

## Remember the Titans

Walt Disney Pictures

Reviewer: Paul Born

Rating: Family - 10  
Relevance to Community Building - 8

I have seen this movie several times, which says a lot about it as I rarely see a movie more than once. What I love about it is that it is based on a true story, filled with inspiration and drama. It is one of those feel great movies that makes me believe that it is possible to change communities dramatically through catalyzing events, persistence and friendship. I would not necessarily advocate the approach Herman Boone used as community building best practice but nevertheless it is filled with idealism and loads of feel good scenes. My two boys 7 and 12 also love this movie and get just as excited watching it as I do.

The story line goes something like this....

Background:

After visiting Alexandria, Virginia, screenwriter Greg Howard wrote the script for *Remember The Titans* because he was inspired by the influence the Titans (a high school football team) had on their hometown during the 70's, the effects of which are still visible today. Based closely on the 1971 struggle that occurred when three high schools and two races were integrated into one, the story focuses on the school board's decision to replace long-standing Caucasian football coach Bill Yoast (Will Patton) with African-American Herman Boone (Denzel Washington).

The story:

A community is torn apart as white students and the community ready to boycott the school forced to integrate. Boone concentrates as much on helping students get to know each other as he does on throwing a football (though the football scenes are awesome). By channeling the boys' fear into football instead of racism, Boone turns their anger into a positive motivating force. Within a few months, these teens become a solid work-together team -- not only playing incredible football, but also teaching classmates and parents about tolerance, caring and hope. It is story of hope, transformation and friendship. Remember the Titans is an awesome movie about community and the power of change.

To order the movie or to see a Disney clip – click on the picture.

