

MOVIE: "The Karate Kid"

***** Please read the
Introduction to Large
Group Studies in order
to best utilize this
material***

Sub Topic Theme:

When It Happens to a Friend

Lesson Objective:

Understanding that those around us can also experience the death of a parent is one the most impactful and difficult things a person undergoes in life. It forces us to redefine our existence and understanding of the world. So developing an awareness of emotions, thought processes, and our faith in Jesus Christ is crucial. Recognizing that the Lord is present with his love, peace, and purpose throughout our greatest sorrow will be definitive in experiencing healthy grief. When our faith offers us hope and goes beyond simply "dealing", we can discover solace and strength. Helping teens embrace the value of faith in Jesus Christ, who offers unconditional love and unending support, can provide an everlasting peace and hope in the midst of our grief and guilt.

**Intro to the Movie:**

The Karate Kid (2010)

From IMDB:

12-year-old Dre Parker could've been the most popular kid in Detroit, but his mother's latest career move has landed him in China. Dre immediately falls for his classmate Mei Ying - and the feeling is mutual - but cultural differences make such a friendship impossible. Even worse, Dre's feelings make an enemy of the class bully, Cheng. In the land of kung fu, Dre knows only a little karate, and Cheng puts "the karate kid" on the floor with ease. With no friends in a strange land, Dre has nowhere to turn but maintenance man Mr. Han, who is secretly a master of kung fu. As Han teaches Dre that kung fu is not about punches and parries, but maturity and calm, Dre realizes that facing down the bullies will be the fight of his life.

(The 3D lenses) Look at how the grief and guilt of what happened to Mr. Han's family shapes his character. Pay attention to how he handles his sorrow and how the guilt impacts how he reacts on the anniversary of their death, as well as how Dre helps his friend and mentor cope with his emotions. Also look for bigger concepts, lessons that the film presents, particularly those that relate directly to death and grief.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. If **you** were Dre in this movie, what would you do differently and why?
2. What is one way that guilt influenced Mr. Han?
3. What are some of the beliefs or events that change how Dre views Mr. Han? Why do you think they made an impact?
4. There are a lot of similarities in this story to any kid who has seen a friend experience something traumatic. What do you see that parallels your story (or someone you may know)?

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:

***Understanding** that being faced with the death of a parent is one the most impactful and difficult things a person undergoes in life. It forces us to redefine our existence and understanding of the world. So **developing an awareness** of emotions, thought processes, and our faith in Jesus Christ is crucial. Recognizing that the Lord is present with his love, peace, and purpose throughout our greatest sorrow will be definitive in **experiencing healthy grief**. When our faith offers us hope and goes beyond simply “dealing”, we can discover solace and strength. Helping teens **embrace** the value of faith in Jesus Christ, who offers unconditional love and unending support, can provide an everlasting peace and hope in the midst of our grief and guilt.*

Bullet Objective:

The film starts with an exciting transition from America to Japan, with the excited mother bringing her hesitant son along. Although Dre is not as excited about the move as his mother is, he eventually makes a new friend in Mei and begins to enjoy his life in Japan.

It changes when a local bully chooses Dre as his and his friends’ own punching bag. Although Dre does his best to fight back, he is eventually backed into a corner and Mr. Han must come to his rescue. The two begin an unlikely friendship, and things are going smoothly until Dre discovers his friend in tears and inconsolable upon the anniversary of his wife’s death—an event that he feels personally responsible for.

You probably feel similar to young Dre at this point. Your friend, the one who's been there for you during your hard times, is now experiencing something you have no concept of: they have lost a parent. Like Dre, you have no idea how to help your friend, and the feeling of helplessness is threatening to overpower you.

King David felt the same way after his best friend, Jonathan, died in battle. They'd been friends ever since David had slain Goliath, back when he was a lowly shepherd. David had entered King Saul's court—the court of Jonathan's father—and the two had considered themselves brothers ever since. Saul began to grow more and more jealous of David, to the point where he tried to kill him and make it look like an accident. David had to run for his life and a huge war ensued between him and Saul. At the end, both Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle, and David's world spun upside down.

At the beginning of 2 Samuel, we witness David's grief:

David Learns of Saul's Death

1After Saul's death David came back from his victory over the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag for two days. **2**The next day a young man arrived from Saul's camp. To show his grief, he had torn his clothes and put dirt on his head. He went to David and bowed to the ground in respect. **3**David asked him, "Where have you come from?"

"I have escaped from the Israelite camp," he answered.

4"Tell me what happened," David said.

"Our army ran away from the battle," he replied, "and many of our men were killed. Saul and his son Jonathan were also killed."

5"How do you know that Saul and Jonathan are dead?" David asked him.

6He answered, "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and I saw that Saul was leaning on his spear and that the chariots and cavalry of the enemy were closing in on him. **7**Then he turned around, saw me, and called to me. I answered, 'Yes, sir!' **8**He asked who I was, and I told him that I was an Amalekite. **9**Then he said, 'Come here and kill me! I have been badly wounded, and I'm about to die.' **10**So I went up to him and killed him, because I knew that he would die anyway as soon as he fell. Then I took the crown from his head and the bracelet from his arm, and I have brought them to you, sir."

11David tore his clothes in sorrow, and all his men did the same. **12**They grieved and mourned and fasted until evening for Saul and Jonathan and for Israel, the people of the LORD, because so many had been killed in battle.

13David asked the young man who had brought him the news, "Where are you from?"

He answered, "I'm an Amalekite, but I live in your country."

14David asked him, "How is it that you dared kill the LORD's chosen king?"

15Then David called one of his men and said, "Kill him!" The man struck the Amalekite and mortally wounded him, **16**and David said to the Amalekite, "You

brought this on yourself. You condemned yourself when you confessed that you killed the one whom the LORD chose to be king.”

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

17 David sang this lament for Saul and his son Jonathan, 18- and ordered it to be taught to the people of Judah. (It is recorded in *The Book of Jashar*)

19 “On the hills of Israel our leaders are dead!

The bravest of our soldiers have fallen!

20 Do not announce it in Gath

or in the streets of Ashkelon.

Do not make the women of Philistia glad;

do not let the daughters of pagans rejoice.

21 “May no rain or dew fall on Gilboa's hills;

may its fields be always barren!

For the shields of the brave lie there in disgrace;

the shield of Saul is no longer polished with oil.

22 Jonathan's bow was deadly,

the sword of Saul was merciless,

striking down the mighty, killing the enemy.

23 “Saul and Jonathan, so wonderful and dear;

together in life, together in death;

swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.

24 “Women of Israel, mourn for Saul!

He clothed you in rich scarlet dresses

and adorned you with jewels and gold.

25 “The brave soldiers have fallen,

they were killed in battle.

Jonathan lies dead in the hills.

26 “I grieve for you, my brother Jonathan;

how dear you were to me!

How wonderful was your love for me,

better even than the love of women.

27 “The brave soldiers have fallen,

their weapons abandoned and useless.”

Challenge:

1. Identify a part of your emotions that is dominated by the death of your friend's parent. Consider how the love of God can give you peace during this hard time. Now ask Jesus for his peace and comfort for both you and your friend during this hard time.
2. Decide on a way you can support and help your friend this week. Talk to a Club Beyond leader or counselor or chaplain about how you might accomplish this.
3. Write out a prayer asking for God's guidance and wisdom during this time. Pray it daily and feel free to share it with others.

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 Grief and Guilt!