

# #TQ4T Discussion Questions

## Tangle

### 4.0 Prologue | 17

1. Who is the man referenced here?
2. The Blauwe Mensen are so concerned with secrecy; why did they take in the man? Did they do the right thing? What would you have done?

### 4.1 Awaken | 25

1. What happened to Mason that knocked him out?
2. What ship are Mason and Mr. and Mrs. Wikk on, and who owns it? Are they prisoners, or just passengers?
3. Why are they being taken to the Valley of Shadows?
4. What are the crosses that the three Wikks were discussing?
5. Why couldn't Mr. and Mrs. Wikk flat-out turn down Vedrik?
6. How are Mr. and Mrs. Wikk good examples of peacefully discussing a perplexing situation, even when they each had different opinions?

### 4.2 Rescue | 31

1. What made Oliver, Tiffany, and Austin willing to risk so much to attempt to help their friend?
2. If the *Eagle* starts at 180,000 feet, and it drops 1,000 feet a second, how long will it take to reach the surface of Cixot?
3. Do you think Rescuer will help Oliver, Tiffany, and Austin?

### 4.3 Alive Again | 39

1. How does Branz's curiosity compare with Obbin's and Rylin's adventurous spirits?

#### 4.4 Buoyant | 45

1. What were the Para-Orbs for?
2. Why are unity and respect so important in a team?
3. What ship did the Wikks use before Mr. O'Farrell gave them the *Phoenix*?
4. Can you identify how Oliver, Tiffany, and Austin are each working in their strengths to help each other?
5. Summarize the important information that Tiffany learned in this chapter.

#### 4.5 Brother to Brother | 57

1. Do you notice a change in Austin? Do you think this will help them later on?
2. Is it important to verbally express love and gratitude to your family? Why?
3. Why do you think Oliver has such a responsible, take-charge mentality?
4. What do you consider to be a mark that a person's character has matured from that of a child to an adult?

#### 4.6 Strange Warning | 61

1. What connections can you discover in this chapter between the Valley of Shadows, Dabnis Castle, and Evad?
2. After reading this chapter, does chapter 4.1 make more sense? In what ways?

#### 4.7 Swinging Escape | 69

1. If you were Queen Dotty, how would you have responded to Mason's apology?
2. Are you more like Obbin and Rylin or Branz? What are some strengths and weaknesses of each type of personality?
3. Was Branz right to say what he did to Obbin?

#### 4.8 Exploding Gas | 77

1. Have you ever prayed before starting something scary?
2. Tiffany remembered how Obbin had prayed for Mason, and she asked to pray over Oliver as a result. What kind of examples are you setting?

#### 4.9 Over The Edge | 81

1. Why do you think Obbin did what he did? Was he right to actively oppose the Übel? What could he have done differently?
2. Did Branz and Mason have any other options beside leaving Obbin to the Übel?

#### 4.10 Destruction | 87

1. How does praying bring a sense of hope?
2. Why would Mr. O'Farrell want to keep his contribution to the Wikks and McGregors of the *Phoenix* and the *Griffin* a secret? Should the Wikks and McGregors have accepted his offer? Could they have known about Mr. O'Farrell's true character?

#### 4.11 Escape Pod | 97

1. What makes people so cruel like the Corsairs?
2. If you were Ashley, would you have wanted Oliver to tell you about the dangers of Cixot?

#### 4.12 Cabin Arrest | 103

1. Name some ways in which Mason has matured since the beginning of the Quest. How has his faith in Creator, Rescuer, and Helper changed him?
2. Why wasn't Mason scared to go see Zebra Xavier by himself?

#### 4.13 Shadow Shapes | 109

1. Austin and Tiffany had to decide what risks were worth taking when they were trying to get more power to the ship. How do you decide if something is too risky?
2. Why is Ashley so valuable to the Supreme Commander?
3. What's going to happen to Oliver and Ashley?

#### 4.14 The Suit | 115

1. Had you guessed who Zebra Xavier is?
2. Do you think Zebra Xavier was telling the truth when he said that Mason's parents were giving him "valuable insight"? Why would they do that?

