

# NEW HEIGHTS

## DISCUSSION

### AT THE MOVIES

#### “Unbroken” Life Group Discussion

##### **Big Idea**

Unbroken tells the amazing story of Louis Zamperini, a troubled teen turned Olympic runner turned World War 2 POW survivor. “Zamp” as he was called throughout school, his military service, and his adult life, is a testament to human fortitude and endurance, both physically and mentally. During childhood, Louis got into trouble at every turn. Fortunately, his older brother Pete, an athlete, discovered that Louis was a terrific runner, and coached him through high school all the way to the 1936 Olympics. But, Zamp’s dream of running in the 1940 Olympics in Tokyo was shattered when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States, and Zamperini, into the Second World War. On a rescue mission over the Pacific Ocean, Zamp’s own rickety plane malfunctioned and crashed into the blue abyss. He, along with two others, survived the impact; they spent several weeks drifting at sea before being taken prisoner by the Japanese. During his stay in various prisoner of war camps, Zamp was tested physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He was treated horribly, beaten often, and subjected to cruelty beyond imagination. But he survived the entire ordeal to go on to live a life that brought God tremendous glory! His story of continual sacrifice and victory over the fiercest odds is a compelling one for all of us today.

##### **Read**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**2 Corinthians 4:7-11** But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

**Psalms 34:18** The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

**Matthew 11:28-30** Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

### **Little About Me**

Take a moment and share about your favorite interest or hobby.

### **Discussion**

- Have you ever observed someone else navigate a really bad time, such as an illness or death, with such peace and confidence that their faith impacted your own walk with God? Share that experience with your group and how it impacted you.
- What would you focus on if you were stranded at sea like Louis and Phil?
- In looking at the above passages, which one speaks to you the loudest and why?
- Talk about how it affects you when you try to manage a difficult situation by yourself. How is it different physically, emotionally, and spiritually when you let God handle the heavy lifting?
- Discuss what the phrase "let your faith work and your fear walk" means to you? What are specific things you can do daily to feed your faith?

### **Prayer Focus**

Invite God to be in total control of your life. Pray for the strength and confidence to trust God to work all things for good no matter what is going on in your life. Pray that the way you walk with God each day would be evident in your life to such an extent that it impacts the people within your circle of influence.

### **Next Step**

If you haven't completed the Growth Track, make it a priority.

### **Leader Tip**

Take a moment and see who would be interested in leading a group next semester, and encourage them to take the next Life Group Leadership Training coming up in January.