

Discussion questions for the video program

Episode 2, *Tales from Bledlow Ridge*

The Rescuer

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Let's look at the different characters in *The Rescuer* and see what we can learn from them—and from how they relate to each other and their circumstances.

1. Fourteen-year-old Rachel seems a bundle of contradictory feelings and impressions. At times she is sensitive, loving, and compassionate; at other times she is selfish, insensitive to others, and proudly independent. What examples of these two sides of Rachel can you give? *[Insensitive and proud—doesn't want to help out and take care of Cassandra; nags her dad to get her way when he's preparing for his business meeting; tricks Cassie into being left behind when they go up to the mountain; lets Mac and David take her place when she's afraid to approach the old house, even though she drew the short stick; refuses to listen to Cassie when returning to the hotel the wrong way, insisting she knows what she's doing and doesn't need anyone's help!]*

Sensitive and compassionate—loves nature and birds; kind to Mac; bought a card for her sister Amy, who was home sick with the chickenpox; upset about rabbit killed in trap and gives it a "proper burial;" angered by two thieves stealing bird eggs, believing them to be very wrong; stays with Cassie after she fell and sings to keep her spirits up; throws down her own coat to Cassie to try to keep her warm.]

If you compare Rachel's times of compassion with her moments of rebellious insensitivity, what do you notice?

[Rachel is very compassionate to animals and creatures but can be very insensitive and cruel to people. She is very incensed about the trapped rabbit and self-righteously determined to turn in the egg thieves to the authorities, while she continues to be cruel and uncaring to Cassie.]

2. In what way did Rachel as a younger child think God was like an eagle? *[She believed God was flying around in the sky and could see everything.]*

Rachel told Mac that, of course, she didn't believe that anymore. She wasn't sure what God thought of her. Yet, by the end of the film, Rachel is watching the golden eagle watching her. Do you think some of her earlier childhood faith returned? *[Yes. When she was rescued, Rachel looked at the eagle and said, "Thank you." Seeing the eagle had again reminded her that God was watching her and caring for her.]*

The Bible mentions eagles in several passages. Look up the following Scriptures about eagles and discuss what we can learn about God from them:

Exodus 19:4 *[God brings His people to safety.]*

Job 39:7 *[Eagles are under God's command, as are all creatures.]*

Isaiah 40:31 *[Waiting on the Lord will bring us new strength to soar like an eagle.]*

How does the eagle become an important symbol throughout the film? *[Pictures God's all-seeing care and protection for His children.]*

3. At the end of the film, Rachel gives Mac the binoculars he had retrieved for her because “he was everything she should have been.” In what ways should Rachel have been like Mac? *[Rachel was very self-centered and selfish, but Mac was caring of others—he was willing to stay back and take care of Cassie; he wanted to act as Jesus would have done; he was willing to take Rachel’s place and attract the attention of the thieves even though Rachel drew the shorter stick; after he and David escaped, he returned to look for the girls; after a brief prayer, he bravely retrieved the binoculars Rachel had dropped.]*

4. When Rachel tells Mac she’s not sure what God thinks of her, Mac asks her, “Are you a Christian?” and Rachel says, “We all are.” Why do you think Mac asked Rachel if she was a Christian? What do you think of Rachel’s answer? *[Rachel’s doubt and uncertainty of God’s love and concern for her sounded as if she wasn’t a Christian. Romans 8:35-39 clearly states that nothing can separate us from the love of God. I Peter 5:7 encourages us to cast all our care on God because He cares for us. When Rachel says “we’re all Christian,” she seems to be saying that people are just naturally born Christian. The Bible, however, does not say that all are Christians but that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We all are in need of redemption, by faith in Jesus Christ. (John 3:16)]*

5. Cassie never knew her father and wishes she had a dad like Rachel. What evidence did Cassie see of Rachel’s father’s love for Rachel? How did Rachel know her dad would come looking for her even if he had been mad at her? *[Cassie seemed amazed that Rachel’s dad had not mentioned to the boys that Rachel had ruined his pictures by spilling coffee. He probably did this to protect Rachel from being criticized by the boys. Rachel knew her dad would come looking for her because she was his daughter.]*

What spiritual lessons can we learn from the actions of Rachel’s dad? *[He is protective towards his children as our heavenly Father is toward us. Even when we are disobedient, the Lord continues to love us, care for us, and watch over us. This love of the Father’s is beautifully expressed in Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). Of course, Rachel’s father is unlike our heavenly Father in that he is not perfect. He was wrong to have called Rachel stupid, and he did apologize for this.]*

6. At the beginning of the film David and Rachel are always arguing and bickering; by the end of the film David hugs Rachel. Why this change? *[Problems and troubles can purify relationships and bring people closer together. The Lord is able to use difficulties and suffering in our lives to refine our character.]*

7. What were the two ways the children could find their way on the mountain? What spiritual lessons might there be in this? *[The children found their way by following the map or by their position relative to the sun. Spiritually, the Bible is to be our map through this world, and we can find our way by our relationship to Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.]*

8. While Rachel was with Cassie on the mountain, she was singing Psalm 23, the Lord is my Shepherd. Read through this Psalm and discuss why this Psalm has comforted people for centuries. What can we learn about God from this Scripture?

9. How did Rachel's dad pull her from the mountain crevice? *[with a shepherd's crook]*

Jesus Christ claimed to be the Good Shepherd (John 10:14-15) and told a parable of God's shepherd-love for sinners (Luke 15:2-7). Read this parable and discuss what we can learn about God's love from Jesus' story.

10. When Rachel sees Cassie hurt on the edge of the precipice, she knows she can't help her and there's nothing she can do except pray. What does she pray? *[She confesses her unkind treatment of Cassie and others and tells God she wants to be different, but she needs His help. She knows she can't change by herself but needs Jesus to forgive her and help her to be a better person.]*

11. At different times in the story Rachel is not certain if God cares for her; she knows she doesn't deserve His care and protection. When the rescue team comes, she confesses to her dad that she is undeserving, and her dad tells her that none of us deserves anything. Was he right in telling her this? Aren't some people more deserving than others? *[Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and no one measures up to God's righteousness and glory. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we are made right with God by His grace, not by any works we do. God's grace brings people to Himself. No one is deserving to come into God's presence apart from His grace.]*

12. What lessons can you learn from the adventures of Rachel, Mac, Cassie, and David which you can apply in your own life today?