3. Do you believe the story Zebra Xavier told Mason? Why or why not? How does it compare with what other characters have revealed about the origin of the Empire, the Federation, and the Übel?
4. Have you heard the idea that the end result of saving the majority justifies killing a select number who pose a “threat” to the majority of humanity? Why is this wrong?

#### **4.15 Skull Box | 123**

1. What is another possible interpretation of the Übel’s artifacts? Why haven’t the Übel thought of other interpretations?
2. Why would Zebra Xavier accuse the Veritas Nachfolger of spreading the plague?
3. Do you think Zebra Xavier believes his own story?

#### **4.16 Letter | 131**

1. What do you think the letter contains? How long do you think Oliver has had it? Would you have opened it to see what it was?
2. Why would the Übel risk so much to gain Mr. and Mrs. McGregor?

#### **4.17 Who Is He? | 137**

1. Did you think Obbin was going to reveal information about the Veritas Nachfolger to Zebra Xavier?
2. Does Obbin seem different to you since the Übel captured him? If so, has he matured or not?
3. Contrast how Mason dealt with Zebra Xavier and the Übel with how Obbin dealt with them. What would you have done?

#### **4.18 Swallowed | 143**

1. Did you think like Tiffany did at first that surrendering was best, or did you agree with Austin?
2. What changed Tiffany’s mind? Why? Did she and Austin make the right choice given the information they had?
3. Will Oliver, Ashley, Tiffany, and Austin be able to hold off the Corsairs?

#### **4.19 Damage Control | 157**

1. Is it better to be a risk-taker or one who plays it safe? Or is a combination of both the best? When is it necessary to take risks? When is it best to be cautious?

#### **4.20 Incoming | 165**

1. Even though the Wikks and Ashley resist the Corsairs, why does Oliver speak with respect to Commander DarkStone?
2. Did you expect the Corsairs to have the keys from the Valley of Shadows? What do you think the Wikks and Ashley are going to do about it?
3. Did Oliver make the best choice at the end of the chapter?

#### **4.21 Valley Plan | 173**

1. If you were Mason, what would you want to record from your conversation with Zebra Xavier?
2. Branz, Mason, Grace, and Mae each brought their own personality and perspective to the conversation in this chapter. Take a moment to discuss how that showed in their words and actions.

#### **4.22 Surrender | 177**

1. Compare the way Austin responded to Oliver's and Tiffany's directions this time to the way he responded earlier in the series.

#### **4.23 Unified Opposition | 183**

1. This chapter is titled, "Unified Opposition." What does that mean in light of the events of this chapter? Who or what is everyone unified under? From where is the opposition coming, and what is it opposing? Can there be true unity when opposition still exists within the group?
2. Do you have any theories on the meaning of *ZXDNA*? If so, what are they?
3. What is Zebra Xavier's goal? What assignments does he give the Wikks, McGregors, and Blauwe Mensen each to fulfill his goal?

#### 4.24 Ransom | 191

1. At this point, do you trust Mr. O'Farrell and the Corsairs? Why or why not?
2. What items and clues are still needed to reach Ursprung?
3. What information and resources do the Corsairs have that the Übel do not? What do the Übel have that the Corsairs do not?
4. Think back over all the ships that have been mentioned so far and identify to which group each ship belongs.

#### 4.25 Obbin's Shadow | 199

1. For what are Mr. and Mrs. Wikk and Vedrik looking in this underground chamber? Do you think they will find it?
2. What do you think Obbin is planning to do, and when will he do it?

#### 4.26 Zapp-Tap | 205

1. Why does Drex seemingly "have it in" for Oliver? How do the Wikks and Ashley deal with Drex? Have you had to deal with someone like Drex?
2. Do you think the Corsairs honestly are looking for a cure to heal everyone?
3. Austin thinks Drex deserves to be electro-flogged. Tiffany doesn't agree. What do you think? Why?

#### 4.27 Collapse | 215

1. Do you think the Übel actually have discovered the *Ark*? If not, what is this craft?

#### 4.28 No Sleep | 219

1. Have you seen things in your own life that lead you to believe that Creator is working out His plan for you? How does that make you feel?
2. What are your theories about the search for Ursprung? What are the clues? How does it all fit together?

