

MOVIE: “Taken 2”**Sub Topic Theme:**
GRIPPED BY FEAR**Lesson Objective:**

Understanding that the fear of losing a parent is a very real part of students’ lives and they are not the only ones feeling gripped by fear. Learning how to recognize and address that fear from the standpoint of trust in Jesus Christ and a

security in his hope and guidance. Recognizing that faith in God allows us to discover a solace and strength that is impossible to find on our own by observing how dominate fear can become in our lives without the presence of Jesus. Helping teens embrace the value of faith in Jesus Christ, who has ultimate control, can provide an everlasting peace and hope in the midst of our greatest fear.

**Intro to the Movie:**

Taken 2 (rated PG-13)

WARNING WARNING WARNING IMAGES OF TORTURE AND VIOLENCE

The synopsis according to Fandango.com:

His family targeted by a vengeful crime boss in Istanbul, retired CIA agent Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) must fight an army of killers to ensure their safe return in this action sequel from director Olivier Megaton and producer/co-writer Luc Besson. As the families of the kidnappers killed by Mills gather together for a mass funeral, their leader Merad vows to make the man who brought them so much misery pay. Meanwhile, back in the U.S., Mills invites his ex-wife Lenore and their daughter Kim to join him on a trip to Istanbul after their long-planned trip to China falls through. Later, in Istanbul, the family is settling in and enjoying the sites when Merad's gang abducts Mills and Lenore. Communicating with her father via a hidden cell phone, Kim accesses his secret weapons cache and embarks on a frantic race through an unfamiliar city in a bid to rescue her parents from certain death. Once she manages to free her father, Mills puts his "particular set of skills" to use while attempting to rescue his Lenore, and escape Merad's unrelenting attack.

(The 3D lenses) Look for instances that fear dictates the characters' responses. Consider what things people give power over their lives (particularly emotions) and then compare that to a life led by faith in Jesus.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. If **you** were cast in this movie, which of the main characters would you rather be and why?
2. Have you ever been in a situation when you couldn't distinguish if your fear was legitimate or not? What did you do?
3. At what moments did you notice the characters gripped by fear?
4. The fear of the characters in Taken was as real as your fear of losing your parents. How does having Jesus in your life impact your response to this fear?

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 the fear of losing a parent is a **very real** part of students' lives and they are not the only one feeling gripped by fear. Learning how to recognize and address that fear from the standpoint of **trust in Jesus Christ and a security in his hope and guidance**. Recognizing that faith in God allows us to discover a solace and strength that is impossible to find on our own by observing how dominate fear can become in our lives without the presence of Jesus. Helping teens embrace the value of faith in Jesus Christ, who has **ultimate control**, can provide an **everlasting peace and hope** in the midst of our greatest fear.*

Bullet Objective:

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

We see in this movie that fear can really influence your actions. Everyone feels it no matter who they are or what sort of training they have had. Believers are no different. I've been afraid before and will be again and so will you. But having faith in Jesus Christ brings a whole other dynamic into the picture. We no longer have to have a solution. We no longer need to figure out how to save ourselves. Like Kim with her father's voice on the phone, we have a direct link to God guiding us and showing us how to come through our moments when we are gripped by fear.

What we often discover is that our main duty when we are addressing fear is obedience to God above all else. Don't let the world sway you with their temporary solutions to fear – like ignoring it, denial, or numbing it with substances. These aren't going to fix anything because they don't offer a solution, just distraction. Faith and confidence in the Lord is what will carry you through any situation.

