



After watching the movie, please take some time to discuss the following questions. Please try to keep your answers brief so that everyone has a turn to share their thoughts. It's okay if you don't have time to get through all the questions.

**Begin with a volunteer reading "The Real Story Of Hercules"**

Draw a table on the white board with two columns labeled "Disney" and "the Real Myth". List answers in columns. Ask the following questions, "In the movie and in the original myth...."

- what is the hero's name?
- who were Hercules' parents?
- what unusual circumstances surround his birth?
- what part does Hades play?
- who is Philoctetes?
- what is the purpose of Hercules' labors?
- who is Megara?
- how does Hercules die?

*EXAMPLE* ↴

Disney Movie	The Real Myth
Parents were Zeus and Hera  He was adopted	Parents were Zeus and Alcmene  His dad was a creep

1. Which story do you like better?
2. What other stories has Disney changed? What was changed in the stories or characters? Examples: The Little Mermaid, Alice in Wonderland, Pocahontas.
3. Why do you think that Disney alters stories? What is the purpose? Who is its audience?
4. Has Disney created its own myths? Is this right? Wrong? Why? Why not?
5. This idea of altering stories is not a new concept. Many Greek and Roman poets altered myths into what we now believe are the original versions. Example: Orpheus and Eurydice or Achilles in The Iliad

## The Purpose Of Myths

- 1.What do the myths show us about human nature and the natural world? What role did myths play in helping humans cope with the events of life -birth, death, tragedy, natural phenomena such as lightning, rising and setting of the sun, the seasons, etc.?
- 2.Why do you think people worshipped Gods or Goddesses? What do you think they got out of this worship-psychologically, morally, religiously, as a society?
- 3.Where did myths come from? At some point, someone told the story of Zeus for the first time. Do you think Zeus existed before his story was told?
- 4.Do you think the Gods created people, or people created Gods?
- 5.If myths and Gods were created to serve a spiritual purpose or to explain the natural world, could we invent new Gods for the modern day? What would their stories explain? What would their symbols be? What parts of nature or human life would they rule over?

## Myths & Art

- 1.What do you notice about the pottery in Hercules? How do the storytellers use that feature to illustrate how the pottery could have been used in Ancient Greece?
- 2.Which myths did you find most interesting? Why? How was the myth depicted in art?



This discussion guide was created by Tree of Knowledge Community Coven for the women of Madison Correctional Facility and encourages personal reflection around the topics of myths, culture, and theology. For more Pagan prison ministry resources, please contact support@treeofknowledgeindiana.com