



YouthBytes.org - A Powerful Tool for Youth Workers

YouthBytes is a simple, yet effective, tool for those who have a passion to reach the next generation. Each Episode Guide is designed to help youth leaders implement YouthBytes into any setting. From large youth services to small group meetings, our curriculum will enhance the discipleship experience at all levels. Each YouthBytes Episode Guide will provide you with the tools you need to communicate important biblical principles that will effect lasting change in the lives of the next generation.

Each YouthBytes 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 on these Episode Guides. Additionally, please let us know of any topics you would like included in future YouthBytes lessons. As always, testimonies are welcome. Comments, ideas, and testimonies can be sent to feedback@youthbytes.org.

THE LOST EMPIRE



Video Summary

Join Chad and Max as they explore the ruins of the extinct Khmer Empire, and see firsthand the devastation that can occur when absolute power goes unchecked. Once again, the nation of Cambodia is the backdrop for this powerful piece. Chad and Max examine the horrific events that took place over 35 years ago in the nation of Cambodia. As they do, they piece together a story which is mirrored in the spiritual lives of people today. Media, friends, family and the Spirit of God all attempt to influence our development and pursuit of abundant life. Our willingness to respond to the Spirit of God will determine which of these influences will prevail in our lives. These discoveries will bring understanding into the call of God on our lives and expose the not-so-subtle forces that are trying to destroy it.



Primary Lesson - We need to understand the call of God on our lives and be empowered to discern the opposition to that call.

Attending to the call of God on our lives can be compared to the historical events of Cambodia. Having ruled Southeast Asia for over 800 years, the vast Khmer Empire slowly began to collapse with very few explanations. Over time, Khmer cities and temples were literally “reclaimed” by jungle vegetation. The exploration of these ruins echoes a reminder that we must attend to what has been given to us. We must give the call of God on our lives the attention it requires. It cannot be ignored, or much like the Khmer Empire, it will deteriorate and fall into ruin.

As we give God every area of our lives, He will make our path clear. However, as we step out in faith, there will always be opposition. And, sometimes, it can be terrifying. The “Killing Fields” of Cambodia are an unfortunate example of opposition. When 20,000 mass gravesites were discovered, it was grim evidence that the Khmer Regime murdered 2.5 to 3 million people in the 1970s. Pol Pot, a tyrannical leader who sought to establish himself as the new ruler of a re-born Khmer Empire, led Cambodia's social and political system into collapse. Pol Pot ruled through fear and intimidation. His hope was to bring Cambodia back to “Year Zero,” which meant that all culture and traditions had to be completely destroyed so a new revolutionary culture could replace it. Teachers, artists, intellectuals and others that held onto their ideals were viewed as opposition to the regime causing them to be singled out and executed in the “Killing Fields.”

Glimpses of opposition can be recognized in our lives as we hold onto our faith. What are the obstacles that you are facing? What have you allowed to come into your life that wants to replace your foundation in Christ? As we step out in faith, there will always be opposition, but, as we continuously step out in faith and give our lives to Him, He will make our destination certain. Below are key points to discuss as we learn more about the call of God on our lives and the opposition to our faith.

- 1: The call of God is a significant assignment given to us by God for His purposes. It requires obedience, commitment, and devotion.
- 2: A leadership title is not required to have a call on our lives. God will use doctors, lawyers, teachers and anyone willing to fulfill His purposes.
- 3: Discuss the story of Nehemiah. Point out that he was just a man that saw a need and decided to do something about it. He had great opposition while carrying out the call of God. Explain how Nehemiah dealt with his opposition.

- 4: What you ignore will go away. This applies to opposition and to God's call on your life.
- 5: What you invest in will grow: your relationship with God and friends. The same applies to the negative things in your life.
- 6: Discuss the idea of pixels. Each picture is made up of countless entities; separately they are nothing, but together, they create a beautiful picture.
- 7: The Bible says it is not by might, nor is it by power, but it is by His spirit. We must allow His spirit to guide and lead us. We must yield to Him in every area of our lives. What are the areas of your life that need to be given to Him?



