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ADVENTURES IN ZAMBEZIA

The movie poster for 'Adventures in Zambezia' features a vibrant, cartoonish style. In the center is a blue falcon with large yellow eyes, wearing a banana as a helmet. To its left is a white eagle with a red beak and a red berry necklace. To the right are two giraffes and a brown bird holding a sign that says 'PLUS A SING-ALONG MUSIC VIDEO'. The background is a bright blue sky with green foliage and a large, 3D title 'ADVENTURES IN ZAMBEZIA' in yellow and orange.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

EVERY HERO MUST EARN THEIR WINGS!

Adventures in Zambezia 2012

CREW OVERVIEW

Wayne Thornley (Director)
Raffaella Delle Donne (Writer)
Anthony Silverston (Writer)
Wayne Thornley (Writer)
Andrew Cook (Writer)

CAST OVERVIEW

Jeremy Suarez (Kai)
Abigail Breslin (Zoe)
Leonard Nimoy (Sekhuru)
Jeff Goldblum (Ajax)
Samuel L. Jackson (Tendai)
Jenifer Lewis (Gogo)
Jim Cummings (Budzo)
Richard E. Grant (Cecil)
Jamal Mixon (Ezee)
Tania Gunadi (Tini)



USING THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Intended for use after viewing the film, this study guide provides catalysts for biblically based discussion of various themes found in *Adventures in Zambezia*. The guide features three themes from the movie and is structured in such a way that groups can choose to discuss the entire guide at once or can focus on one or two themes at a time.

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FILM OVERVIEW/NOTE TO GROUP

Vibrantly animated and majestically set against the backdrop of Victoria Falls in Southern Africa, *Adventures in Zambezia* follows an ambitious, talented young falcon named Kai (voiced by Jeremy Suarez), whose journey takes him from a sheltered life in remote Katungu Boundary to the thriving metropolis of Zambezia, the legendary city of birds. Soon, though, the city is threatened by a dangerous enemy, and Kai must face the reality of his rash decision to leave home, learning life-changing lessons about the truth of his heritage and the value of community.

At the beginning of the movie, Kai's life in Katungu Boundary is predictable and uneventful, designed that way by his father, Tendai (Samuel L. Jackson), to protect Kai from experiencing the kind of personal tragedy that compelled Tendai to abandon

Zambezia years earlier in favor of isolation. Kai wants more than daily flight practice and routine security checks, though; he wants *adventure*. And when two unexpected visitors – Gogo (Jenifer Lewis) and Tini (Tania Gunadi) – arrive in the Boundary seeking refuge and esteeming Zambezia, Kai sets his sights on the city.

Frustrated with his father, Kai leaves home and joins ranks with birds headed for Zambezia, encountering his first taste of teamwork. Meanwhile, Tendai searches for Kai, but instead overhears a secret meeting between Cecil (Richard E. Grant), the leader of the Marabou storks, who are tired of being excluded from Zambezia, and Budzo (Jim Cummings), a monstrous lizard with a taste for eggs. Before Tendai can escape to warn others of the impending attack, Budzo captures and cages him while the Marabous begin carrying out the lizard's plan.

Back in Zambezia, Kai explores city life with boisterous Ezee (Jamal Mixon); hinders preparations for the Spring Celebration, much to the chagrin of beautiful and talented Zoe (Abigail Breslin); and becomes a Hurricane-in-training with strict Ajax (Jeff Goldblum), leader of Zambezia's revered protective guard. Unaware of his father's plight, Kai immerses himself in Hurricane training. But, when Marabous raid Zambezia during the Spring Celebration and steal all the Weavers, the entire community goes on high alert, confused as to the Marabous' plans.

In the ensuing uncertainty, Zambezia's wise leader, Sekhuru (Leonard Nimoy), tells Kai the truth about his family's history in Zambezia: Kai's parents founded the Hurricanes and Kai's mother was killed by Budzo during a mission. Equipped with renewed purpose and vital information about Budzo's strategy, Kai finds and frees his father and all the Weavers. In a tremendous display

of teamwork, the entire community of Zambezia – along with the remorseful and newly reformed Marabous – then work together to defeat Budzo, secure the city and establish peace.

