

MOVIE: “Mulan”**Sub Topic Theme:**

Failure is Not an Option

Lesson Objective:

To help kids begin to understand that failure is not final and it does not determine their self worth. By showing them that living their life in order to serve and please God rather than to win the approval of others is ultimately more rewarding, we will help instill in them deeper roots in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. It is by gaining the courage to face challenges and the resilience to carry on in spite of failure or the threat of failure that these students will be able to live a life that is fulfilling and honoring to God.

**Intro to the Movie:**

Mulan

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAbGAkkOgcM>

Synopsis according to Imdb.com:

This retelling of the old Chinese folktale is the story of a young Chinese maiden who learns that her weakened and lame father is to be called up into the army in order to fight the invading Huns. Knowing that he would never survive the rigors of war in his state, she decides to disguise herself and join in his place. Unknown to her, her ancestors are aware of this and to prevent it, they order a tiny disgraced dragon, Mushu to join her in order to force her to abandon her plan. He agrees, but when he meets Mulan, he learns that she cannot be dissuaded and so decides to help her in the perilous times ahead.

The 3D Lenses

Pay close attention to the things that motivate each character. Consider how their motivation impacts their personal experience as well as the end result.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. Which character did you relate to the most and why?
2. What are some of the motivations for the characters in *Mulan*?

3. How does allowing God to guide us and putting our faith in him change things in our lives? Do you see any examples of that in the movie?

Group Input:

Leader-solicited responses from the large group on reactions to some of the questions.

Gathering of ideas and themes recognized in the discussion groups with a focus on guiding the audience toward the main objective: *To help kids begin to understand that **failure is not final** and it does not determine their self worth. By showing them that living their life in order **to serve and please God** rather than to win the approval of others is ultimately more rewarding, we will help instill in them **deeper roots in Jesus Christ** as their Savior and Lord. It is by gaining the **courage** to face challenges and the **resilience** to carry on in spite of failure or the threat of failure that these students will be able **to live a life that is fulfilling and honoring to God.***

Bullet Objective:

Put this summary section in your own words, but here are some ideas you can use:

It might seem like most of the characters in this movie were motivated by the pressure to succeed and avoid failure at any cost. And while some of that can be explained by the time period and culture, most of what motivated them still motivates us to this day – the pressure to make our parents proud, to live up to our father’s reputation, to find love, to gain status, to find glory, to be a hero.

The world hasn’t changed much in that area and it so easy for believers to forget that we have another option for how to live our life. God gave us the opportunity to step out of all this stress and pressure. He completely changed the game when he extended redemption through the death of Jesus Christ and offered us a new life through faith in him.

That new life is what we are talking about here today. Walk away from the things this world values. Leave behind everything that you think is essential and focus on what God is asking you to do with your life. That’s where the true fulfillment lies. That’s what he intends for you and me to experience – his hope and grace and purpose and ultimately getting to witness the fulfillment of that work in his kingdom come to earth!

By focusing on this truth and eradicating the lie that we have to prove ourselves, make ourselves valuable, earn our worth, in order to succeed and not fail, we will begin to live lives in true service to God. We might be doing the exact same thing as before – working hard, studying with dedication, playing sports – but our reason will have changed. And that reason makes all the difference. When we do things for God’s glory, to serve him

and to work with joy to bring about his kingdom on earth – that is the ultimate success and there is no way to fail when God is with you.

Listen to how Paul put this transformation in:

Romans 8:5&6

“Those who live as their human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants. Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace.”

Challenge:

Leaders, you know best what specific pressures your students are feeling overwhelmed by in their lives. Before the event, take some time to pray together and draft a challenge appropriate for your group. Perhaps bring T-shirts for them to make or ask them to spend some time coming up with an individual challenge. Ask God to lead you as you prepare to impact these kids' lives!

Pray for God's purpose and power to put it into action and transform lives. Remind them of the online personal journey at rezlife.com for further involvement with this topic of Failure is Not an Option!