

MOVIE: “The Italian Job”**Sub Topic Theme:**

24/7 It Never Ends

Lesson Objective:

To demonstrate to kids the value in facing an overwhelming situation by taking a breath, talking with God, making a plan, and doing the work. In order to help develop resilience in their lives, we need to dialogue with the students about how God asks us to live our lives. This means more than the actions we take to combat overwhelming times but also our attitude and the state of our heart as we do them. It's important that our motivation be God-honoring. By highlighting the downfall of the characters' motivations in this film we can start a conversation about what God desires for us and encourage them toward growth and transformation.

**Intro to the Movie:***The Italian Job*Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HZndLdQOPk>

According to imdb.com:

In Venice, Italy, a team of expert thieves pulls a daring heist of 35 million dollars in bars of gold. One of the thieves betrays his companions and swipes the gold for himself. One year later, in Los Angeles, the surviving team members create a smart and devious plan to steal back the gold and get their revenge on the traitor.

The 3D Lenses

During the film, watch how different characters tackle the problem in front of them. Consider how it helps or hinders their success. Also pay attention to what motivates each character to succeed.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. What are some different ways the characters handled being overwhelmed? Are they good or bad?
2. What are some of the different things the characters were motivated by? Did they seem good or bad?
3. Which character best represents you right now?
4. In the end, do you think what motivated them made a difference?

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 demonstrate to kids the value in facing an overwhelming situation by taking a **breath**, talking with **God**, making a **plan**, and doing the **work**. In order to help **develop resilience** in their lives, we need to **dialogue** with the students about how God asks us to live our lives. This means more than the actions we take to combat overwhelming times but also our **attitude** and the **state of our heart** as we do them. It's important that our motivation be **God-honoring**. By highlighting the downfall of the characters' motivations in this film we can start a conversation about what God desires for us and encourage them toward **growth** and **transformation**.*

Bullet Objective:

How we handle life when it overwhelms us is extremely important. We need to learn different tactics and understand how our decisions bring about different outcomes. More than that, we need to learn what God desires for us to do during those times. We need to understand that he works from the inside out.

When we bring our problems to God and ask him to help us, asking him to guide us through, so often we only care about the outward result. We just want our life to be calm and in order. There's school and friends to deal with on top of everything at home and could God just please help you get through it all?

We would be content to stop there. But God offers us so much more. He offers to transform the way we see the world through serving him and submitting to his transformation of our beings. That's why the motivation behind our actions matters.

It's wonderful to have skills and abilities. God tells us to work hard and hone our talents. Just like we saw with Stella practicing on the safes. We have a job to do (that's life) and we need to be ready and able to deal with it. The dedication of Charlie and his crew was evident. They were dedicated to getting the job done.

Now the movie gives us a happy ending but we know that life doesn't ever sum things up nicely and roll credits. It continues on and God calls us to do more, to take on more. Running on the fuel of revenge will only get you so far – even loyalty to others and pride in your work will reach their limits. But living for the Kingdom of God will revitalize you, invigorate you, and enable to you handle the next day when life overwhelms you.

Listen to this parable that Jesus told and consider how each of the servant's motivation of fear, sloth, and faith influenced the outcome.

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Three Servants

"At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. 'You gave me five thousand coins, sir,' he said. 'Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.' 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, 'You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned.' 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, 'Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.' 'You bad and lazy servant!' his master said. 'You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to

the one who has ten thousand coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth.'

Challenge:

Write your own challenge for this week!

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 24/7 It Never Ends!