THEME ONE: COMMUNITY

Guiding Scripture: Romans 12:18 (NLT): “Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 (NIV): “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!”
- John 13:34–35 (NIV): “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
- Acts 2:42–47 (NIV): “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”
- Romans 12:4–6 (NIV): “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”
- Romans 12:18 (NLT): “Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NIV): “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”
- Galatians 6:2 (NLT): “Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NIV): “Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.”
- Hebrews 10:24–25 (NLT): “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”
- Hebrews 12:14–15 (NLT): “Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.”
- 1 Peter 4:8–9 (NIV): “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”
- 1 John 1:7 (NLT): “But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.”





DVD SCENES TO REVIEW

- A History With Zambezia (00:11:25–00:14:50, Chapter 3)
- Meeting With Budzo (00:15:10–00:18:22, Chapter 4)
- Cecil's Speech (00:30:45–00:32:47, Chapter 7)
- The Rallying Cry (01:06:00–01:06:53, Chapter 14)
- No Bird Is an Island (01:09:55–01:16:41, Chapter 15)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As you begin this theme discussion, take some time to think about the concept of community. How would you define it? What does community look like in your life? Has your sense of community changed over time? Is it important to be involved in a community? Why or why not? Keep these questions and answers in mind as you examine community in the context of this film.

Kai's sense of community certainly changes over the course of the movie. In the beginning, Tendai has an established definition of community for Kai – a total of two raptors, father and son, surviving in the wild and defending the borders of the Boundary. Kai questions his father's definition of community, though, when he learns of Tendai's personal history with Zambezia.



SCENE TO REVIEW

A History With Zambezia (00:11:25–00:14:50, Chapter 3)

- How has your sense of community been shaped? Like Kai, have you learned about community through a parent? A relative? Friends? Other influences?
- When Kai realizes that Tendai knows Gogo and has been to Zambezia, what is his reaction? How does this knowledge encourage Kai's longing for a larger community?
- How does this scene shed light on Tendai's past experience with Zambezia, and how has that past experience shaped his attitude toward living in community with others?
- Tendai says, "When you stick your neck out for other birds, it only brings trouble." Can you understand Tendai's frustration? Have you had a hurtful community experience?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–10; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; and 1 Peter 4:8–9 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How does the Ecclesiastes passage relate to the end of the scene (in which Tendai is alone)? How has Tendai's behavior driven away his only community – Kai?
- In the 1 Thessalonians and 1 Peter verses, what cautions are given against carrying anger, bitterness or resentment? How can these emotions undermine a community?
- What do these three passages say about building community? What are some practical ways that you can actively build community at home, church, school or the workplace?

Tendai chooses to live outside Zambezia, but the Marabous were forced out at the founding of the city. This long-standing exclusion has produced in the Marabous – particularly in Cecil – a frustration so great that they willingly partner with a known enemy for revenge on the city. The Marabous' plight in the film demonstrates another aspect of community: the power of disunity.



SCENES TO REVIEW

Meeting With Budzo (00:15:10–00:18:22, Chapter 4)

Cecil's Speech (00:30:45–00:32:47, Chapter 7)

- How does Budzo take advantage of the Marabous' marginalized feelings?
- What do these scenes say about exclusivity? What are some of the dangers and consequences of exclusivity, especially in a communal setting?
- What reason does Cecil give for the Marabous' banishment from Zambezia? Is he telling the full truth, or is there evidence to suggest that Sekhuru was wise to exclude them?
- Why are disunity and discord so hazardous to community?
- Do you know someone who is struggling to find a place in his or her greater community? Is there something you could do to create a more welcoming environment? If so, what?

Take a moment to read Romans 12:18 and Hebrews 12:14–15 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What command does Romans 12:18 give? What does this command require of us? How does humility play a role in building community and encouraging peace?
- Hebrews 12:14–15 cautions, "Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." How does this verse relate to the Marabous' situation?

The film takes a compelling look at various aspects of community, beginning with Tendai's isolation, continued by the Marabous' exclusion and culminating in a picture of community at its best: all the birds working together for the greater good. It's important to note that unity isn't easily achieved; it takes humility, repentance, forgiveness and courage – difficult, but necessary.

