



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 9 ~ Chronicles of Egypt 1 Preservation



Video Summary

Egypt is the backdrop for our exploration into the mysteries of eternal life. This ancient culture has left an incredible legacy of architecture and art that has fascinated millions for generations. But the legacy the ancient Egyptians hoped to leave failed to endure the effects of time. Eternity, the Bible says, has been placed in the hearts of men, but only a precious few, have embraced the secrets of its acquisition, and experienced what it means to live forever.

Chad and crew leave the western deserts of Egypt and travel into Cairo. Here they hope to learn more about this ancient culture, mummification, and man's futile attempts to gain eternal life without Jesus. Will they find what they are looking for?



Icebreaker ~ Buried Alive

Our culture has many ideas and fears concerning death and dying, but an even greater fear is that of being buried alive! It is believed that in the 1500s, people were often unintentionally buried alive – as evidenced by scratch marks on the insides of coffins that were later exhumed for some reason.

On hearing such stories, public fear of being buried alive allegedly resulted in a new method of burial, in which a string was tied to the wrist of the departed and fed through a hole in the coffin all the way to the surface, where it attached to a bell. Were the person to awaken, the slightest arm movement would ring the bell, alerting someone to dig them up. Hence, so the tale goes, the origin of the expressions "saved by the bell" and "dead ringer."



Primary Lesson

This lesson is a deeper look into man's attempts at eternal life. The Bible indicates that we are created with an eternal soul that will live forever. Yet countless people either ignore or avoid this truth, hoping that the fateful day of their natural death will possibly arrive unnoticed.

The Ancient Egyptian Pharaohs spent vast fortunes and wasted countless human lives on their quest for eternal life; but we can't truly fault them for their efforts. The fear of death and the desire to live forever still haunts men's hearts today.

What are the vain and futile attempts we apply in our lives to cheat death and live forever? Are your efforts based in Christ and God's plan or do you trust in your own ideas and good works? God's plan is very clear: salvation is only attained through God's Son, Jesus Christ!



Facts, Figures & Illustrations ~ Egyptian Culture

Cairo, Egypt

The capital of Egypt is the largest city in the Middle East and in Africa. Cairo had human settlements as long ago as 6,000 years. More than 350,000 people are born there yearly, and nearly 50 percent of the population is 19 years old or younger.

Religion

Most people who live in Cairo are Muslim. There are also many Christians in Egypt, making up perhaps around 10 per cent of the population. The majority of Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church, which was the dominant religion in Egypt before Islam. There are only a handful of Jews left in Cairo - about two hundred. Most of Egypt's Jewish population has emigrated in the last fifty years to Israel or the United States.

The Cairo Museum

This museum was established by the Egyptian Government in 1835. French architect Marcel Dourgnon built the current museum in 1900. The museum exceeds over 12000 objects from Egypt's glorious past.

Khan el-Khalili market

This was built in 1382 was once known as the Turkish bazaar during the Ottoman period, is now usually just called the 'Khan'. During its early period, the market was also a center for subversive groups, often subject to raids before the Sultan Ghawri rebuilt much of the area in the early 16th century.

More recently the market was a target of terrorism during a surge of attacks in Cairo in April 2005. The suicide attack in the market, on April 7, killed 21 people (eleven Egyptians, two French tourists, one American, and seven foreigners of unidentified origin). It was the first attack in a series that drove away tourists from Egypt in general and Khan el-Khalili in particular for some time.

Mummification

This is an ancient practice of preserving the body for the after life. The embalmer makes a cut in the left side and removes many of the internal organs. It is important to remove these because they are the first part of the body to decompose. A long hook is used to smash the brain and pull it out through the nose. The body is now covered and stuffed with "natron" which will dry it out. All of the fluids and rags from the embalming process will be saved and buried along with the body. After forty days the body is washed again with water from the Nile. Then it is covered with oils to help the skin stay elastic. The body is stuffed with dry materials such as sawdust, leaves and linen so that it looks lifelike.

When the internal organs were removed from a body they were placed in hollow canopic jars. These, solid wood or stone canopic jars fashioned in the image of the gods. These were buried with the mummy to symbolically protect the internal organs. The heart is not taken out of the body because it is the centre of intelligence and feeling and the man will need it in the afterlife.

Four Canopic jars contained the major internal organs:

- **Imsety, the human-headed god:** looks after the liver
- **Hapy, the baboon-headed god:** looks after the lungs
- **Duamutef, the jackal-headed god:** looks after the stomach
- **Qebehsenuf, the falcon-headed god:** looks after the intestines

Finally the body is covered again with good-smelling oils. It is now ready to be wrapped in linen.

Once the mummification is completed the head and neck are wrapped with strips of fine linen. Then the fingers and the toes are individually wrapped. The arms and legs are wrapped separately. Between the layers of wrapping, the embalmers place amulets to protect the body in its journey through the underworld.

A priest reads spells out loud while the mummy is being wrapped. These spells will help ward off evil spirits and help the deceased make the journey to the afterlife. The arms and legs are tied together. A papyrus scroll with spells from the *Book of the Dead* is placed between the wrapped hands. More linen strips are wrapped around the body. At every layer, the bandages are painted with liquid resin that helps to glue the bandages together.