### 4.29 Extended Dig | 223

1. Who do you think might be responsible for creating the underground chamber and the *Black Lagoon*?
2. Were you surprised by Mrs. Wikk's bold speech to Captain Vedrik? Why was she so straightforward? Is that a good thing?
3. What do you think of the way Vedrik responded to Mrs. Wikk?

### 4.30 Everwood Ridge | 227

1. Why do you think the Wikk kids seem to be more connected as a team?
2. What might Ashley and Austin do on the ship while Oliver and Tiffany are out with Commander DarkStone?
3. Did Oliver make wise choices in this chapter?
4. What sort of plan might Oliver come up with?

### 4.31 Chaos | 235

1. Why are Mr. and Mrs. Wikk kind to Cruz?
2. What might be the significance of the hatch that Mason found?
3. Did you expect Obbin *and* Rylin to show up? How might it help Mason and his parents to have secret allies such as Obbin and his brother? How could the Wikks help them?

### 4.32 Alerts | 241

1. Why would it be beneath Oliver to “take” Hixby? Do you think he regrets how he treated Drex? What is a true hero?
2. Evaluate Hixby's point of view as explained in this chapter.
3. Have you ever had a conversation like the one Austin and Ashley had in this chapter about Creator, Rescuer, and Helper? If so, did you play a part similar to Austin's, or were you more like Ashley? What do you think about Austin's explanations?
4. What might be in the woods near the *Eagle*?
5. Predict what Oliver and Tiffany are going to do to try to get the Eochair.

### 4.33 Black Water | 249

1. Have you ever looked at the Creator's beautiful handiwork and seen something amazing like Mason did?
2. Do you think the submersible is the *Ark*, the Eochair, or something completely different? Support your answer.
3. How might be the vials of dirt labeled "Ursprung" be useful?

### 4.34 Love Letter | 255

1. What did Tiffany mean when she told Austin that they didn't need to fall to Drex's level?
2. Why do some people seem to have a harder time accepting the Truth than others do?

### 4.35 Two Princes | 263

1. What is a lie? Did Mason technically lie to Captain Vedrik?
2. Have you seen the Creator's plan working out in your own life?

### 4.36 Building the Bomb | 267

1. Do you feel sorry for Drex? Why or why not? What is the proper response to someone like Drex?
2. Evaluate Tiffany's thoughts on evolution, Creator, truth, and faith. Do you agree? Why or why not? What is your personal opinion? What facts back up your beliefs?

### 4.37 Extraction | 271

1. Predict how Mason's parents will react to all the news he has to tell them.
2. Why you do think Vedrik wants the Wikks with him on the bridge?

### 4.38 EMP'd | 275

1. What would upset Drex so much that he wouldn't be able to cover it up with cruelty?
2. What do you think of Oliver, Tiffany, Austin, and Ashley's escape plan? Is it a good one? Could it be better? Do you think it will work?



### 4.39 Nose Job | 279

1. What made it even more important that Mason held on to his mom? Explain what this means.
2. Why did Mr. Wikk save Captain Vedrik? What would you have done?
3. How do you think it made Vedrik feel to have to trust Mr. Wikk—someone the captain has used and abused—to save his life?

### 4.40 The Escape | 285

1. Tell about a time when your plans almost went awry.
2. How do Oliver, Tiffany, Austin, and Ashley all have to work together for their plan to succeed?

### 4.41 Blasted | 291

1. Do you agree that everyone deserves life, even people like Captain Vedrik?
2. Would you have saved Vedrik?
3. Why did Vedrik respond to Mr. Wikk the way he did?
4. Is there any hope that Vedrik will come to the Truth?
5. Do you agree that Obbin and Rylin should stay hidden? Why or why not?

### 4.42 The Spot | 297

1. What do you think the spot on the screen is? Why does it keep appearing and disappearing?
2. What did Austin see that surprised him so?
3. Do the riddles in this chapter sound familiar? What do they mean?

### 4.43 My Brother | 305

1. Did the concealed chamber on the *Eagle* contain what you expected?
2. Did the Eochair turn out to be what you expected?
3. Why might the number twelve be so important?

#### 4.44 Takedown | 317

1. Do you think Oliver made a good choice in crashing the ship?
2. Have you ever experienced peace in the midst of chaos?