SCENES TO REVIEW

The Rallying Cry (01:06:00–01:06:53, Chapter 14)

No Bird Is an Island (01:09:55–01:16:41, Chapter 15)

- What are some of the reactions to Kai's speech? How do these reactions accurately portray the process of trying to unify a fearful, disheartened group of individuals?
- One bird says, "It's easier together." Another: "Together we can do anything." Have you experienced the power of teamwork in your life? Would you share a specific example?
- As the birds work together to defend their city, how does each one use its unique abilities to participate in Budzo's defeat?
- Why is teamwork such an important component of a healthy, functioning community? What are some ways to draw out and value each person's unique gifts?
- What does Sekhuru mean when he declares, "No bird is an island"?

Read Romans 12:4–6; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7; and Galatians 6:2 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What do Romans 12:4–6 and 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 say about gifts and abilities? How do individual gifts ultimately glorify the body of Christ (and community as a whole)?
- Why is it important to share each other's burdens, as instructed by Galatians 6:2? How does this act contribute to a greater sense of community?

In concluding this theme discussion, take a look at John 13:34–35; Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:24–25; and 1 John 1:7 (see Scriptures Referenced). What did early biblical community look like according to the Acts passage? How is that early church experience both different than and similar to what we know as biblical community today? In reading the other passages, how is healthy community promoted and encouraged? What is the application for your life? As you think about these verses in light of your own familial, social and work circles, perhaps you would prayerfully consider some ways to champion and practice the values of biblical community.





THEME TWO: IDENTITY

Guiding Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT): “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Genesis 1:27 (NLT): “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”
- Psalm 139:13–16 (NIV): “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”
- Isaiah 43:18–19 (NIV): “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”
- Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT): “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”
- Romans 8:1 (NIV): “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT): “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
- Galatians 3:27–29 (NLT): “And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.”
- Ephesians 2:10 (NLT): “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”
- Philippians 3:12–14 (NIV): “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
- Colossians 2:13–14 (NLT): “You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”
- Colossians 3:12 (NIV): “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”
- 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV): “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

DVD SCENES TO REVIEW

- A New Citizen (00:22:27–00:24:46, Chapter 5)
- The Truth (00:55:01–00:58:00, Chapter 12)
- Reunited (01:00:02–01:02:00, Chapter 13)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Guiding Scripture for this theme discussion perfectly captures the believer's identity in Christ: "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT). Because of God's immeasurable love and grace, He gives new life – and brand new identity – in and through His son, Jesus Christ.

Even with an awareness of this profound, life-changing truth, understanding and establishing identity is often a lifelong journey, especially since identity is shaped and influenced by countless variables. Take Kai, for example. His identity is initially born of his father's secrecy, but soon evolves as Kai visits Zambezia and the truth about his family history begins to surface.

SCENE TO REVIEW

A New Citizen (00:22:27–00:24:46, Chapter 5)

- The conversation between Sekhuru and Gogo does not divulge everything about Kai's past. But, what do we, as viewers, learn about Tendai's history and Kai's identity?
- Sekhuru mentions that he made a promise not to tell Kai about his parents' history in Zambezia. Do you agree or disagree with his decision to uphold that promise? Why?
- Up to this point in the film, what does Kai know about his family's past? Do you think Kai suspected he might find answers in Zambezia? Why or why not?
- What are some reasons why parents might withhold information from their children? Is it possible, for example, that Tendai wanted to give Kai an identity apart from tragedy?
- Can you relate to Kai's experience? Has someone tried to shield you from the past? What happened when you discovered the truth? Was your identity altered in any way?

Read Isaiah 43:18–19; Romans 8:1; and Ephesians 2:10 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What do Isaiah 43:18–19 and Romans 8:1 say about the past? How do Christians reconcile the sin and pain of the past with the promise of a new identity in Christ?
- How does Ephesians 2:10 offer comfort to someone who might be wrestling with identity? What do you think it means to be God's "masterpiece"?

Once the Marabous steal the Weavers at the Spring Celebration, Zambezia's residents grow increasingly nervous in the uncertainty that follows. Gogo, compelled by the community's confusion and frustration, reaches her limit on secrecy. She drags Kai to Sekhuru's nest and demands that the wise leader tell the young falcon the truth about Kai and his family's past.

