



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 YouthBytes Episode will include:

- Video summary
- Icebreaker
- Primary Lesson
- Facts, figures and illustrations used in the episode
- Key Scriptures
- 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.

Immersion



Video Summary

The earth is covered in over 70% water and most of what we know about the ocean depths has only been discovered in the past 150 years. As man began to explore this environment he quickly realized that to navigate these depths and discover the treasures that abound, he had to have the right equipment and he must be aware of the predators that call the depths their home. This realization can also be applied to our spiritual lives. The realms of the spirit are vast and uncharted by most, but when God calls us into the deep, He provides everything we need to not only survive, but to experience "life" that very few have ever seen face to face! Join Chad and Max as they go "into the deep" off of the coast of Southern California.



Decent

Chad and Max venture to Catalina Island in search for a lost treasure. It is here that they learn a valuable lesson about the importance of the scuba equipment. In order to go into the ocean depths, all equipment needs to function correctly. The same can be said for going into the spiritual realms of our heart. We must put on the full armor of God in order to go deep.



Ascent

Chad and Max get close and personal with some unhappy sharks. In the ocean depths predators abound, and in the spirit, it is the same way. Putting on the full armor of God isn't just for navigation, its also for safety and defense. When you descend into the depths you want to make sue you ascend as well.



Primary Lesson ~ You must have the right equipment to navigate the deep

Chad and Max travel to Catalina Island, located off the coast of Southern California in search of lost treasure. It is here that they learn a valuable lesson about the importance of the scuba equipment. In order to go into the ocean depths, all equipment needs to function correctly and you must know how to use it. The same can be said for going into the spiritual realms of our heart. We must put on the full armor of God in order to go deep. Now with any equipment or unfamiliar technology, practice does make perfect. The testing process is important as you not only get used to using this "new" technology but also begin to figure out how and why it works. Once you begin to utilize the equipment you have and feel comfortable doing so, you will then be able to explore the world around you. Although you are now ready to "go deep" you must realize that there are predators and threats in the environment. Yes, the equipment will give you the ability to interact, but it is your heart and your discernment that will keep you in a safe place.



Points to consider-

1. Do you like looking for lost things? Do you like trying new things?
2. Have you ever been intimidated by new technology or unfamiliar devices?
3. Have you ever found yourself avoiding certain places or people because of past "bad" experiences?
4. God is always calling us into the deep. He knows that as we stretch our faith and abilities in obedience to Him, we will find much, much more than lost treasure.
5. We have an enemy and he is always looking to distract us and keep us away from the "deep things of God" What are you experiencing in your life that may be an attack of the enemy?
6. Jesus said he was the light of the world. What did he mean? Can we be a light in the world?



Facts, Figures & Illustrations-

-SCUBA stands for Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus, a system that allows you to dive without an air-line back to the surface. Scuba diving actually got its start during World War II and described Navy divers who used oxygen to attach enemy ships from beneath the surface of the water. Today, scuba diving is used to refer to either the recreational sport or the actual equipment used.

Scuba diving is the act of going diving with a set of apparatus that allows the individual to breathe underwater. The modern equipment as we know it was invented in 1943 by Jacques Cousteau, but the development of the idea goes back hundreds of years to Leonardo da Vinci. Before scuba sets, people could only explore underwater for as long as they could hold their breath!

-The basic gear necessary for diving is a scuba diving mask for seeing underwater, diving fins to move and a snorkel to breath. More advanced diving requires a scuba BCD, or buoyancy compensator, which is a vest that allows you to control your depth as you descent. A scuba regulator attaches to the tank held on the vest as well as the octopus, a hose that works as a backup to the first regulator. A diving computer, watch, wet suit and weight belt may also be necessary or appreciated, depending on how far you plan to dive

-The depth you can reach while diving is determined by the laws of nature and recreational divers are limited to 130 feet. This limit applies only to recreational divers who dive so far down, stay there for a while and then make a direct and slow ascent back up with no staged stops for decompression. Diving beyond this limit requires technical training and more advanced equipment to avoid decompression sickness. While it is possible to go farther, it isn't within the realms of possibility with today's technology.

-Underwater, sound travels much, much faster, so it is difficult to tell where it is coming from.

-The deepest recorded scuba dive was by South African Nuno Gomes who dived to a depth of 318.25 m (1,044 ft.) in the Red Sea off Dahab, Egypt, in 2005.

-The behavior of light underwater also makes things appear about 1/3 larger than they really are!

-The Colossus of was a statue of the Greek titan-god of the sun Helios, erected in the city of Rhodes, on the Greek island of the same name, by Chares of Lindos in 280 BC. It is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was constructed to celebrate Rhodes' victory over the ruler of Cyprus, Antigonus I Monophthalmus, whose son unsuccessfully besieged Rhodes in 305 BC. Before its destruction in the earthquake of 226 BC, the Colossus of Rhodes stood over 150 feet high making it one of the tallest statues of the ancient world.

-Catalina Island, is a rocky island off the coast of the U.S. state of California in the Gulf of Santa Catalina. The island is 22 long and 8 miles across at its greatest width. The island is located about 22 miles south-southwest of Los Angeles, California. The highest point on the island is 2,097 feet (639 m) Mt. Orizaba.

