

**“Kon-Tiki” starring Norwegian actors, 2012, PG-13, 118 minutes**

**Major themes:**

- Exploration
- Ethnography
- Adventure
- Priorities
- Diligence
- Teamwork
- Resourcefulness
- Risk

**Major characters:**

- Thor Heyerdahl (expedition leader)
- Liv Heyerdahl
- Herman Watzinger (engineer)
- Knut Haugland (radio expert)
- Bengt Danielsson (steward, in charge of supplies and rations)
- Erik Hesselberg (childhood friend, had been to sea before, navigator, artist)
- Torstein Raaby (radio operator)

## Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

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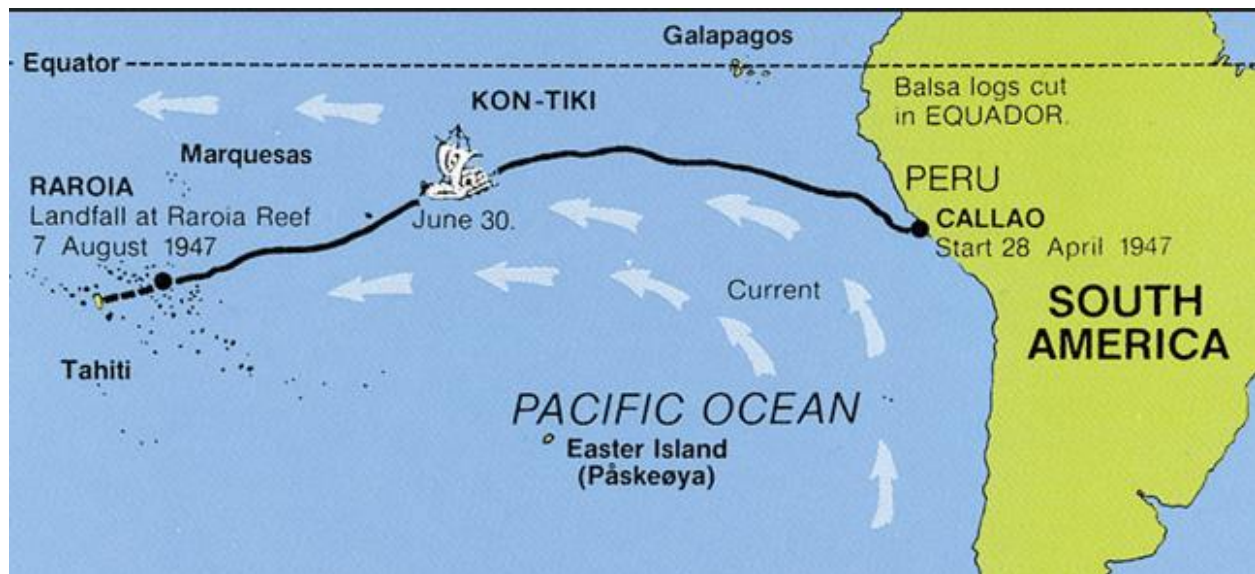
### Background info:

- Ethnography is the systematic study of peoples and cultures.
- The Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl crossed the Pacific Ocean in a balsawood raft in 1947, together with five men, to prove that South Americans back in pre-Columbian times could have crossed the ocean and settled on Polynesian islands. After financing the trips with loans and donations, they set off on an epic 101-day-long trip across 3770 nautical miles (4304 miles / 6980 km). Their average speed was 1.5 knots.
- The expedition carried six men plus a pet parrot named Lorita.
- The raft was approximately 45 feet by 18 feet in size, made from balsa logs, mangrove mast, pine boards, bamboo, fir, banana leaf thatch, reeds, and hemp rope. No metal was used in the construction. The Kon-Tiki was named after the Inca sun god, Viracocha. The original Kon-Tiki raft is now on display in the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo, Norway.
- Kon-Tiki carried 275 US gallons (1,040 l) of drinking water in 56 water cans, as well as a number of sealed bamboo rods. Heyerdahl brought modern and ancient containers in order to test the effectiveness of ancient water storage. For food, Kon-Tiki carried 200 coconuts, sweet potatoes, bottle gourds and other assorted fruit and roots, as well as U.S. Army field rations, tinned food and survival equipment. They also caught flying fish, dolphin fish, yellowfin tuna, bonito, and shark.
- Heyerdahl filmed the expedition, which later became a 1950 Academy Award winning documentary. The book he wrote about the expedition was translated into 70 languages and has sold more than 50 million copies worldwide.
- This film was the official submission of Norway to the Best Foreign Language Film of the 85<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards in 2013. It was the highest-grossing film of 2012 in Norway and the country's most expensive production to date.
- Large parts of this film were filmed in two versions at the same time, one in Norwegian, the other in English, in order to secure international funding.

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- Heyerdahl believed that the original inhabitants of the Polynesian islands from Hawaii to New Zealand, from Samoa to Easter Island, were migrants from Peru. Most historians consider that Polynesians from the west originated from Asia and were the original inhabitants of all the Pacific islands. However, in 2011, Professor Erik Thorsby of the University of Oslo presented DNA evidence to the Royal Society which agreed that while most of the Pacific island ancestors colonized eastward from Asia, there was a distinctive but smaller genetic contribution from South America.



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### Scriptures:

Proverbs 13:11 (The Message) – *“Easy come, easy go, but steady diligence pays off.”*

Matthew 25:14 – 18 (The Message) – *“[God’s kingdom is] like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money. After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’ The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’ The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.’ The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest. “Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.”’*

Proverbs 2:3 – 5 (The Message) – *“If you make Insight your priority, and won’t take no for an answer, Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, Believe me, before you know it Fear-of-God will be yours; you’ll have come upon the Knowledge of God.”*

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Galatians 6:4 (The Message) – *“Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that.”*

1 Corinthians 3:8 (NLT) – *“The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work.”*

Exodus 35:31 (GWT) – *“The LORD has filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, making him highly skilled, resourceful, and knowledgeable in all trades.”*

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### Discussion points:

1. The film opens with a well-meaning adult saying, “*Promise me you’ll never take a risk like that ever again! Promise? Promise?*” How do our responses to life’s difficulties affect us?
2. The tagline is “*real adventure has no limits.*” In our age which is often characterized by mediocrity, how can we welcome God’s kingdom by cultivating a life of adventure?
3. History gives us many stories of people who had big dreams and pursued them. Doubtless there are countless others who had big dreams that were not attempted. What have you noticed are some of the factors that contributed to people pursuing what may have seemed like impossible dreams?
4. What part does setting priorities play in deciding which adventures to pursue? How can we set our priorities in light of God’s highest and best purposes and plans for our lives?
5. Discuss the relationship between choosing simplicity, stepping out of our comfort zones, and resourcefulness.
6. An old African proverb says, “*If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.*” Discuss the significance of teamwork in our lives.