SCENE TO REVIEW

The Truth (00:55:01–00:58:00, Chapter 12)

- How does the truth impact Kai's identity?
- Once Kai hears the truth – that Amai (Kai's mother) gave her life for Zoe and that Tendai was then blinded by grief – does his attitude toward his father change? If so, how?

Sekhuru tells Kai that his parents founded the Hurrricanes to "guard Zambezia and offer protection to all the birds in the River Valley."

- Based on Sekhuru's statement, how would you describe Kai's heritage? What qualities or characteristics are required of leaders such as the ones that Sekhuru depicted?
- Even though Kai's heritage contains tragedy, how does the noble, sacrificial nature of his mother's death leave an important legacy for Kai to pursue in his own life?

Read Philippians 3:12–14 and Colossians 3:12 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How does the Philippians passage address identity? Why is it vital to "press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me"?
- According to Colossians 3:12, what characteristics should comprise the Christian identity? What are some ways to pursue these characteristics in daily discipline?

Soon after learning the truth about his past, Kai makes another discovery: Budzo is the mastermind behind the Marabous' plans. As he tracks the vicious leguaan, Kai locates the cave in which his father and the Weavers are being held. The reunion between father and son is finally liberated from the mystery and privacy that have – to certain degrees – hindered the relationship.

SCENE TO REVIEW

Reunited (01:00:02–01:02:00, Chapter 13)

- Tendai tells Kai that he was right to leave home. How does this admission reflect the way that Tendai's perspective has changed during his time as Budzo's captive?
- At one point, Tendai says, "I robbed you of your mother." Kai replies, "No, *Budzo* robbed me of my mother." How does Kai's response demonstrate his maturity?
- Does honesty play a part in the creation and shaping of identity? Why or why not? How is Kai's conversation with his father markedly different than any other they've shared?
- What aspects of your identity do you appreciate or value most? Which parts have been refined by the trials of this earthly life? Would you be willing to share your experiences?

Read Galatians 3:27–29; Colossians 2:13–14; and 1 Peter 2:9 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- The passages from Galatians and 1 Peter provide tremendous descriptions of identity in Christ. What do these verses say about the believer's spiritual heritage?
- How does Colossians 2:13–14 present the gospel? According to this verse, what is a person's identity before accepting Christ? And then after accepting Christ?



As you conclude this theme discussion, read Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13–16; and Jeremiah 1:5 (see Scriptures Referenced). Consider how these passages speak to the topic of identity, and spend time reflecting on God as Creator. As an application exercise, think about the way your identity has been shaped

throughout your life. Can you point to specific moments that greatly influenced you? Do you have the security of a faith identity? If so, what does that mean to you? Take some time to close in prayer, mindful of the identity that God has given through Christ.



THEME THREE: TALENT

Guiding Scripture: Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV): “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Psalm 119:36 (NIV): “Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.”
- Proverbs 16:18 (NIV): “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”
- Proverbs 18:2 (NIV): “An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels.”
- Matthew 6:33 (NIV): “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
- Matthew 23:12 (NIV): “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”
- Luke 9:25 (NLT): “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?”
- Luke 12:34 (NIV): “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- Romans 12:2 (NIV): “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT): “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”
- Philippians 2:3–4 (NIV): “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”
- Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV): “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”
- James 1:17 (NIV): “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

DVD SCENES TO REVIEW

- A Gift for Flying (00:02:16–00:06:06, Chapter 1)
- Hurricane Trials (00:32:48–00:38:08, Chapter 7)
- Rescue Mission (00:38:57–00:41:30, Chapter 8)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Kai is a talented flier. He can soar, he can plummet (at will) and he can navigate obstacles. Having been expertly trained by Tendai for years, Kai is a nearly flawless talent. And he knows it. The beginning of James 1:17 says, “Every good and perfect gift is from above ...” (see Scriptures Referenced), but what happens when those gifts verge on becoming a point of pride?

