

MOVIE: “RED 2”

Sub Topic Theme:
Faith and Doubt

Lesson Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to help students see that sometimes, when facing seasons of doubt, one of the most important things to do is surround yourself with friends and those who love and support you. It can be easy to keep things to yourself - your struggles, doubts, insecurities and uncertainties. But when we share those things, we share the load and learn what it means to really walk in community with one another. Oftentimes it is the prayers and conversations with friends that help us move through the season of doubt and encourage us to keep moving forward.

**Intro to the Movie:***RED 2*

According to moviefone.com

In 'Red 2', the high-octane action-comedy sequel to the worldwide sleeper hit, retired black-ops CIA agent Frank Moses reunites his unlikely team of elite operatives for a global quest to track down a missing portable nuclear device. To succeed, they'll need to survive an army of relentless assassins, ruthless terrorists and power-crazed government officials, all eager to get their hands on the next-generation weapon. The mission takes Frank and his motley crew to Paris, London and Moscow. Outgunned and outmanned, they have only their cunning wits, their old-school skills, and each other to rely on as they try to save the world – and stay alive in the process.

(The 3D Lenses) While watching the movie, pay attention to Frank. While for the most part he appears to have it all together, challenge the students to count the number of times his friends save his life, bail him out of trouble, share advice, or listen to his emotional load. It's more than you would think for such a “strong” character. The truth is, none of us are as strong as we think. We all need the support of others, especially in times of doubt.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. What were some of the ways Frank needed saving throughout the movie?
2. Oftentimes Frank's friends were there to help before he even realized it. What were some of those situations? How did they know he needed help?
3. What do you think would have happened if Frank had learned to ask for help sooner? How would situations have played out differently? His friends were pretty on top of it, but think about some of the emotional stuff. Maybe when he thought his friend was dead?
4. Did you notice any situations where it would have been easy to quit? Frank appears to have it all together, but let's be honest; he is pretty old to be fighting some of these younger players. And, let's face it, there isn't much he can do about his age. Are there situations in your life where you feel like the odds are against you? How are you working through your doubt? Is it working?
5. How might God want you to continue through your doubt? Are there people you can talk to? Are there things he is asking you to do even though you doubt? Oftentimes it is those closest to us who can help us see where we need to walk next. What's your next action step?

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:

*The purpose of this lesson is to help students see that sometimes, when facing seasons of doubt, one of the most important things to do is **surround yourself with friends** and those who love and support you. It can be easy to keep things to yourself - your struggles, doubts, insecurities and uncertainties. But when we share those things, we share the load and learn what it means to really walk in **community** with one another. Often times it is the **prayers and conversations** with friends that help us move through the season of doubt and **encourage** us to keep moving forward.*

Bullet Objective:

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

When we look at the movie, we see a prime example of a man who needed help, who

could have been full of doubt, and maybe was sometimes, but was able to depend on his friends. There were tons of opportunities for him to lose hope, to let doubt rule in his life; but he chose to depend on and listen to his friends for advice and he kept moving forward. That part was key. Without his friends he may not have been able to continue to move forward.

Do you have people in your life who help you when you are feeling discouraged and full of doubt? These people are so important, to get you through life and to encourage you in your walk with God. It's the seasons where you feel far from God that your friends can help you grow the most because they are the people who encourage you to keep moving forward. I think of Noah when I think of someone who keeps moving forward even in the face of doubt.

Noah was a man not much different from any other of his time, except for one important thing - he walked with God. What the Bible means by that is, he sought out relationship with the creator and tried to live the way that God asks us to live. According to the Bible, nobody else was really doing that and God was tired of it. He spoke to Noah and told him to build an ark because he was going to flood the earth and restart everything, but Noah and his family would be spared because of his faith.

Whooh! Talk about a message! Talk about the conversations that may have come up when Noah went into town,

“So what are you building out there? Looks pretty big, “ says man in town.

“Yep, building a boat...”

Do you think Noah told the people what he was building and what it was for? We don't really know if Noah lived by water or not. What if he didn't!? We don't know how long it took to build. Noah was at least 500 when he had his sons and 600 when the flood started. Sometime in that time span, God came to him and told him to build the ark. Did he have experience building? That would have made things faster. If that was his skill he would have had 500 years of experience, but *if* it was his skill, had he ever built one so large? Even if all the odds were in Noah's favor and he lived by water and had experience, there would still be lots of room to doubt. Why had God come to him? Had he imagined it? Was this really God's plan? We don't know if Noah had friends to talk to like Frank did. I imagine it would have helped out a lot, but what if he didn't? What if it really was like the movie *Evan Almighty* and his family thought he was crazy, left him and, at the last second, rejoined him?

We may not know exactly how it played out for Noah, but we can be sure he had moments of doubt. What can we learn from his story when we are facing times of doubt? Let's check it out...

*Genesis 6:9—8:22***Noah**

This is the story of Noah. He had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Noah had no faults and was the only good man of his time. He lived in fellowship with God, but everyone else was evil in God's sight, and violence had spread everywhere. God looked at the world and saw that it was evil, for the people were all living evil lives.

