



## 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](mailto:feedback@youthbytes.org).

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## Disc 5 ~ Tongue Tied The Tongue



### Video Summary

In this powerful episode, Chad examines the power of words and their influence on a person's life and destiny. Words may seem small and insignificant but the Scriptures equate them to the rudder of a ship that dictates the entire direction in which the huge vessel goes. The Bible also says the words of our tongue have the same potential to do damage as the spark of a fire has to set an entire forest ablaze. Chad uses these powerful object lessons from the New Testament book of James and even illustrates how we put bits in horses' mouths to control them but he also shows how our most difficult task in life is to control the tongue. Chad challenges young people to allow God's Word to control and dictate their futures.



### Icebreaker ~ Always have an optimistic attitude

Phil and Ernie were friends who lived during the time of the Wild West in America. Wild animals still roamed the countryside and traveling without a gun was often dangerous. Phil and Ernie did not have a lot of money. They went from town to town looking for employment. One day they came across a poster, which was put there by the state government. The poster told how farmers were losing hundreds of sheep to packs of wolves that lived in the mountains. The poster then announced a reward of \$1,000 for every wolf that anyone killed. Now in those days \$1,000 was a large amount of money. Phil and Ernie scraped together enough money to buy a gun and they headed for the mountains to hunt wolves. For five days they searched for wolves and found none. One night they went to sleep in their small tent only to be awakened in the night by some terrible growling. Phil woke up and discovered a pack of 12 wolves surrounding them. They were hungry and Phil could see their eyes glowing as they came closer and closer. He reached over and shook Ernie. "Wake up Ernie," he said, "you won't believe it – we are rich."



## Primary Lesson ~ Allow God's Word to Control Your Life and Your Tongue

This lesson reveals how the words a person hears over their life, the words they speak and the words they believe all have power to influence their destiny. The goal of the lesson is to sensitize young people to the power of their words and to give them the three illustrations used to describe the tongue from the book of James.

The challenge of the lesson is for people to allow God's Word to control and direct them and for them to make sure they do not use words in a destructive way but in a way that builds others up. In the same way as negative words do damage, God's Word on human lips can heal and bless others.



## Facts, Figures & Illustrations ~ Tyrone 'Mugsy' Bogues

Did you know that a person has a better chance of winning the lottery than making it to the National Basketball Association (NBA). Each year the NBA holds its draft. There are two rounds, and unless a team has traded away one of its draft choices, each team gets two draft picks. With 30 teams in the NBA, only 60 players get drafted in a given year.

Tyrone 'Mugsy' Bogues believed in himself and his abilities. His dream was to play in the NBA. But the odds of playing in the NBA were astronomical for someone of his size. At 5ft 3in, Bogues stood a full 16 inches shorter than the average player in the league. You can imagine how no one took his dream seriously except Bogues himself. Here is what he had to say about playing in the NBA:

*You've always got to stay true to your beliefs. I never accepted it when someone said I couldn't do something. They don't know my capabilities and potential. I let the criticism go in one ear and out the other. I just had to show its possible a kid my size can compete on the floor. I didn't see myself failing. I studied the game and became knowledgeable of how to get across what I can do to others. Hard work, the idea of always believing and the willingness to survive has been a big part of my having a 13-year NBA career.*

In the year 2000 Mugsy had a 5-to-1 assist/turnover ratio, first in the NBA. He also ranks as the Hornets' all-time leader in assists and steals and 3<sup>rd</sup> in points. And in 1990 he was named Hornets Player of the year.

Source: Tom Hughes' Motivational Moments Newsletter –

[www.deandelker.com/2007\\_01\\_01\\_archive.html](http://www.deandelker.com/2007_01_01_archive.html)



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

**James 3:2** ~ *For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.*

**James 3:3-5** ~ *Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!*

**Proverbs 18:21** ~ *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

**Proverbs 12:14** ~ *A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered unto him.*



## Discussion Questions

1. Is the often-quoted statement that "sticks and stones can break your bones but words can never hurt you" completely false? What kinds of words hurt the most? Is there a difference between negative words spoken to you by strangers and those spoken to you by close family members and people who are supposed to be your friends?
2. Discuss a time, if you have one, when you learned how dangerous a fire can be?
3. Discuss a time when you said something that you wish you could take back? Did you have trouble fixing the damage of your words?
4. Just because someone says negative things about you, you don't have to accept those negative things or believe them or allow them to dictate your destiny or future.
  - a. Discuss how you think Tyrone Bogues, the 5-ft 3-in NBA basketball player (see facts, figures and illustration section), was able to overcome all the negative talk about his height and still succeed.
  - b. Name one negative thing that others have said about you which you believe God can help you overcome.



## Complimentary Story ~ The Power of One Word

Arthur Stace was a loser, a no-hoper, an alcoholic and completely illiterate. He lived in the streets of Sydney, regarded by many who saw him as a lost cause. One Sunday night in 1932 he entered St Barnabas' Anglican Church on Broadway, Sydney, and heard the Reverend T. C. Hammond preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Arthur was convicted by the Spirit of God. He left the church, crossed the road, and sat under a tree in Victoria Park where he committed his life to Jesus Christ. He had become a new creation. Later that year he heard the evangelist John G. Ridley preaching. In his urgent, commanding voice, John Ridley cried, "Eternity! Eternity! Oh, that this word could be emblazoned across the streets of Sydney!"

Arthur Stace the little man who still could not read or write left that church, took some yellow chalk, bent down and wrote one word on the footpath. And throughout the night for the next 40 years, while Sydney slept, Arthur would take his chalk and write in immaculate copperplate handwriting the word "eternity" on footpaths, entrances to the train station, and anywhere else he thought it would catch people's attention. Sydney commuters would alight from their commuter trains each morning and see this word as they walked to work. The Word eternity became famous in the city and became an emblem of Sydney.

As the year 2000 was welcomed, the word "eternity" in Stace's handwriting, was emblazoned NOT across the streets of Sydney as John Ridley had wished, but across the face of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and, thanks to modern technology, was seen around the world. Of all the words that have been spoken during the first two millennia, the one chosen by otherwise-godless people to be featured on the Harbour Bridge at the dawn of the year 2000, is the one that was used to remind so many busy Sydney residents of their impending appointment with their Creator.

Because Sydney's fireworks display was the first of the international celebrations to be telecast around the globe, people in every continent witnessed the miracle that God performed when he touched the life of one little, 'insignificant' man - Arthur Stace - a man who heard the voice of God and responded by committing his life to 'preaching' his one-word sermon. Heaven only knows how God will continue to speak to the hearts of so many people around the globe, using the work He started back in the 1930s through Arthur Stace and his piece of yellow chalk. In Sydney today, you can still see the word on his gravestone in Waverley Cemetery, commemorating the life of Arthur Stace who had become known as 'Mr. Eternity'.

Source: Ron Bevis - Maroubra Baptist Church, Sydney - <http://www.pastornet.net.au/stace/>