For Kai, flying is like breathing. It’s an innate ability that has become second nature. In his enthusiasm and ambition for flying, Kai sometimes falls victim to pride. Near the beginning of the movie, for example, Kai is practicing routine flying skills when he suddenly decides to weave through a jungle of giraffe legs – and the result is a healthy dose of instant humility.

SCENE TO REVIEW

A Gift for Flying (00:02:16–00:06:06, Chapter 1)

- Which moment(s) in this scene demonstrate that Kai is not yet a perfectly trained flier? Would you say that his raw talent exceeds his practiced skill? Why or why not?
- What is Tendai’s end goal in training Kai? What is Kai’s end goal in flying? How do these purposes differ and how is that a source of frustration for both falcons?
- Why is Kai eager to leave the Boundary when he sees birds flying overhead? What does this eagerness suggest about his talent and his ambition to use his talent elsewhere?
- What is your God-given ability? Have you ever experienced pride related to that ability? If so, what happened? Can you offer advice to those struggling to keep pride at bay?

Take a moment to read Proverbs 16:18 and Matthew 23:12 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What does Proverbs 16:18 say about pride? Why are talent and pride so closely related, and how can this verse serve as a caution to glorify God rather than ourselves?
- Matthew 23:12 is similar in message to Proverbs 16:18. Why is humility such an esteemed virtue throughout the Bible? How does it serve to remedy pride?

One of the best displays of Kai’s talent takes place during the Hurricane tryouts. On an incredibly difficult obstacle-and-race course, Kai doesn’t just fly – he soars. And what makes the race especially unique is that it not only fuels Kai’s competitive side, but it also demonstrates his sheer love for flying. Here is a falcon that thoroughly enjoys his God-given abilities.

SCENE TO REVIEW

Hurricane Trials (00:32:48–00:38:08, Chapter 7)

- How does the race course display Kai's natural talent? Can you recall any moments during the scene when Kai seems to be flying for flying's sake?
- What are his strengths and weaknesses as he heads toward the finish line?
- Ajax tells Kai, "Your moves are unorthodox. You improvise. You think outside the box. *I don't like that.*" How does talent play a role in Kai's unusual approach to flying?
- What happens during the final moments of the scene in the exchange between Sekhuru and Kai? As fun-loving as Kai can be, does he take Hurricane responsibility seriously?

Read Psalm 119:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; and Colossians 3:23–24 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- In your own words, how would you describe the psalmist's request (Psalm 119:36)? What does this verse suggest about the struggle between talent and pride?
- What do 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3:23–24 say about using talent for God's glory? Who is the object of our service, according to the Colossians passage?

As a Hurricane trainee, Kai finally gets a chance to prove his worth when he saves a snoozing bird from floating over the edge of Victoria Falls. The daring rescue gives Kai instant credibility with the rest of the Hurricanes, but Kai takes a misstep when he publicly embarrasses Ezee. It's another bittersweet moment for Kai, who knows his friend is more important than status.

SCENE TO REVIEW

Rescue Mission (00:38:57–00:41:30, Chapter 8)

- In this rescue, how does Kai use skills he learned from years of practice with his father? Is it appropriate for Kai to break formation and push his dive count in this situation?
- As you were watching the scene, what was your reaction to Kai's public disownment, so to speak, of Ezee? Can you relate to that situation from either Kai's or Ezee's views?
- What are some of the potential pitfalls of having a popular talent?

- Think about the rest of the film – perhaps even consider some scenes from the other theme discussions – and discuss the way Kai's talent matures over the course of the film.