#### 4.45 Stowaway | 321

1. Evaluate the methods Mr. Wikk used to persuade Cruz to let him and Mason see Mrs. Wikk.

#### 4.46 Red Cloaks | 325

1. Is it a good thing that Austin has such a “hair-trigger” reaction?

#### 4.47 It’s Happening | 333

1. Why is Mr. Wikk helping Captain Vedrik so much?
2. Why would Zebra Xavier not want “to face the truth — the real Truth, the Truth that will set each of us free”? Why does he cling to his quest for physical eternal life so tightly that he rejects the truth, “Life *can* go on for eternity, but not in the physical realm in which we currently exist”?
3. How could Mr. Wikk be so bold with Zebra Xavier? What do you think of Mr. Wikk’s claims?
4. Do you think Zebra Xavier will ever accept the Truth?

#### 4.48 The Key | 339

1. How do the Veritas Nachfolger differ from the Gläubigen?
2. What do the Übel have that will help them unlock the *Ark*? What do they not have?

#### 4.49 Chow and Shut-Eye | 345

1. Has the way you feel about Captain Vedrik changed any since the beginning of the series? If so, what made, or is making, you change your mind? What is your current analysis of his character?

#### 4.50 Welcome Sight | 349

1. Why does Brother Sam feel like the Veritas Nachfolger have failed? Is there still hope for getting the *Ark* before the Übel do?

#### 4.51 Mission | 355

1. We have now heard an explanation from Zebra Xavier of the Übel, Phelan O'Farrell of the Corsairs, and Brother Sam of the Veritas Nachfolger. What is the goal of each group? In what ways are the goals the same, and in what ways do they differ? Compare and contrast each group's historical account. What do you think is the true, complete story?
2. Can you find any similarities in the Bible to Brother Sam's historical account of the Gläubigen who fled Ursprung?
3. Which is better: staying in the new colonies to try to forge a new life or going to back to Ursprung? Were the people who demanded to return to Ursprung really remembering what Ursprung was like? Is physical comfort worth giving up your faith?
4. Do you agree with the actions taken by the elders of the Gläubigen to hide the way back to Ursprung? Why or why not? Why did the elders do what they did?
5. Was there true freedom in the new colonies?
6. What is your opinion of Austin's assertions? Give reasons for your opinions. Regardless of whether or not you agree with Austin's arguments, should he have presented them in the way he did? Was there a better way?

#### 4.52 Sylvia | 363

1. What do you think of the way Austin presented his thoughts to Brother Sam and the way Brother Sam received them?
2. Would it be wise to share the Truth with the Übel and the Corsairs?
3. Does knowing O'Farrell's true story affect your opinion of him? If so, how?
4. Do you think the Übel and Corsairs will both finally hear the Truth?

#### 4.53 Code | 369

1. Who, or what, was the voice coming from Zebra Xavier's device? Why wouldn't Brother Sam tell the girls?
2. Summarize Ashley, Tiffany, and Brother Sam's discussion in this chapter.
3. Why can no human create true life?

#### 4.54 YelNik Eisle | 375

1. If you were Mason, what questions would you have asked Vedrik? What would you have asked if you were Mr. Wikk?
2. Analyze Vedrik's response to Mason's last three questions: "Why don't you ever kill anyone?" "Don't the Corsairs want eternal life too?" "And you want to share it?"

#### 4.55 Escape | 379

1. What kind of dreams have you had?
2. Is there something you like to do that gives you comfort as you face something scary?
3. Why do you think Oliver and Austin chose the specific words *courage*, *truth*, *untouchable*, *honor*, *peace*, *strength*, *speed*, *perception*, *agility*, *compassion*, *fearless*, and *focused* to be their reminders in battle? Does the placement of the words on their bodies have any special meaning (such as *honor* on the left bicep)? Why would this be part of Austin's "rite of passage"?
4. Did Tiffany make a wise choice in telling Brother Sam about her dream and in seeking his counsel instead of Ashley's or her brothers'? What does Brother Sam's advice mean?

#### 4.56 The Beach | 389

1. What do you think Cruz had to tell Vedrik in such a hurry?
2. Where had Rylin and Obbin been hiding? Where might they be now?
3. Why is Zebra Xavier holding back from embracing Jesus?
4. Which is more important: success in this life, or following the Truth? Why?
5. What does the passage that Mr. Wikk says he quotes to Zebra Xavier mean?
6. Have you accepted Jesus, the Truth, or is something holding you back from Him?

