

## MOVIE: “Bend It Like Beckham”

### Subtopic Theme:

What Do I Have to Offer

### Lesson Objective:

To highlight the discovery process we go through to find out our talents and abilities.

Taking it a step further, we show that there is a way to use those skills for good or evil. By

recognizing that they are uniquely made and that there is a specific way that they can impact the world around them, we empower students to develop confidence in themselves, resilience in life, and faith and love for the God who so purposefully created them. It is our hope that they will understand and appreciate the importance of using their gifts and talents to help those around them and bring the love and peace of God to all they encounter.



### Intro to the Movie:

*Bend It Like Beckham*

According to Fandango.com:

An independent-minded young woman discovers the joys of football (soccer), much to her family's chagrin, in this upbeat British comedy drama. Jess Bhamra (Parminder Nagra) is an 18-year-old growing up in West London, where her family has taken every effort to stay in touch with its Indian heritage. Jess' father and mother (Anupam Kher and Shaheen Khan) are after their daughter to go to law school, learn to cook a traditional Indian dinner, and settle down with a nice Indian boy -- the latter of which is high on the agenda of her older sister Pinky (Archie Panjabi), who is soon to wed her longtime beau Teetu (Kulvinder Ghir). However, her family is unaware that Jess has a secret passion -- football (or soccer, as it's known in North America). While Jess' enthusiasm for football star David Beckham is obvious, given the fact his photos cover the walls of her room, her parents don't know that in her spare time she likes to play a friendly game in the park with some of the boys in the neighborhood. One day, while Jess and her pals kick the ball around, she meets Jules (Keira Knightley), who is quite impressed with Jess' skills. Jules plays with a local semi-pro women's football team, the Hounslow Harriers, and she thinks Jess has what it takes to make the team. Jess knows that her parents would never approve of their daughter playing football, so she doesn't tell them, and starts spinning an increasingly complex series of lies as she tries to keep up a double life as a student and a footballer. Jess soon discovers a number of her new friends have their own problems to

overcome; Jules dreams of playing pro ball in America, but has to deal with her stubborn and disapproving mother (Juliet Stevenson), while Joe (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), Hounslow's Irish coach, still struggles with the disappointment of a career as a professional athlete which was dashed by a knee injury.

To view the trailer: <http://www.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi4189651225/>

### The 3D Lenses

Watch for the ways Jess discovers more about herself. Ask yourself which of her decisions were good and which were not. Also, pay attention to the ways Jess's change impacts those around her.

### Discussion Group Questions:

1. How did discovering her talents change Jess's life?
2. What are some ways others were impacted by her abilities?
3. What were some of the biggest differences you think Jess's story would have on others (and you) if she was following the promptings of the Holy Spirit? What difference would that make?

### 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 highlight the **discovery** process we go through to find out our talents and abilities. Taking it a step further, we show that there is a way to use those skills for **good or evil**. By recognizing that they are **uniquely made** and that there is a specific way that they can impact the world around them, we empower students to develop **confidence** in themselves, **resilience** in life, and **faith and love** for the God who so purposefully created them. It is our hope that they will understand and appreciate the importance of using your gifts and talents to help those around you and bring the love and peace of God to all you encounter.*

### Bullet Objective:

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

This is such a fun movie to watch since we get to see a fantastic chick discover what she has to offer the world. There is so much more to her abilities and skills than just her talent at playing soccer. Throughout the movie we see Jess begin to shine brighter in her life, and the courage and humor and intelligence and kindness and loyalty and all the other things God gave her just become so evident. The funny thing is, her talents are so obvious to us and yet oftentimes we can't see the things that shine out of our own lives.

We all have so much to offer, and once you begin to take a closer look at what God put into you, you will see how uniquely and intricately you are made. God loves each and every one of us, and he creates us with specific gifts and abilities. It's amazing how hard it is for us to see this in ourselves, and that's why it's important to seek intentionally after God's purpose and always continue to investigate who you are and how you were created. I guarantee you will find something. There is no one in this world who has taken a good hard look at who they are and found nothing. We all have God's image ingrained in our hearts, and seeking after the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives will show us things about us that we never even dreamed of.

In Ephesians 1:13-20, Paul had this to say:

“And you also became God's people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised. The Spirit is the guarantee that we shall receive what God has promised his people, and this assures us that God will give complete freedom to those who are his. Let us praise his glory.

“For this reason, ever since I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you. I remember you in my prayers and ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you the Spirit, who will make you wise and reveal God to you, so that you will know him. I ask that your minds may be opened to see his light, so that you will know what is the hope to which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people, and how very great is his power at work in us who believe. This power working in us is the same as the mighty strength which he used when he raised Christ from death and seated him at his right side in the heavenly world.”

Did you get that? We have been stamped with God's mark! We are picked and made special and he asks us to see, know, and believe his power that is in us and that we can experience through him. It's really incredible when you think about it. He created us with a power that is so powerful it is the same, not similar but identical to, the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. The power that saved us all from sin. The power that transformed the world. The power of God is here inside of you and inside of me, and he only wants for us to use it! God so very much wants you to know that you have something to offer; you do belong, and you are loved. Believe it, seek after him, and live in his power!

**Challenge:**

This week break into two groups of guys and girls and each group come up with your own challenge for this week. Tell your leaders and help your friends throughout the week and be sure to check in with the other group and see if there's any way you can help them too!

*Pray for students to know what it means to exist in the power and love of the Lord God. Pray that they be inspired to discover more about how they were made and what they have to offer. Remind them of the online personal journey at ReZilient Life for further involvement with this topic of Belonging: What Do I Have to Offer?*