

MOVIE: “The Interpreter”**Sub Topic Theme:**

Good Doubt

Lesson Objective:

To understand the role doubt plays in our spiritual development. In order to mature in our faith we need to be able to recognize doubt’s presence, be aware of its influence over us, and use it as positive motivation to seek out the truth. This can be accomplished by pairing doubt with spiritual discipline and seeking to understand everything through a perspective rooted in the Word of God while being devoted to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

**Intro to the Movie:***The Interpreter*

According to Fandango.com:

An overheard conversation leads a woman into a dark world of deadly intrigue in this political thriller. Silvia Broome (Nicole Kidman) is an African émigré who works as an interpreter at the United Nations. One of the languages she understands is Ku, a dialect spoken in her home country of Matobo. One day, as the General Assembly auditorium is being evacuated for a routine security sweep, Broome overhears a man speaking in Ku, who makes a cryptic statement that could be interpreted as a threat against the life of Zuwanie (Earl Cameron), Matobo's controversial ruler. Secret Service agent Tobin Keller (Sean Penn) is brought in to investigate Broome's story, and it isn't long before he's convinced that she knows more than she's willing to tell. As Keller and his partner, Dot Woods (Catherine Keener), dig deeper into Broome's story as well as her past, they discover a shocking tale of violence and corruption tied to Zuwanie's regime. *The Interpreter* was directed by Sydney Pollack, who also appears in a brief supporting role.

(The 3D lenses) Pay attention to times when doubt comes into a situation. Notice the ways different characters react and how they try to resolve that doubt. As you watch, consider what foundations people have for their life and whether or not these help them as they struggle through the uncertainty doubt brings.

Trailer: <http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi2760769817/>

Discussion Group Questions:

1. What to you was one of the strongest moments of doubt in the film?
2. What are some of the ways people reacted to doubt?
3. Do you think that some of the characters handled doubt poorly? How so?
4. What foundations did you see people relying on throughout the film? When were times those were helpful?

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 understand the role doubt plays in our **spiritual development**. In order to mature in our faith we need to be able to **recognize** doubt's presence, **be aware** of its influence over us, and use it as positive **motivation to seek** out the truth. This can be accomplished by pairing doubt with **spiritual discipline** and seeking to understand everything through a perspective rooted in the **Word of God** and being devoted to Jesus Christ as our **Lord and Savior**.*

Bullet Objective:

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

You probably noticed that this entire movie was full of doubt. Not only that, but the characters' doubts often led them to new discoveries and realizations. That's what doubt can do. It can make us question things and look at the world completely differently.

Sometimes this can be scary and, if we aren't careful, destructive; but, when used correctly, when understood through the lens of Scripture, doubt can be an extremely useful tool and motivation. We are all hard wired to doubt things. There are points in our brain development when we begin to question things we always took at face value and we develop a deeper level of thought than we ever had before. Some of that starts right

now, at the age you are at. That's why things might seem more complicated than ever, or you find yourself wishing for the easier time of being a little kid.

But I want to encourage you to adopt an attitude of joy and excitement when it comes to this sort of doubt. Look forward to the things God is going to reveal to you. Search for truth with energy and dedication. The Lord does some amazing things when we open ourselves up to learning more and exploring his creation.

Whole new worlds in every field have been discovered by doubt and questioning. Medical advances, scientific discoveries, new fields of psychology, technology, even amazing pieces of our imagination (which does matter!) like *The Lord of the Rings* and the *Chronicles of Narnia* – they all have come from people doubting and pushing forward searching for a deeper understanding of the Creator and his creation.

So just like some of these characters used doubt to motivate them to seek truth, so should you and I. With that, though, we need a firm foundation; and that comes from Jesus Christ. From God's truth and the non-negotiable beliefs given to us in the Bible, we can begin to explore and discover so many amazing things.

Listen to what Peter writes here about how we are to grow and develop in our faith:

2 Peter 1:1-15

From Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ—

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have been given a faith as precious as ours:
May grace and peace be yours in full measure through your knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

God's Call and Choice

God's divine power has given us everything we need to live a truly religious life through our knowledge of the one who called us to share in his own glory and goodness. In this way he has given us the very great and precious gifts he promised, so that by means of these gifts you may escape from the destructive lust that is in the world, and may come to share the divine nature. For this very reason do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge; to your knowledge add self-control; to your self-control add endurance; to your endurance add godliness; to your godliness add Christian affection; and to your Christian affection add love. These are the qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if you do not have them, you are so shortsighted that you cannot see and have forgotten that you have been purified from your past sins.

So then, my friends, try even harder to make God's call and his choice of you a permanent experience; if you do so, you will never abandon your faith. In this way you will be given the full right to enter the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And so I will always remind you of these matters, even though you already know them and are firmly grounded in the truth you have received. I think it only right for me to stir up your memory of these matters as long as I am still alive. I know that I shall soon put off this mortal body, as our Lord Jesus Christ plainly told me. I will do my best, then, to provide a way for you to remember these matters at all times after my death.

Challenge:

Write down 2 or 3 things that you have some questions/doubts about in your relationship with Jesus. Pick someone you trust to talk these over with. Remember, sometimes questions can't be answered easily, and it requires time and study to uncover the answers we are seeking. Understand that even parents, youth leaders and chaplains have their own questions, so think of this as a quest together to find God's truth.

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 Good Doubt!