's exhibition was to be like countless other nights before; he would walk around the ring and slowly remove the snakes from his body. But something was not right, as he attempted to unravel the snake, the snake did something it had never done before...it began to squeeze.

As the crowd looked on, the young man found himself in the grips of a power that he had never experienced before. His face grew red and his lungs began to collapse as the life was slowly and deliberately squeezed out of him, the crowd thought it was part of the act and jeered and whistled. Unfortunately for the young man, he was killed within a matter of minutes. As he fell to the ground dying, he sadly realized that these "things" in his life, that he thought he could control, ultimately controlled him, even to the point of death. This is how the nature of sin works in our lives. We get so very comfortable and familiar with it and its devices that we quickly forget its ability to crush the very life out of us.



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the scene, where Chad is trying to hitchhike with Monty around his neck. How do we react when we see drunk people, people high on drugs or criminals in jail? Are we attracted to help them or are we repulsed by the obvious sin in their lives? Are we scared for our own safety and do we fear that their sin might jump into our own lives?
2. Chad describes a white dog and a black dog in all of our lives. Discuss ways that we can "feed" each of these dogs through our eyes, our ears and our thought life.
3. How does the devil try to feed the black dog in our lives without us even noticing it? (For example: music, videos, films, the words of other people, video games, etc.)
4. What did Jesus mean when he likened Himself to the serpent lifted up by Moses in the Wilderness (see Numbers 21)?
5. Discuss the "Snake in the bathtub with Chad" scene. People think they can control sin but soon realize that sin is controlling them. Talk about how people get addicted to drugs, pornography, alcohol, gambling, etc