



[Author Note: This series can be used as main teaching times for youth group. The series was written with a girls retreat in mind, but it can be easily adapted. It could help the guys in your group come to a better understanding of how to build relationships with girls, or it could be a girl's small group discussion.]

[Author Note: this intro is part of my personal story. You can feel free to use it or replace with a personal story of your own.]

Who knew that an impromptu girl's night with a few girls from the youth group to see a movie and reading a blog post about this same movie would lead to a message to share with you all? Some Biblical ideas became evident as I watched this movie, and I felt like God wanted me to share them with you. What movie?

[Author note: I showed this trailer. You can just tell them the name of the movie if you prefer.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INLzqh7rZ-U> here]

It was Wonder Woman. To be honest, I wasn't sure that I wanted to see it, because the name Wonder Woman has been really overused. The hype around the movie made me a little wary of how good it might be. Not all movies live up to the hype, right? Well, I hope that you have seen the movie, because it totally lived up to the hype. Also, because we are about to talk about it, so spoiler alert!

Who has seen the movie, Wonder Woman? Tell me your favorite part.

[Author Note: This part is my favorite thing about Wonder Woman. You can use this part or fill in with your own.]

My favorite part of Wonder Woman is the main character Diana or Wonder Woman. Besides her over the top fighting skills, and the fact that she is gorgeous, I loved that Diana was a good person inside, too. Many celebrities that we see on TV or movies, and even the characters they play,

are two-dimensional. They are good looking or smart. They are strong or kind.

Let's start with a little back story. Diana grew up on the island Themyscira, protected by her mother Queen Hippolyta. Diana grew up watching the women around her train as warriors, and we see that Diana wished she could be a warrior from a young age. Since her mother, the Queen, had been involved in war, it is against the Queen's wishes for Diana to train to be a warrior. However, she sneaked away and watched training sessions. At one point, she secretly began training and became one of the strongest warriors on the island.

During one of the training exercises, an airplane crashed through the mist into the water off the coast of Themyscira. The pilot, Steve Trevor, was followed by Nazi soldiers, and the soldiers began shooting at the women on the island. Many of the women were hurt, and Steve helped Diana and the others defeat the Nazis. After the Nazis left, Steve told Diana about the war and vowed to go back and to continue fighting the war. When Diana heard that many innocent people were being killed in this war, she blamed Aries, the God of War, and she also vowed to go with Steve to London to fight until she is able to kill Aries.

This is one point in the movie where I saw a theme that is like themes we read about in the Bible. Diana is willing to risk her life in order to help people, even people she did not even know! Check out this verse from the Gospel of John.

***John 15:13 (NLT)***

***No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.***

We know that Jesus gave His life for all of us, and there were others in the Bible who risked everything to help their people. Can you think of any of the others?

One of my favorite people to read about in the Bible is Esther. Besides the high drama of King Xerxes getting rid of his Queen, because she refused to dance for him and his friends, the whole process of how King Xerxes picked his new Queen is so crazy. Today, when women are judged only by how they look, it is considered a bad thing. However, during this time in history, it was a perfectly acceptable practice. So, girls from all over came

to the Persia to be part of this process. Esther was one of these girls. Her Uncle Mordecai brought her to be considered for the new Queen. Esther was raised by her uncle, because both of her parents has passed away. Listen to what Mordecai tells her:

***Esther 2:8-10 (NLT)***

*As a result of the king's decree, Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the king's harem at the fortress of Susa and placed in Hegai's care. Hegai was very impressed with Esther and treated her kindly. He quickly ordered a special menu for her and provided her with beauty treatments. He also assigned her seven maids specially chosen from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem. Esther had not told anyone of her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had directed her not to do so. Every day Mordecai would take a walk near the courtyard of the harem to find out about Esther and what was happening to her.*

Sound familiar? Mordecai took Esther to be considered for Queen, because he knew she was beautiful, but he told her not to tell anyone where she came from. Most of the powerful kings and rulers of the day were scared of the people of God. The nation of Israel was huge, and it was thought that they could take over the other nations.

Okay, we talked about Diana or Wonder Woman having to hide her true identity, and we read in Esther that she also had to hide something about herself in order to become Queen. Let me ask you this: when was the last time you felt like you had to hide something about yourself or pretend to be something that you weren't? Was it to impress friends? Was it to get a guy? Maybe you are doing it right now.

[Author Note: the following is a personal story about having to hide who I really was. You can feel free to paraphrase it or tell one from your own experience.]

When I was 15, I had a huge crush on a boy named Scott. We both worked at Hardee's. Yes, it was a terrible job. Scott had lived up the street from me for years, and at one time, in middle school, he liked me, but I didn't like him. By the time we were in high school, we had totally different groups of