

## saving private ryan

### INITIAL MOVIE REACTIONS

- Did you like the film or not?
- What scenes stood out to you? Why?
- Would you recommend this movie to others?

### MOVIE ANALYSIS

- This movie generated over \$200 million in box office sales. Why do you think it was so successful?
- From a secular viewpoint, what main themes (ideals, beliefs, attitudes, etc) is this film is trying to portray?  
SACRIFICE, DUTY, WAR IS NOT GLORIOUS, HEROISM, etc.

### LIFE APPLICATION

- Sgt. Miller felt a sense of duty to complete his mission to save Private Ryan. To what things in your life do you have a sense of duty and obligation?

SCHOOL, WORK, GOD, CHURCH

- A big theme in this movie is sacrifice. I found 3 definitions for "sacrifice":
  - Offering something to a deity out of duty or respect
  - Forfeiting something highly-valued for something of greater value
  - Giving up something for less than its presumed value

What sacrifices do you make in your daily life? Which definition does it fit? Are your motives noble or self-seeking, genuine or forced?

- John 15:13 says "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Why did Sgt. Miller lay down his life? Was love his motive? What (or whom) did he love?

LOVE FOR HIS WIFE, FOR HIS COUNTRY, TO SET AN EXAMPLE

- Eight men died saving one soldier. Was saving Private Ryan worth it? Read Luke 15:1-10.

ALL MEN ARE VALUABLE TO GOD

- What are some differences between Miller's sacrifice and Christ sacrifice?

— Christ sacrificed his life for ALL \_\_\_\_\_ MEN \_\_\_\_\_ (see Hebrews 10:1-18)

— Christ died for his ENEMIES \_\_\_\_\_ (see Romans 5:6-8)

- After so many died saving him, Private Ryan felt obligated to make the rest of his life worthwhile. What obligations, if any, do we have to Christ? See Galatians 5:4-6 and revisit John 15:9-17.

**GREAT COMMISSION, TITHE, SERVE, etc?**

**PERHAPS OUR OBLIGATION IS TO LOVE, TO BE MOTIVATED TO DO THINGS OUT OF LOVE FOR GOD AND OTHERS**

- As Sgt. Miller died, he said “Earn this” to Private Ryan. Could Ryan live his life in a manner worthy enough to “earn” the lives of 8 men? In light of Christ’s sacrifice, how then should we live? Read Romans 12:1-2. Note the difference between conform and transform.

**CONFORM — an outward change without inward change**

**TRANSFORM — an outward change resulting from an inward change**

**WE SHOULD LIVE BY TRANSFORMING OUR LIVES FOR CHRIST, TO BE MOTIVATED BY LOVE**

- At the end of his life, Ryan pleads “Tell me I’m a good man.” Discuss the differences between a secular and a Christian response to Ryan’s plea. See Titus 3:1-8.

**GOOD WORKS vs. FAITH**

#### THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUOTE

This movie is very violent. Life can be violent at times, especially during war. Gandhi lists “the roots of violence” as “Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without humanity, Worship without sacrifice, Politics without principles.” What do you think about that quote?

#### OTHER COMMENTS OR BIBLICAL PARALLELS OF THE MOVIE?

**1 Thessalonians 5:21-22: "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."**