Listen to this story from Daniel 3 when some young men faced their fear by showing resolve in the love of God:

“Nebuchadnezzar Commands Everyone to Worship a Gold Statue

King Nebuchadnezzar had a gold statue made, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and he had it set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² Then the king gave orders for all his officials to come together—the princes, governors, lieutenant governors, commissioners, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the other officials of the provinces. They were to attend the dedication of the statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ When all these officials gathered for the dedication and stood in front of the statue, ⁴ a herald announced in a loud voice, “People of all nations, races, and languages! ⁵ You will hear the sound of the trumpets, followed by the playing of oboes, lyres, zithers, and harps; and then all the other instruments will join in. As soon as the music starts, you are to bow down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Anyone who does not bow down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” ⁷ And so, as soon as they heard the sound of the instruments, the people of all the nations, races, and languages bowed down and worshiped the gold statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel's Three Friends Are Accused of Disobedience

⁸ It was then that some Babylonians took the opportunity to denounce the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May Your Majesty live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued an order that as soon as the music starts, everyone is to bow down and worship the gold statue, ¹¹ and that anyone who does not bow down and worship it is to be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² There are some Jews whom you put in charge of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—who are disobeying Your Majesty's orders. They do not worship your god or bow down to the statue you set up.” ¹³ At that, the king flew into a rage and ordered the three men to be brought before him. ¹⁴ He said to them, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you refuse to worship my god and to bow down to the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵ Now then, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, oboes, lyres, zithers, harps, and all the other instruments, bow down and worship the statue. If you do not, you will

immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. Do you think there is any god who can save you?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered, "Your Majesty, we will not try to defend ourselves. ¹⁷ If the God whom we serve is able to save us from the blazing furnace and from your power, then he will. ¹⁸ But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty may be sure that we will not worship your god, and we will not bow down to the gold statue that you have set up."

Daniel's Three Friends Are Sentenced to Death

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar lost his temper, and his face turned red with anger at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. ²⁰ And he commanded the strongest men in his army to tie the three men up and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So they tied them up, fully dressed—shirts, robes, caps, and all—and threw them into the blazing furnace. ²² Now because the king had given strict orders for the furnace to be made extremely hot, the flames burned up the guards who took the men to the furnace. ²³ Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, still tied up, fell into the heart of the blazing fire.

²⁴ Suddenly Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement. He asked his officials, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the blazing furnace?"

They answered, "Yes, we did, Your Majesty."

²⁵ "Then why do I see four men walking around in the fire?" he asked. "They are not tied up, and they show no sign of being hurt—and the fourth one looks like an angel."

The Three Men Are Released and Promoted

²⁶ So Nebuchadnezzar went up to the door of the blazing furnace and called out, "Shadrach! Meshach! Abednego! Servants of the Supreme God! Come out!" And they came out at once. ²⁷ All the princes, governors, lieutenant governors, and other officials of the king gathered to look at the three men, who had not been harmed by the fire. Their hair was not singed, their clothes were not burned, and there was no smell of smoke on them.

²⁸ The king said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued these men who serve and trust him. They disobeyed my orders and risked their lives rather than bow down and worship any god except their own.

²⁹ "And now I command that if anyone of any nation, race, or language speaks disrespectfully of the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he is to be torn limb from limb, and his house is to be made a pile of ruins. There is no other god who can rescue like this."

³⁰ And the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to higher positions in the province of Babylon."

This group of men, several who were fishermen, had lost control over their external situation when the storm came rolling in. They were seriously scared because they knew

they had no control with this massive storm. They saw the very real possibility of dying, and they cried out to Jesus for help.

When Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the waves to “be quiet” and “be still,” value and belief systems for his friends were challenged like never before. It was a really hard thing for them to live through, but it made it possible to confront their values from that of a nice life with Jesus to a new internal realization and belief that Jesus was actually much more than a mere man. They began the road to understanding that Jesus was the Son of God, and he held ultimate control over everything, including the external things of our lives. Being out of control had led to their faith in Jesus, which is a very worthwhile tradeoff.

Challenge:

1. Identify a place in your life where you feel like you have let fear take control. Now think about some ways that God calls us to be obedient to him rather than look for our own solutions. Now ask Jesus to act on your behalf and build your faith in his power and love.
2. Decide on an act of obedience or faith that you sense is important for you to embrace in your life. Talk to a Club Beyond leader or counselor or chaplain about how you might accomplish that.
3. Write out a prayer asking Jesus to show his sovereignty and involvement over the things in your life. Pray it daily this week and feel free to share it with other friends and leaders.

Pray for God’s love and power 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 Grippd By Fear