



Disc 17 ~ Episode 1
Red vs. Blue Conspiracy ~ Deception (Part 1)

Y Video Summary

In this 9-minute piece, Chad and his Blue team go head-to-head with Jon and the Red team. The goal: Win the battle! Each team is armed with the latest in air gun technology, a good attitude and two very capable leaders. These episodes expose the enemy's plans to divide and conquer our personal lives and relationships. Betrayal, intrigue and down-right dirty tactics will turn even the most battle-hardened warriors into a group of self-centered mercenaries! As the battle ensues, deception, division and destruction turn a friendly competition into a harsh reality check for both teams.

Y Icebreaker
Trying to Avoid the War

A story is told of a young would-be soldier who wanted to avoid being drafted during World War II. This 19-year-old college dropout received notice that he should report to an Army recruiting post. Already having lost an uncle and a cousin to the war, he was very afraid to go. He was aware that if he wasn't in perfect health, the Army would reject him. But if he hurt himself on purpose, he would go to jail! He regularly worked at a local farm and came up with a plan to "accidentally" hurt himself just enough to avoid the war, in a manner believable enough to pass as an accident.

While he and his co-workers were in the field, and without alerting any of them to his intentions, he walked up to a horse and tried to get it to step on his foot and break his toes. The horse, however, refused to move. No matter how much he pushed and shoved the horse, he couldn't get it to step on him. After trying for a long time, the young man got mad and kicked the horse in the

youthbytes.org

tail. The startled horse responded by kicking back. He was struck in the throat and died a few hours later, successfully dodging the draft, but not the horse's kick. (Spring 1942, Wisconsin)

Y Primary Lesson

The Enemy's plan to divide and conquer our relationships

It has been said that, "Together we are better." There is no greater picture of this statement than in the relationships with we have with peers and authority figures in our lives. The apostle Paul admonishes in Ephesians 4:33 "to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." Yet, we often take the concept of unity and team work for granted! The three tools in the enemy's arsenal are some of his best: deception, division and destruction. These three Ds can determine the tide of any battle.

Deception: the manipulation of perception to alter thoughts and feelings through lies, half-truths and cleverness. Deception involves concepts like propaganda, distraction and concealment. A notorious figure in world history once said "Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it." How true this is! If you constantly listen to the lie you will ultimately believe it. When you believe it, it gains power.

Divison: a friend of mine commented to me one day about vision and purpose, and that the biggest enemy of vision is di-vision. It is important that we do not allow the enemy to divide and conquer our hearts and relationships, but more importantly divide and conquer the vision God has given us. God warns us that without a vision the people perish. Leadership and team work are the two most powerful ingredients in any relationship!

Destruction: Jesus said the thief has come to kill steal and destroy. This is the outcome of every choice you make that is not based on truth and submitted to authority. Whether you are in an actual battlefield or an emotional spiritual battlefield, working with others is the only way to ensure victory for all involved. It is important that each of us evaluate the leadership in our lives and how it will affect the vision God has placed in our hearts.



Rubik's Cube

Rubik's Cube is a mechanical puzzle invented in 1974 by the Hungarian sculptor and professor of architecture, Ernő Rubik. Originally called the "Magic Cube" by its inventor, this puzzle was renamed "Rubik's Cube" by Ideal Toys in 1980 and also won the 1980 German "Game of the Year" (Spiel des Jahres) special award for Best Puzzle. It is said to be the world's best-selling toy, with some 300,000,000 Rubik's Cubes and imitations sold worldwide. A Rubik's Cube has nine square face-lets on each side, giving 54 face-lets in total, and occupies a volume of 27 unit cubes. Typically, the faces of the cube are covered by nine stickers in six solid colors; there is one color for each side of the cube. When the puzzle is solved, each face of the cube is a solid color.

The principle known as Divide and Conquer

Divide and conquer was a successful military strategy. Generals observed that it was easier to defeat one army of 50,000 men, followed by another army of 50,000 men than it was to beat a single 100,000 man army. Thus the wise general would attack so as to divide the enemy army into two forces and then mop up one after the other.

Famous Traitors

Judas Iscariot: Jesus' betrayer, was the only Judaeen disciple among the Twelve, and, according to the Gospel of St. John, their treasurer. Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray Jesus, for which he was paid the sum of 30 pieces of silver. After the Last Supper he led an armed band to Gethsemane and there identified Jesus to the soldiers by kissing him. Later, according to the Gospel of St. Matthew, he repented of this act of betrayal and killed himself. The blood money went to buy a potter's field, Acedama.

Benedict Arnold: In the United States, Arnold is best known for his betrayal of the rebel cause when he plotted to surrender the American fort at West Point, New York to the British during the American Revolution. The measure of Arnold's treachery was made worse by the fact that he was considered by many to be the best general and most accomplished leader in the Continental Army. In fact, without Arnold's earlier contributions to the American cause, the American Revolution might well have been lost; notwithstanding, his name, like those of several other prominent traitors throughout history, has become a byword for treason.



Key Scriptures

(From NKJV, unless otherwise noted)

Ephesians 4:3 ~ *Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Proverbs 16:28 ~ *A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends*

Galatians 5:15 ~ *If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.* (NIV)

Ecclesiastes 4:12 ~ *Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken*

Amos 3:3 ~ *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*

Deuteronomy 32:30 ~ *One [can] chase a thousand, and two [can] put ten thousand to flight.*

Zechariah 13:6 ~ *And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'*

Proverbs 27:6 ~ *Faithful are the wounds of a friend,*



Complimentary Story

Geese working as a team

When geese fly south every year, each goose flaps its wings and creates an uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it. When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies to the point position. When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

If friends will have as much sense as geese, they will stand by each other in difficult times as well as times when they are strong

~Based on work by Milton Olson



Discussion Questions

1. Life is about working together. When we depend on our own ability and our own strength we are bound to fail. What are some specific areas in your life that you have decided to do things by yourself and what has been the outcome?
2. Jesus sent the disciples out to minister two-by-two, realizing that each could help encourage the other (Luke 10:1). Realizing the principle of Deuteronomy 32:30, should you re-evaluate your strategy for living life in regard to relationships?
3. Discuss the importance of good leadership. Who is making the calls for your life and can you trust that person's motivation? How can you determine if you are hearing the truth or a lie?
4. Discuss betrayal and how each one of you has been betrayed by someone close to you (Proverbs 27:6). Is it easier to deal with betrayal from someone who is a stranger or someone whom you trust?

