

MOVIE: “Lord of the Rings, The Fellowship of the Ring”

Sub Topic Theme:

Connecting Up

Lesson Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to help students recognize the value and characteristics of a good mentor. Often times it becomes easy to let life slide by, but as students, each of them have something to contribute to this world. Each student has something they are called to do, big or small. Each student has a passion; talent, gift and all of those things can be used to glorify God, to do something good or to encourage others. A good mentor will call those things out in students, challenge them and help them rise to the occasion. This lesson is built to help students recognize their value and the value of connecting with a mentor.



Intro to the Movie:

Lord of the Rings, the Fellowship of the Ring

According to IMDB.com

An ancient Ring thought lost for centuries has been found, and through a strange twist in fate has been given to a small Hobbit named Frodo. When Gandalf discovers the Ring is in fact the One Ring of the Dark Lord Sauron, Frodo must make an epic quest to the Cracks of Doom in order to destroy it! However he does not go alone. He is joined by Gandalf, Legolas the elf, Gimli the Dwarf, Aragorn, Boromir and his three Hobbit friends Merry, Pippin and Samwise. Through mountains, snow, darkness, forests, rivers and plains, facing evil and danger at every corner the Fellowship of the Ring must go. Their quest to destroy the One Ring is the only hope for the end of the Dark Lords reign!

The 3D Lenses

Check out the relationship between Frodo and Gandalf. See how they interact with each other and how Gandalf looks out for him till the very end. Mentors do that for us. They look out for us, have our best interests in mind and teach us. One of the best scenes is when Frodo tells Gandalf that he wishes the ring had never come to him. Instead of sympathizing Gandalf shares with Frodo truth, that the ring came to him for a reason and something good is still to come.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. What are some of the ways that Gandalf looked out for Frodo? There were a bunch, think back.
2. Gandalf tells Frodo that the ring came to him for a specific reason, what are some positive characteristics the Frodo has that will help him rise to this occasion?
3. What did Frodo do with the advice and wisdom that Gandalf gave him? How was trust built? What was it built on? How did trust play a part in their relationship?
4. Gandalf wasn't the only mentor, how did the other characters in the movie come alongside Frodo and mentor him in different ways?
5. Based on the movie, what do you think key characteristics of a mentor are?

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 focuses on guiding the audience toward the main objective: *The purpose of this lesson is to help students recognize the value and characteristics of a good mentor. Often times it becomes easy to let life slide by, but as students, each of them have something to contribute to this world. Each student has something they are called to do, big or small. Each student has a passion; talent, gift and all of those things can be used to glorify God, to do something good or to encourage others. A good mentor will call those things out in students, challenge them and help them rise to the occasion. This lesson is built to help students recognize their value and the value of connecting with a mentor.*

Bullet Objective:

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

As the movie starts we see what life normally is for Frodo, easy, joyful, exciting, full of fun people, good community and an uncle he loves dearly. However, things don't stay there. Maybe you can relate. Everything is going good, then you move, someone gets shipped out, a friend leaves you, school gets harder, relationships end, family members pass. For Frodo everything changed too. All he did was show up to his regular daily activities and life throws him a curve ball. He gets thrown into a wild adventure where everything he has known changes and his life is in continuous danger. He has been given a task, to be the ring bearer, to destroy the ring and there is little to no chance he will succeed as a small hobbit.

However, if you know anything about this trilogy, you know that in the end Frodo does make it, he succeeds. How is this possible you may wonder, well it's because he was never alone. Frodo may have had low odds at making it, but with each person who was added to his team, his odds grew. One of the biggest helpers in this movie was Gandalf, a wizard who loved and looked out for Frodo.

Maybe you're a little like Frodo, didn't really ask for the things in your life to happen, but they did and now you feel like the odds are not ever in your favor. Pray that God would open your eyes to the support he has put around you. People do want to be there for you. They do want to increase your odds of succeeding, but sometimes you have to see them first. Take this account from scripture for example.

God's chosen people are fighting their enemy. The enemy plans a sneak attack and God reveals it to the prophet Elisha and the enemies plan is foiled. Again. Finally the enemy king realizes what is going on and sends his army to capture Elisha.

