

**MOVIE: “Cinderella”****Subtopic Theme:**

You Were Made For This

**Lesson Objective:**

The purpose of watching this movie together is to see the difference between good and bad community and to learn what good communities are built on. In other words, what is the foundation on which good communities are constructed. Sometimes finding good community can be hard in school where students may face challenging issues, but as we will see in this movie, it is possible. Good communities make a difference in our lives.

**Intro to the Movie:***Cinderella*

According to IMDB.com

In a far away, long ago kingdom, Cinderella is living happily with her mother and father until her mother dies. Cinderella's father remarries a cold, cruel woman who has two daughters, Drizella and Anastasia. When the father dies, Cinderella's wicked stepmother turns her into a virtual servant in her own house. Meanwhile, across town in the castle, the King determines that his son the Prince should find a suitable bride and provide him with a required number of grandchildren. So the King invites every eligible maiden in the kingdom to a fancy dress ball, where his son will be able to choose his bride. Cinderella has no suitable party dress for a ball, but her friends the mice, led by Jaques and Gus, and the birds lend a hand in making her one, a dress the evil stepsisters immediately tear apart on the evening of the ball. At this point, enter the Fairy Godmother, the pumpkin carriage, the royal ball, the stroke of midnight, the glass slipper, and the rest, as they say, is fairy tale.

**The 3D Lenses**

While it may not appear like it at first, Cinderella is one of the coolest examples of community that there is out there. When we look back at the movie what do we see? The birds wake her, the mice and birds make a dress for her when she has no time because her step family is working against her and the mice bring the key when it seems all hope is lost. Her community of animals brings her comfort, joy, help and even serve her in various ways; all things important for the communities that we are a part of.

It could also be said that this movie shows what bad community looks like as well. Sometimes students think they have found a good community where they belong, but the truth is, their communities are using them, sucking the life out of them, not treating them in kind ways or even straight up abusing them, very similar to Cinderella's step family.

### Discussion Group Questions:

1. What were some of the differences between good and bad community that you saw in the movie?
2. What are different ways that Cinderella has found good community?
3. How does Cinderella's step family use her? Have you ever felt that way? What was it like? What helped you to realize things were not okay?
4. I like the final scene where they are trying to get the key to Cinderella, they have just mastered all the stairs, finally make it to the top and the CAT is there to stop them. However, the mice and birds do everything they can to get that key, even getting the dog! My question is *why*? What is the foundation of this community built on?
5. Community is great when you have it, hard when you don't. After reflecting on these things, what are some things you want to do to improve the community you are a part of?

### 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: *The purpose of watching this movie together is to see the difference between good and bad community and to learn what good communities are built on. In other words, what is the foundation on which good communities are built. Sometimes finding good community can be hard in school where students may face challenging issues, but as we will see in this movie, it is possible, and good communities make a difference in our lives.*

### Bullet Objective:

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

As we checked out the movie we saw two big extremes. We saw what it was like to be stuck in a place where people don't appreciate you. Then we saw what it looks like when you do have community around you that takes care of you, looks out for you. There is a

big difference!

If you have had bad experiences with community, you may be tempted to give up. I get it. Sometimes the people around us who call us friend are the least friendly people. Look at Cinderella. You would have thought that her stepfamily would have been a little more supportive. Especially, after losing both her mother and father! It didn't happen though. They used her! And while a fairy tale is a fun story, life isn't always as easy as it seems. That being said, I still think we can still learn from Cinderella and her positive attitude that she showed throughout the movie.

Think about it. It takes a lot to stay that positive and it wasn't like she was unrealistic. She knew she wasn't treated well, but she *choose* to be kind anyways. We are the ones responsible for our actions. Have you ever thought about that, that you are in charge of your own happiness? Let me say it another way. People may push you down, but you choose to stay down instead of standing back up and trying again or choosing to walk away to different parts. Cinderella chooses to stay, to serve well and chooses to find joy anyway. She chooses to not let other people keep her down and more than that, she chooses to love her stepfamily through her actions.

I wonder what your community would look like if you choose to serve them well even when they don't treat you well sometimes. What if you served your parents instead of fighting with them? What if you looked out for your siblings instead of giving them a hard time? What if when your friends hurt your feelings with their words or actions you showed them love anyway? I know it can be hard sometimes. The reality is that when these things happen, they hurt! This is when forgiveness comes in. When we forgive others, we choose to let go of the hurt and anger we are harboring in our hearts. We forgive, we let go and we serve anyway. I wonder how this would change the way that you see your world...if you lived by this formula. *Forgive, let go and serve with love anyway.* I wonder if this would change your attitude about life and more importantly, your heart.

I think God knew what he was doing when he created us. As we see in scripture when he made Adam, he said it was not good for man to live alone. Even when God sent out his followers, he sent them out together. I wonder what some of the reasons may be that he did this...check these verses out.

[Genesis 2:7-23 \(GNT\)](#)

*The Garden of Eden*

7 Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man[c] out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.

8 Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. 9 He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.[d]

10 A stream flowed in Eden and watered the garden; beyond Eden it divided into four rivers. 11 The first river is the Pishon; it flows around the country of Havilah. (12 Pure gold is found there and also rare perfume and precious stones.) 13 The second river is the Gihon; it flows around the country of Cush.[e] 14 The third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria, and the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. 16 He told him, “You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, 17 except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.[f] You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.”

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him.” 19 So he took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they all got their names. 20 So the man named all the birds and all the animals; but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him.

21 Then the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. 22 He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. 23 Then the man said,

“At last, here is one of my own kind— Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. ‘Woman’ is her name because she was taken out of man.”[g]

## Luke 10:1 (GNT)

### *Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two*

1 After this the Lord chose another seventy-two[a] men and sent them out two by two, to go ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

Looking at these verses, part of me wonders if one of the reason he made us for community was so that we could understand Him better, God better. When you feel hurt by your friend, how much more hurt does God feel? Feel for you, because he understands the pain you are feeling and hurts for your friend because he understands why it happened, what is going on in your friend's heart. I wonder how much God loves it when you serve your friend or sibling even when you're not totally, “feeling it.” Then on top of

all that I wonder if we sinful people can do good for others, how much more would God do for us?

Sometimes we forget how much our Father in heaven loves us and looks out for us. Maybe our relationships are a small way that we can understand God and his desired relationship with us better.

### Challenge:

1. Think about the formula: forgive, let go and serve with love anyway. How would trying to live your life this way change you and your heart? Think about the last few times you have been hurt. Write out these experiences then reflect. Have you forgiven these people? My challenge for you is to forgive them tonight. Forgive them, let go and try to find a way to serve the last three people who have hurt you. *(Leaders Note: I have no doubt that some of these students have been hurt in deep ways. Students should not be encouraged to put themselves in situations where they are in the path of someone who has abused them.)*
2. Sometimes letting go can be hard. If you're having a hard time letting go, my challenge for you is to pray over it each night until you feel like you have let go. If you're like me, you may have a negative emotional reaction to the name of someone who has hurt you; anger, rage, fear, hurt, betrayal. Pray that God would replace these feelings with feelings of love and compassion for those who have wronged you. Matthew 5:43-47 reads, 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' 44 But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. 46 Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! 47 And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! 48 You must be perfect—just as your Father in heaven is perfect. So THAT is the challenge to change your heart and to pray for those who hurt you if you can't serve them yet.
3. Think about the community you are a part of. This challenge is for you set a higher standard. Your friends will follow with time. Find two ways to serve or do something nice for two of your friends. Some of the things good communities are built on include trust and dependability. How can you build those things this week? Write out your plan and pray for opportunities to set a higher standard of love.

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*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!*