-**The Great White Shark** (*Carcharodon carcharias*), also known as the great white, white pointer, white shark, or white death, is a species of large shark that can be found in the coastal surface waters of all the major oceans. The great white shark is mainly known for its size, with mature individuals growing up to (21 ft) in length (although reports have been published of great white sharks measuring over (26 ft) (7,328 lb) in weight. This shark reaches its maturity around 15 years of age and was previously believed to have a life span of over 75 years.

The best selling novel *Jaws* by Peter Benchley and the subsequent blockbuster film by Steven Spielberg depicted the great white shark as a "ferocious man eater". Humans are not the preferred prey of the great white shark,[14] but the great white is responsible for the largest number of reported and identified fatal unprovoked shark attacks on humans

Grey Reef sharks are fast-swimming, agile predators that feed primarily on free-swimming bony fishes and cephalopods. Their aggressive demeanor enables them to dominate many other shark species on the reef, despite their moderate size. Many grey reef sharks have a home range on a specific area of the reef, to which they continually return.



Complementary Stories

(August 2006, Florida) A scuba diver was bitten on the lip when he attempted to kiss a nurse shark. The bite was a surprise to the diver, as he had kissed hundreds of sharks. He explained, "You pick 'em up, rub their belly, scratch 'em, hug 'em, might as well give them a smooch while you're there." Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This shark took exception to his unwanted advances, and bit his lip. To add insult to injury, a group of snappers came in for a few nibbles, too. Luckily, a patient plastic surgeon was able to repair his mangled lip. "It was a matter of completing the puzzle and putting (a hundred little pieces) back together again," Dr. Mike Kelly said. Has the diver learned his lesson? Apparently not! He simply plans to modify his amorous technique: "Don't kiss a nurse shark while it's *upside down*." One reporter remarked, "Better still, don't kiss them at all."

<http://darwinawards.com/stupid/stupid2006-06.html>

(11 July 1999, Norway) This is the story of a guy teaching his friend about diving. It was a sunny day, excellent for a first dive. The "teacher" had taken a SCUBA course, had his own equipment, and had done a few dives. The student hadn't tried but was willing to learn from his good friend. The only equipment they had was one complete diving set, which the "teaching" friend wore. The learner had only a wetsuit and weight belt, and no diving vest for flotation. They shared one tank of air, breathing from the same regulator. After several underwater forays, they had 40 bar of air left on the tank. They jumped into the water and started their last dive, wanting to see how far down they could get. Safe procedures require

that you finish a dive with at least 50 bar of air remaining. 40 bar will last for about 4 minutes if they didn't breathe hard, but inexperienced divers always breathe hard. They reached 26 meters when they ran out of air. The "instructor" got to the surface using his diving vest, but was dead before he surfaced. The student was found at 26 meters with his weight belt on. Standard procedure is to release that belt when having trouble, to make it easier to surface. So what did the student learn about diving? Probably that it is possible to drown when you get into trouble under water. <http://darwinawards.com/personal/personal1999-18.html>



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

Ephesians 6:8-10~Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Psalms 42:7~ Deep calls unto deep at the noise of your waterfalls;

2 Timothy 2:15~ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

1 Peter 1:7 ~ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Psalms 119:105~ Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

John 8:12~ Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.



Discussion Questions

1. Are you content staying in the shallow end of the pool. Are you afraid to go into the deep end? Why?
2. Do you understand we are in a war, spiritually? Do you recognize you need armor to survive? Have you been wounded or seen others wounded? Do these wounds produce fear in you and keep you out of the deep? Has God been asking to help you deal with these problematic issues?
3. Do you see other believers experiencing “deeper” realms of God? Do you desire to experience the same things? Are you aware of what is missing in your life? What do you notice about those who are in the deep? Can you learn anything from them?
4. Have you at one time tried going into the “deep” and experienced a “predator” that has discouraged you from going any further? Have you adjusted attitudes or opposed negative emotions to try again?
5. When God calls us to a specific position of ministry or life, He does equip us with all we need to not only succeed, but thrive. Do you feel ill equipped to do what you are doing? Or do you feel like out are “ in over your head?” God wants to turn your weakness into strengths, are you willing to allow “His” power to transform your approach
6. Can you think of 2 situations or events in your life that have discouraged you from persuing the deeper things of God? Have you taken these “road blocks” to God? Are you willing to use Gods provision to overcome these?
7. Jesus said he was the light of the world. What does that mean to you? Do you realize that HE wants to illuminate all of the dark, uncertain areas of your life? That without His Word and direction in our lives we will not be able to see His plan and purpose for our lives.
8. Think about hidden treasure, sunken treasure or something of great value being lost. It is usually in a hard to access place, if the place is even known. If it was easy to get a hold of, it would not be “lost.” It takes courage, faith and the right equipment to retrieve lost treasure. What are you willing to do or to learn to become someone who it qulaified to search and find this treasure. Think about your relationship with God. What are you willing to do to access all that God has for you? Are you willing to face predators? Are you willing to work until you find it? The reward is most assuredly worth it.