Discussion Guide: Rudy

Rudy, a 1993 American sports film directed by David Anspaugh, is an account of the life of Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger. From the time he’s a young boy, Rudy is determined to join the Fighting Irish Football team. His blue-collar family only laughs at his ambitions - they know Rudy will follow his father and brothers to the local steel mill. But Rudy proves everyone wrong and goes after his impossible dream of playing football for Notre Dame. Themes in Rudy include believing in yourself, hard work, and overcoming adversity.

Take advantage of the teachable moments presented in Rudy by using these questions to help guide a discussion with your team or children.

1.) In the opening scene, what do you think Rudy’s father is saying to Rudy with his body language when Rudy tells him he is going to play football for Notre Dame after high school?

2.) Rudy faces many obstacles in pursuit of his dream to play for Notre Dame. What are 3 of these challenges and how does he overcome them?

3.) Why are Rudy's teammates mad at him for working so hard on the field, how does it make them feel?

4.) Name 2 examples of Rudy exemplifying a Triple-Impact Competitor®?

5.) Why did the coach not want Rudy on the game line up even though Rudy worked so hard in practice? Do you agree with the coach’s decision?

6.) Why did all the football team give up their jerseys to the coach? What was important to the players that made them give up their jerseys?

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