

GENERATE HEALTHY DISCUSSIONS

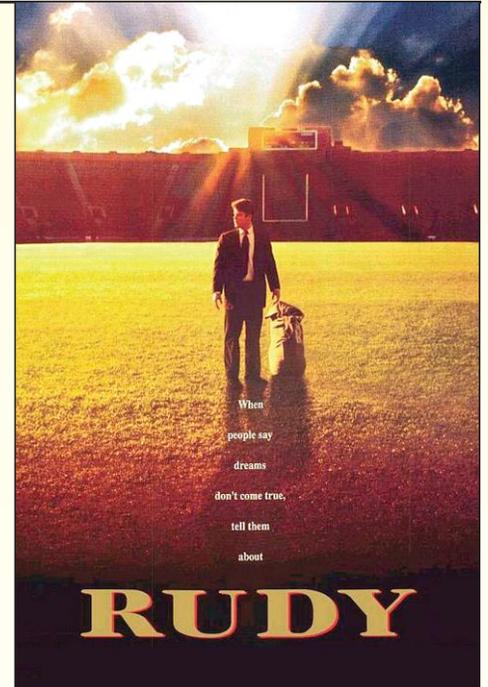
RUDY

When people say dreams don't come true, tell them about Rudy.

The uplifting true story of how one young man, Rudy Ruettiger, refused to limit his dreams or bow to reality as he pursued his lifelong goal to be a member of the Fighting Irish football team of Notre Dame. Practically speaking, Rudy had some real problems: he could not afford Notre Dame, his grades were low, his athletic ability was poor, he stood just over five feet tall, and weighed just over 100 pounds. Through effort, devotion, drive and determination Rudy managed to field a position on the practice team where he became a tackling dummy for the team. With his desire and drive, Rudy impressed the coach so much the coach pledged to let Rudy suit up as a member of the team for at least one game before graduation. Near the fulfillment of his dream a new coach and a hard season were all that stood in the way of Rudy achieving his dream.

PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS

- Use this film as a part of a motivational and goal-setting program. Talk with the youth group about personal achievement and the goal-setting process.
- If your church has any athletic teams, show the movie before the start of the season. Discuss sportsmanship, dedication, and other qualities important to your team.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What motivated Rudy in this film? What motivates you?
2. What were the obstacles that Rudy had to overcome in order to fulfill his dream?
3. Who do you think had the most influence on Rudy's desire to play football for Notre Dame? Why?
4. Who do you think did the most to discourage Rudy from trying to get into Notre Dame? Ever you ever been discouraged from fulfilling a goal? How can your faith help you overcome discouragement?
5. Which person do you think was most influential in helping Rudy reach his goal? Who has been most influential in helping you reach your goals? Why?
6. Do you think Rudy would have tried as hard if he didn't come from a blue-collar family? Why or why not?
7. What did you think about Rudy's family? His father? His brothers? Did their relationships change through the course of the film? How?
8. Did this movie change the way you look at team sports? Why or why not? What is the value of being a member of a team? What does the Bible say about how we should treat our team members or our "neighbors"?
9. Review the 5th commandment. What do you think about the way parental relationships were portrayed in the film. What about Rudy and his father? The other walk-on player and his father's legacy?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED):

10. What did you think when Rudy went home for Christmas to find out his brother was dating his ex-girlfriend? Compare Rudy's brother's loyalty to his brother to Rudy's loyalty to the team.
11. What did you think of the character "Fortune"?
12. Why do you think Rudy's teammates at Notre Dame changed their feelings of resentment into support? Discuss how as a Christian you can encourage others to build one another up instead of tearing them down.
13. Do you think what the team did to pressure Coach Devine into allowing Rudy to dress for the game was right? Was this fair to the other players who walked-on to the team? Why or why not?
14. What did Rudy accomplish or prove by fulfilling his dream?
15. What emotions did you feel when Rudy came running out of the tunnel? When he got into the game?



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REACT TO THE FOLLOWING LINES FROM THE MOVIE:

"The secret to happiness in this life is to be grateful for the gifts the good Lord has bestowed upon us."
(Priest from Rudy's High School)

"Having dreams is what makes life tolerable." **(Pete, the best friend)**

"Chasing your stupid dream causes nothing but you and everyone around you heartache." **(Rudy's father)**

"I don't care what kind of job I did. If it doesn't produce results it doesn't mean anything." **(Rudy)**