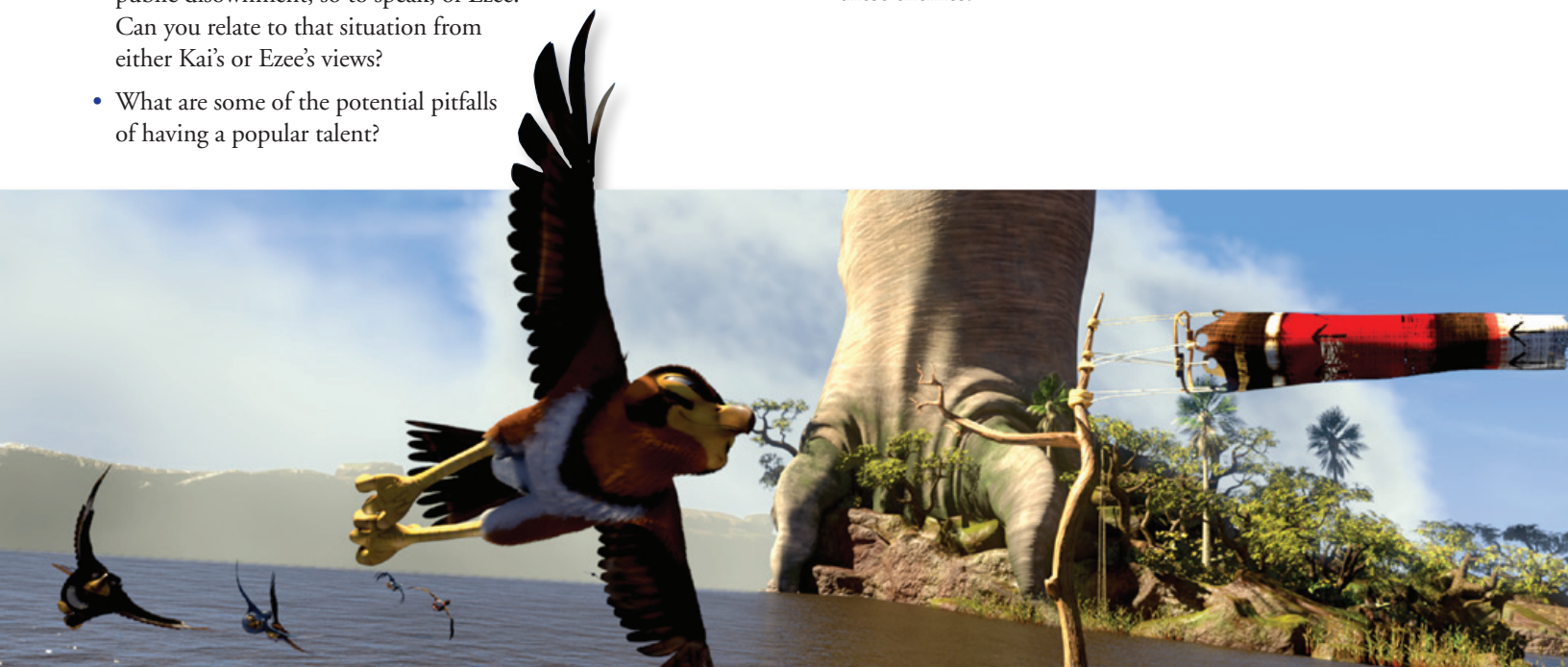
Read Luke 12:34; Romans 12:2; and Philippians 2:3–4 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How do Luke 12:34 and Philippians 2:3–4 speak to Kai's situation? Have you had a similar experience in which you dedicated your talent to the greater good?
- What are the "patterns of this world" that Paul alludes to in Romans 12:2? Can you think of practical ways – disciplines, for example – that would help in renewing the mind?

As you finish this theme discussion, read Proverbs 18:2; Matthew 6:33; and Luke 9:25 (see Scriptures Referenced), and take some time to discuss the theme of talent as it pertains to pride, joy (i.e., the enjoyment of), priorities and purpose. Consider, too, that gifts and abilities come from God, who desires that we use such talents to glorify Him. Know and trust that you have unique abilities; after all, God handcrafted you with extraordinary and precise care.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Think back through the film and list as many friendships as you can. What makes these friendships memorable? How does the film convey the importance of a good friend?
- There are so many colorful personalities in this film. Which character do you relate to the most? Why? What makes that character stand out from the others?
- Did you have a favorite scene or moment from the film? Or perhaps your eye was drawn to the animation and production side – was there a setting or sequence that you enjoyed?
- Music plays an important role in the film as a whole. What do you think of the soundtrack and the way the filmmakers use specific songs for specific scenes?
- What are some additional themes in the film, whether smaller or larger in scope? Which scenes or lines of dialogue address these themes?



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**"TERRIFIC! ZAMBEZIA
IS A HIGH-FLYING
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