Facts, Figures & Illustrations -

Angkor Wat – Angkor Wat is one of the largest religious monuments ever constructed. Its name means “temple city.” It was built between 1113 A.C. and 1150 A.D and encompasses an area of approximately 500 acres. Originally built as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu, it was converted into a Buddhist temple in the 14th century. Statues of Buddha were added to its already rich artwork. Its 213-foot-tall central tower is surrounded by four smaller towers and a series of enclosure walls. This layout is said to recreate the image of Mount Meru. In Hindu mythology, Mount Meru is the home of the gods that is located beyond the Himalayas.

Henri Mouhot - A French naturalist and explorer of the mid-19th century. In January 1860, at the end of an exploration of Cambodia, he reached Angkor. He recorded this visit in his travel journals, which included 3 weeks of detailed observations. He is most remembered with introducing this lost empire to the west.

The Bayon Temple – Bayon is a temple that is also referred to as the “Temple with a Thousand Faces.” While it actually has 216 faces exactly, it is an impressive sight to behold. with its many faces looking into any possible direction. The faces all represent the face of king Jayavarman VII. With its many faces looking into any possible direction, they are said to protect the capital.

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum - Located in Phnom Penh, the museum chronicles the genocide in Cambodia. The site is a former high school that was used as the notorious Security Prison 21 (S-21) by the Khmer Rouge regime. Tuol Sleng means "Hill of the Poisonous Trees" or "Strychnine Hill". Tuol Sleng was only one of at least 150 execution centers in the country, and as many as 20,000 prisoners lost their lives at this site.



Complementary Stories -

“The Lost City of Angkor Wat” *Philippians 1:6, “...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it....”*

The lost city of Angkor Wat is a mystery. It contains beautiful temples, more stone than the pyramids and is larger than Paris. Scientists have long wondered about the people who built this marvelous structure. They also wondered why the city was abandoned. Through extensive research, scientists were able to piece together information which explained the fate of Angkor Wat. Scientists discovered that it took 30 years to complete the construction of Angkor Wat. It was finished just in time to bury a king, but soon after, disaster struck. The city was attacked and burned down by a neighboring nation. In response to their opposition, the Khmer people rebuilt. When it was complete, walls were constructed around the city for protection leaving it more beautiful than before. (nationalgeographic.com)

“The Flight of the Bumblebee” *Romans 8:31, “If God is for us, who can ever be against us?”*
When Igor Sikorsky was young, he was told that authorities had already proved human flight was impossible. Despite their doubt, he went on to build the first helicopter. In his American plant, he posted this sign: “According to recognized aerotechnical tests, the bumblebee cannot fly because of the shape and weight of his body in relation to the total wing area. The bumble does not know this, so he goes ahead and flies anyway.” (sikorskyarchives.com)



Key Scriptures - New King James Version, unless otherwise noted

- Matthew 11:12:** And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.
- Nehemiah 2:17:** Then I said to them, ‘You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burnt. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.
- Matthew 6:33:** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- Jeremiah 29:11:** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- Proverbs 11:10:** When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, *there is* jubilation.
- Zechariah 4:6:** “This *is* the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.’
- John 10:10:** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.



Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been told that you have been called by God?
2. What is in my life that may be keeping me from hearing God’s direction for my life?
3. How important is influence in your life? Positive or negative can bring about powerful results.
4. Who are the people or influences in your life that discourage you and want to see you fail? What is your response to their words and or actions against you? Does God see all of this? Is He willing to protect and guide you?
5. Who are the people in your life that you need to forgive and release to God. Is it safe for you to spend time with them?
6. If you are wounded you must make a descsion to be healed and live again. This can take time and a gereat deal of grace, especaily if your pain was caused by another or by a friend. What must you to do to begin the healing process?
7. Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek. Is it right to be aggressive towards the opposition to God’s will in our lives?