

Themes of the Story...

Suffering and Evil

- What are the kinds and types of evil that befall people in the story of Louis Zamperini? What of the sources of suffering?
- What do you think of "The Bird"? Have you ever had "difficult" people in your life albeit to a lesser degree? How did you deal with them? What purpose did they serve?

Our Struggle

- Louis Zamperini's life was marked by its cyclical ups and downs. Every ray of hope was seemingly extinguished by a new darkness. Though most people's lives don't experience this to such a degree, do you think everyone's life is like this?
- Louis had to endure much suffering simply to survive. How did his *chosen suffering* in discipline and training to become a runner and Olympic athlete prepare him for *unchosen suffering* of war, survival and imprisonment?
- Though we are not likely to be athletes of this caliber, how can life today prepare us for a future that could hold great blessing or great suffering?

The Question of Faith

- One facet of his life not covered by the film was his deepest battle with alcoholism after the war. This battle almost consumed his marriage and his life. The final battle was within himself, and was, in his own words, overcome by God.
- Why do you think intense suffering many times turns people either towards or away from God? How can we explained this mystery?





Highly recommended reading. *Unbroken* by Lauren Hillenbrand. Excellent audiobook edition also available read by the late Edward Hermann.