Finally, a large cloth is wrapped around the entire mummy. It is attached with strips of linen that run from the top to the bottom of the mummy, and around its middle. A board of painted wood is placed on top of the mummy before the mummy is lowered into its coffin. The first coffin is then put inside a second coffin. A ritual called the 'Opening of the Mouth' is performed, allowing the deceased to eat and drink again. Finally, the body and its coffins are placed inside a large stone sarcophagus in the tomb. Furniture, clothing, valuable objects, food and drink are arranged in the tomb for the deceased. Now the body is ready for its journey through the underworld. There his heart will be judged by his good deeds on earth. If his heart is found to be pure he will be sent to live for all eternity in the beautiful 'Field of Reeds', if not, he is vanquished into blackness forever!

List of popular Egyptian Gods and Goddesses

God of	Name	Appearance
Sun	Ra	Head of falcon and sun disk
Music	Hathor	Horns of cow and sun disk
Destruction	Sekhmet	Head of lion
Sky	Nut	Blue with golden stars
Earth	Geb	Color of plants and Nile mud
Dead	Osiris	Dressed in white with crook and flail
Desert	Seth	Animal head with long curved snout
Pharaoh	Horus	Head of hawk and crown of Egypt
Magic	Isis	Throne on head or holding baby
Wisdom	Thoth	Head of ibis
Embalming	Anubis	Head of jackal
Justice	Ma'at	Feather in her hair
Creation	Amun	Crowned with feathers
Cats	Bastet	Head of cat



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

Hebrews 9:27 ~ *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*

Proverbs 14:12 ~ *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

Matthew 6:25 ~ *Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?*

John 12:25 ~ *He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

James 4:14 ~ *Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*

Genesis 3:19 ~ *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.*

John 7:24 ~ *Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.*

Luke 12:16-21 ~ *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'" But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

Matthew 6:21 ~ *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss what the Bible says about the afterlife, namely Heaven & Hell. If these are not real, tangible places, why did Jesus speak so specifically about them? (Hint: Mark 9:43-44, Revelation 21:3-4)
2. In Luke 12, Jesus tells a tale of a rich man and his shortsightedness concerning his life and accomplishments. Read this scripture and discuss the very real issues that are in your life.
3. Death comes to all men. Each of us has had a friend or family member die. Discuss how that made you feel. When you are confronted with death, do you press into the promises of Jesus or do you recoil in fear? What does the Bible say about fear of death? (Hint: 1 John 4:18, John 11:25-26, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10)
4. Discuss **your plans** for eternity. Are you 100% sure that your ultimate destination is secure? Do you feel saved and is salvation based on how we feel? (Hint: Romans 8:16)
5. Discuss what it means to be saved for eternity and how God says we must do it.



Complimentary Story ~ Famous Last Words from the Death Bed

"The sun is setting; mine is rising. I go from this bed to a crown. Farewell."

– **Rev. S. B. Bangs**

"A myriad of men are born; they labor and sweat and struggle;...they squabble and scold and fight; they scramble for little mean advantages over each other; age creeps upon them; infirmities follow; ...those they love are taken from them, and the joy of life is turned to aching grief. It (the release) comes at last--the only unpoisoned gift earth ever had for them--and they vanish from a world where they were of no consequence, a world which will lament them a day and forget them forever."

– **Mark Twain, 1910**

"I am abandoned by God and man! I shall go to hell! O Christ! O Jesus Christ!

– **Voltaire, 1778**

"What blood, what murders, what evil counsels have I followed! I am lost; I see it well!"

– **Charles IX, king of France, 1574**

"Oh, that I was to lie upon the fire that never is quenched a thousand years, to purchase the favor of God and be reunited to Him again! But it is a fruitless wish. Millions of millions of years will bring me no nearer to the end of torments than one poor hour. Oh, eternity, eternity! Forever and forever! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell!"

– **Francis Newport, 1708**

"I am suffering the pangs of the damned."

– **Tallyrand Perigord, 1838**



God's plan for Eternal Life

God says in order to go to Heaven, you must be born again. In John 3:7, Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again."

In the Bible, God gives us the plan of how to be born again, which means to be saved. His plan is simple!

1. Realize you are a sinner.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

2. Your sin condemns you to death. This includes eternal separation from God in Hell.

For the wages [payment] of sin is death (Romans 6:23)

It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27)

3. God loves you! He gave His only Son, Jesus, to bear your sin and die in your place. Jesus had to shed His blood and die. Although we cannot understand how, God said our sins were laid upon Jesus and He died in our place. He became our substitute.

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)

For the life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11)

Without shedding of blood is no remission [pardon]" (Hebrews 9:22)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

4. We must receive his free gift and repent. Repentance is a change of mind that agrees with God that one is a sinner, and also receives what Jesus did for us on the Cross.

God commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30)

In Acts 16:30-31, the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

Simply believe on Him as the one who bore your sin, died in your place, was buried, and whom God resurrected. His resurrection powerfully assures that the believer can claim everlasting life when Jesus is received as Savior.

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name (John 1:12)

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13)