#### 4.57 Finding Noah | 393

1. Do you remember why Brother Sam and his party need to find Noah?
2. How can Sister Dorothy be so willing to serve, even to the point of risking her own life?
3. How will Oliver and the others get out of the bamboo and away from the panthers?

#### 4.58 Into the Water | 401

1. Who do you think was piloting the *Ontdekking*? What's going to happen now that the ship is presumably in the Übel's hands?
2. What is the artifact that Skalker and Hixby failed to retrieve?
3. Did you expect Vedrik to be the one to save Mason? How does that and the other events in this chapter affect your opinion of the captain?

#### 4.59 Search for Noah | 409

1. How did you expect Brother Sam and the others to get out of their predicament?
2. What do you think is going to happen next?

#### 4.60 Sea Grass | 413

1. Do you think the observation Mason made regarding Lieutenant Jaxon's apology to Captain Vedrik has any importance?
2. What other structure might have been on that reef Mason spotted?
3. Who do you think will get the *Ark*: the Übel, the Corsairs, or the Veritas Nachfolger?

#### 4.61 Basin Hamlet | 419

1. Consider and discuss the phrase, "This is what faith is: believing without seeing."
2. Have you ever been in a tree house?
3. Why did Austin run ahead of everyone else? What should he have considered before doing that?
4. Was this how you expected Austin to meet Brother Noah?

#### 4.62 Total Assault | 425

1. Why would Tiffany get a message from Drex?
2. Why would Drex need help?
3. If you were in Tiffany's place, what would you do?

### 4.63 Rain Down | 429

1. Why does Vedrik want Mason to be with Mrs. Wikk while he wants Mr. Wikk to stay at the *Ark*?
2. Should Lieutenant Jaxon have let the soldiers who dove overboard back onto the craft? What would you have done?

### 4.64 To Save a Life | 433

1. Did Tiffany act wisely or rashly in this chapter?
2. What enabled Tiffany to face her fear of entering the submersible?
3. Why did Drex swim away from the sub and into the sea grass at the end of the chapter?
4. Consider the response of Sister Dorothy at the beginning of the chapter and Tiffany at the end. As they took action to address the situation, they did something else as well. What did they both do?

### 4.65 Meeting Noah | 439

1. Was Brother Noah the man on the video in the chess chamber on Evad?
2. How could Brother Noah have been waiting for over two thousand years?
3. Did Brother Sam's reaction to the news about Tiffany surprise you? Why or why not?
4. What is the difference between trusting Brother Sam and trusting Rescuer?
5. What do you think about Oliver's response to Tiffany's situation? Did he respond in the best way? How would you have responded?

### 4.66 Mason's Moment | 445

1. What do you think Mason felt when he realized his sister was working with a Corsair?
2. Was Mason right to distrust Drex?
3. Why did Drex lower his weapon first when he and Mason met in this chapter?
4. When the squid trapped Mason's body and claustrophobia started to trap his mind, he cried out to Rescuer and then started thinking about Drex's situation. Is there a situation in your own life in which you need to cry out to the Rescuer, Jesus, and then start thinking about how you can help someone else instead of dwelling on your own problem?
5. What does it mean to die without knowing Jesus, the Rescuer?

#### **4.67 Enemy Rescued | 451**

1. Should Mason have kept the weapon or given it to Drex?
2. What did Tiffany mean when she said DarkStone wasn't "family as we know it"? Why did Drex react the way he did after Tiffany said that?
3. Have you shared the Truth with someone before? What happened?
4. Why couldn't Tiffany and Mason make Drex believe?

#### **4.68 Dino Weapons | 455**

1. What kind of adventures do you think might be ahead for Brother Sam, Austin, Oliver, and Ashley as they travel toward the planet core to find the thermal generator plant?
2. What do you think of Brother Noah now?

#### **4.69 The Odd Calm Before | 459**

1. Give a brief summary of what happened in this book. What was your favorite part?
2. What's going to happen next?
3. Why was Drex being so nice in this chapter?
4. Is Drex a good guy or a bad guy?