



February 2, 2020

Group Discussion Questions

Movie Summary: Rudy Reutigger grew up in a blue-collar family in Joliet, Illinois where his family and friends all worked in the local steel mill. He dreamed of wearing the Notre Dame football uniform. There were only a couple of problems: his grades were low, his athletic skills were poor, and he was only half the size of the other players; but he was filled with determination and courage. His brother, his teachers, and even his parents told him to let go of his dream. Only his best friend Pete continued to believe in him when no one else did. And then when Pete died, Rudy was faced with the decision that we have all faced at some point in our lives: would he become bitter or better; would he give up or press on?

Ice Breaker: What accomplishment in your life are you most proud of?

Read James 1:2-3.

The word that probably best describes Rudy is “perseverance.” James writes that it is the difficult times in our lives that grow our character, that we should take joy in those things because they cause us to grow.

This is the great irony of life. We all want gain without pain. We all wish we could be fit without exercise, wise without learning, CEO without ever taking an entry-level job, but the truth is that there’s no gain physically, relationally, professionally, educationally, or

(especially) spiritually without pain. Even for Jesus, there was no resurrection Sunday without enduring the cross on Friday.

Rudy took advantage of his acceptance to Holy Cross, a community college across the street from Notre Dame. He worked hard, studied hard, and became a groundskeeper at the Notre Dame football field just to be near it. Even though his application to Notre Dame was rejected again and again, he didn't give up.

- **What is one significant challenge you have had to overcome in your own life, and how has your perseverance shaped the person you are today?**
- **Has there ever been a time that you persevered and didn't achieve the result you hoped for?**
- **What did these experiences teach you?**
- **How can we grow or develop perseverance in our own lives?**

Read Isaiah 40:31.

All of us hate to wait, but many of us are in a season of waiting right now. We might dream of a loving relationship, well-adjusted kids, a better career, or finding meaning in life. We're tempted to leave our difficult marriage, explode at our kids, cut corners at work to get ahead, or seek meaning in all of the wrong places.

Rudy endeared himself to his team, showed up for practice after practice, took hit after hit, but he finally reached a breaking point. He decided to quit the team when he didn't make the cut to dress for the last game of his senior year.

- **Where in your life are you waiting for something to change? What has kept you from giving up?**
- **What dreams do you have for your life?**
- **What are some of the steps you need to take to reach these goals?**
- **What is standing in the way of you reaching your goals and how can you overcome those obstacles?**

Rudy's teammates go to bat for him with the coach. They stick by him and help make his dream a reality. There's something powerful about others believing in your dream, speaking life into your dream, helping you achieve your dream.



- **Who in your life has been instrumental in helping you to achieve your dreams?**
 - **What is the thing in your life that, if you give up on it now, you'll look back with regret? Your marriage? Your family? Your job? A friend? Your sobriety? Your faith?**
 - **Who do you have in your life currently who you can rely on to support and encourage you?**
 - **How can this group help to support and encourage your dreams?**
 - **Pray about this: Who is someone in your life who needs *YOU* to believe in them?**
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