

MOVIE: “The Santa Clause”**Sub Topic Theme:**

That’s Military Life!

Lesson Objective:

Military kids grow up in an ever-shifting environment that demands resilience. By showing them how being grounded in Christ brings clarity to tumultuous situations, we can equip them to better handle overwhelming circumstances. In order to enable them to have healthy lives within the Military culture, it is important to encourage discipline in their faith and wisdom in their decision-making.

**Intro to the Movie:***The Santa Clause*Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t067u2Jnks0>

According to Wikipedia.org:

The Santa Clause is a 1994 American fantasy family comedy film directed by John Pasquin. It stars Tim Allen as Scott Calvin, an ordinary man who accidentally causes Santa Claus to fall from his roof on Christmas Eve. When he and his young son, Charlie, finish St. Nick’s trip and deliveries, they go to the North Pole where Scott learns that he must become the new Santa and convince those he loves that he is indeed Father Christmas.

The 3D Lenses

As you watch the film, pay attention to how characters respond to the overwhelming circumstances. Consider which showed more faith. Also pay attention to what things their choices impact and what things remain the same.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. When compared to the crazy life of a Military family, who do you most identify with in the movie?
2. Can you think of a time you reacted like Scott (Santa)? Did it make a difference in how things turned out?

3. What would have changed for Scott if he had more faith?

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:

*Military kids grow up in an ever-shifting environment that demands resilience. By showing them how being grounded in **Christ brings clarity** to tumultuous situations, we can **equip** them to better handle overwhelming circumstances. In order to **enable** them to have healthy lives within the Military culture, it is important to **encourage discipline** in their faith and **wisdom** in their decision making.*

Bullet Objective:

It's pretty obvious as we watched that movie who had faith and who didn't. Charlie couldn't wait to believe, while Neil resisted to the end. And we have that in our own lives. Don't we? Sometime we feel like we have so much faith, and we are so eager to believe; and other times we shut out that hope, and we refuse to believe at all.

Most of the time we fall somewhere in the middle though, right? Like Scott; resisting and struggling, shaving our beards every morning and dying that white hair. Finally though, what happens? We try it. We believe a little. We are developing faith.

When we have faith, and we act on it, even if that faith is super duper small, we can bring about God's kingdom. That's amazing. That's more exciting than presents and Christmas! (Oh, by the way, the whole Christmas thing is really about celebrating when the Kingdom of God through Jesus came to earth!)

So when this life as a Military kid is overwhelming you, and you don't know how to handle it, call out to God for the tiny seed of faith and act on it! It'll be amazing to see what he does.

Listen to what is says here in James about the importance of having faith, and not just having it, but actually *acting* on it!

James 2:14-26

My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that faith save you? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, "God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!"—if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.

But someone will say, “One person has faith, another has actions.” My answer is, “Show me how anyone can have faith without actions. I will show you my faith by my actions.” Do you believe that there is only one God? Good! The demons also believe—and tremble with fear. You fool! Do you want to be shown that faith without actions is useless? How was our ancestor Abraham put right with God? It was through his actions, when he offered his son Isaac on the altar. Can't you see? His faith and his actions worked together; his faith was made perfect through his actions. And the scripture came true that said, “Abraham believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous.” And so Abraham was called God's friend. You see, then, that it is by our actions that we are put right with God, and not by our faith alone.

It was the same with the prostitute Rahab. She was put right with God through her actions, by welcoming the Israelite spies and helping them to escape by a different road.

So then, as the body without the spirit is dead, also faith without actions is dead.

Challenge:

Individually, identify one way that you can act in faith during overwhelming circumstances. Try to focus on something present in your life. Before leaving, find a friend to be your accountability partner on this. Check in at least once this week and help each other live out your faith!

Pray for God's purpose and love 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 That's Military Life!