God said to Noah, “I have decided to put an end to all people. I will destroy them completely, because the world is full of their violent deeds. Build a boat for yourself out of good timber; make rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Make a roof for the boat and leave a space of 18 inches between the roof and the sides. Build it with three decks and put a door in the side. I am going to send a flood on the earth to destroy every living being. Everything on the earth will die, but I will make a covenant with you. Go into the boat with your wife, your sons, and their wives. Take into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and of every kind of bird, in order to keep them alive. Take along all kinds of food for you and for them.” Noah did everything that God commanded.

The Flood

The LORD said to Noah, “Go into the boat with your whole family; I have found that you are the only one in all the world who does what is right. Take with you seven pairs of each kind of ritually clean animal, but only one pair of each kind of unclean animal. Take also seven pairs of each kind of bird. Do this so that every kind of animal and bird will be kept alive to reproduce again on the earth. Seven days from now I am going to send rain that will fall for forty days and nights, in order to destroy all the living beings that I have made.” And Noah did everything that the LORD commanded.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood came on the earth. He and his wife, and his sons and their wives, went into the boat to escape the flood. A male and a female of every kind of animal and bird, whether ritually clean or unclean, went into the boat with Noah, as God had commanded. Seven days later the flood came.

When Noah was six hundred years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month all the outlets of the vast body of water beneath the earth burst open, all the floodgates of the sky were opened, and rain fell on the earth for forty days and nights. On that same day Noah and his wife went into the boat with their three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives. With them went every kind of animal, domestic and wild, large and small, and every kind of bird. A male and a female of each kind of living being went into the boat with Noah, as God had commanded. Then the LORD shut the door behind Noah.

The flood continued for forty days, and the water became deep enough for the boat to float. The water became deeper, and the boat drifted on the surface. It became so deep

that it covered the highest mountains; it went on rising until it was about twenty-five feet above the tops of the mountains. Every living being on the earth died—every bird, every animal, and every person. Everything on earth that breathed died. The LORD destroyed all living beings on the earth—human beings, animals, and birds. The only ones left were Noah and those who were with him in the boat. The water did not start going down for a hundred and fifty days.

The End of the Flood

God had not forgotten Noah and all the animals with him in the boat; he caused a wind to blow, and the water started going down. The outlets of the water beneath the earth and the floodgates of the sky were closed. The rain stopped, and the water gradually went down for 150 days. On the seventeenth day of the seventh month the boat came to rest on a mountain in the Ararat range. The water kept going down, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains appeared.

After forty days Noah opened a window and sent out a raven. It did not come back, but kept flying around until the water was completely gone. Meanwhile, Noah sent out a dove to see if the water had gone down, but since the water still covered all the land, the dove did not find a place to light. It flew back to the boat, and Noah reached out and took it in. He waited another seven days and sent out the dove again. It returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. So Noah knew that the water had gone down. Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove once more; this time it did not come back.

When Noah was 601 years old, on the first day of the first month, the water was gone. Noah removed the covering of the boat, looked around, and saw that the ground was getting dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

God said to Noah, “Go out of the boat with your wife, your sons, and their wives. Take all the birds and animals out with you, so that they may reproduce and spread over all the earth.” So Noah went out of the boat with his wife, his sons, and their wives. All the animals and birds went out of the boat in groups of their own kind.

Noah Offers a Sacrifice

Noah built an altar to the LORD; he took one of each kind of ritually clean animal and bird, and burned them whole as a sacrifice on the altar. The odor of the sacrifice pleased the Lord, and he said to himself, “Never again will I put the earth under a curse because of what people do; I know that from the time they are young their thoughts are evil. Never again will I destroy all living beings, as I have done this time. As long as the world exists, there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest. There will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.”

I love what we see. Think back. Noah never stopped moving forward. Even when God told him the impossible was going to happen, he was obedient. Maybe obedience is a

word that rubs you the wrong way, but it's an important word. That is what God asks from us even when we are in the midst of doubt. We see this in John 14:15: Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey my commandments." Sometimes this can be hard to understand, but the Bible makes it clear that, if we love God, we will obey him. This includes those times when we are full of doubt because we know God is faithful as we have seen with Noah and as we have seen time and time again in the Bible.

Challenge:

1. Are you in a season of doubt right now? Talk to a friend about it. Seek their encouragement and wisdom. Sometimes it can be hard to be honest, but oftentimes it is their encouragement that helps us to move forward and continue to be obedient.
2. Share with God how you are feeling. We know that he desires to hear from us, to be in relationship, and that includes the hard things too. Think about your best and closest friends; they know your dirty laundry don't they? It's the same with God. As you walk through hard times together and as you share the hard things, your relationship will grow, even if this is a season of doubt.
3. Open up God's Word. See what other people in Scripture did when facing difficult challenges. If you don't know where to start, try Job. He had everything taken from him, but he praised God anyway and he was blessed because of it.

Pray for God's purpose and love to put it into action and transform lives. Remind them of the online personal journey at ReZilient Life for further involvement with this topic of Faith and Doubt.