Now Elisha wasn't alone. He had at least one other servant with him. Maybe you could say Elisha acted as his mentor in this situation, watch how their interaction plays out when the odds are against them.

Exodus 18:8-23 (GNT)

The Syrian Army Is Defeated

8 The king of Syria was at war with Israel. He consulted his officers and chose a place to set up his camp. 9 But Elisha sent word to the king of Israel, warning him not to go near that place, because the Syrians were waiting in ambush there. 10 So the king of Israel warned the people who lived in that place, and they were on guard. This happened several times.

11 The Syrian king became greatly upset over this; he called in his officers and asked them, "Which one of you is on the side of the king of Israel?"

12 One of them answered, "No one is, Your Majesty. The prophet Elisha tells the king of Israel what you say even in the privacy of your own room."

13 "Find out where he is," the king ordered, "and I will capture him."

When he was told that Elisha was in Dothan, 14 he sent a large force there with horses and chariots. They reached the town at night and surrounded it. 15 Early the next morning Elisha's servant got up, went out of the house, and saw the Syrian troops with their horses and chariots surrounding the town. He went back to Elisha and exclaimed,

“We are doomed, sir! What shall we do?”

16 “Don't be afraid,” Elisha answered. “We have more on our side than they have on theirs.” 17 Then he prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” The Lord answered his prayer, and Elisha's servant looked up and saw the hillside covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

18 When the Syrians attacked, Elisha prayed, “O Lord, strike these men blind!” The Lord answered his prayer and struck them blind. 19 Then Elisha went to them and said, “You are on the wrong road; this is not the town you are looking for. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are after.” And he led them to Samaria.

20 As soon as they had entered the city, Elisha prayed, “Open their eyes, Lord, and let them see.” The Lord answered his prayer; he restored their sight, and they saw that they were inside Samaria.

21 When the king of Israel saw the Syrians, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, sir? Shall I kill them?”

22 “No,” he answered. “Not even soldiers you had captured in combat would you put to death. Give them something to eat and drink, and let them return to their king.” 23 So the king of Israel provided a great feast for them; and after they had eaten and drunk, he sent them back to the king of Syria. From then on the Syrians stopped raiding the land of Israel.

How does that even happen! Elisha walked the enemy into his king's land and then they threw a party for the enemy! Weird right? But more importantly, what did you see? Did you notice how things turned upside-down for Elisha, how he was found out then hunted? Oh! But then he was faithful and still trusted God and God led him through the uneasy circumstances. I love the servant!

“Hey Elisha, I don't know what your plans were for tonight, but it looks like we have company,” the servant doesn't see what Elisha does. Yet Elisha has compassion on him and prays that God would open the servant's eyes to see the bigger picture. That's what mentors do for us, they show us greater truth, show us how the odds are in our favor and pray for us. They help us navigate new circumstances and remind us that we are not alone.

How neat! So often we miss out on what God is actually doing because we don't have eyes to see him at work, but know that God is moving!

Challenge:

1. Pray that God would guide you in this next week as you ponder the things you have learned and figure out what your next step is. Maybe it is praying to find a mentor, maybe it is just praying to a God you haven't spoken to in a while. Maybe a next step for you is just having a conversation with someone about the struggles you are facing. Who knows where that will lead! Remember that we don't have to do life on our own. God desires for you to connect up, to be in community. Pray about your next step each day this week and take action.
2. Talk to other people. Find out if any of them have any experience with a mentor. Ask them questions, do a little research. How did it affect their lives? While not everyone may have had a positive experience, my guess is, most of them did. Who knows, maybe you will end up asking one of the people you talk to, to mentor you.
3. Remember that you are loved and God wants what is best for you. Remember that God continually tells us in Proverbs to seek wisdom. Go and check out Proverbs 19:20. Write it out. Put it somewhere you can see it daily and memorize it. Maybe you aren't ready to take the plunge yet, but examine your heart and remember wisdom comes from experience and from those who have already experienced.

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 Belonging: Connecting Up!