

# Redeeming the Bunny, the Fox, and the Viper

*A Devotional Adventure through  
Love, Hope, and Unity*

Sample  
Chapter



*Bethel Grove*



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*Redeeming the Bunny, the Fox, and the Viper: A Devotional  
Adventure through Love, Hope, and Unity (Sample Chapter)*

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To Mason and Grayson. May you grow to have the  
courage to do what is right and hearts that love and  
serve others well.

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# Introduction



One thing is for certain: I was not expecting to love *Zootopia 2* as much as I did. Don't get me wrong – I liked the original *Zootopia*, but it was never my all-time favorite. In fact, it probably would not have even cracked any of my top ten Disney movie lists. I wasn't really thinking about going to see it in theaters until my sister's family came to visit around New Year's (the film was released on November 26, 2025) and we were looking for a nearby activity that was out of the house. So I went with my sister, her husband, and their four kids. I hadn't seen trailers, so I didn't know what to expect.

When I watched the film, I was so drawn into the story, more than I have been drawn to a new Disney film in a very long time. The thrills of solving the mystery combined with a moving emotional story about Nick and Judy's partnership were more engaging and satisfying to watch than I ever expected. It moved me so much, I went to see it twice before the end of that month! For context,

there is only one other movie I've ever gone out of my way to see in theaters more than twice, and that was the live-action *Beauty and the Beast*. Since the animated film is my favorite movie of all time, that should say a lot about how much I enjoyed *Zootopia 2*.

It didn't take me long to realize that I was not the only one who felt this way about the film. In the weeks that followed, I was blown away to discover how well the film did both domestically and globally, especially when its box office income surpassed the income of *Avengers: Endgame*. I never would have expected to see that out of a sequel to an animated Disney film. When I looked through many videos and posts on social media, I found that many people were having similar reactions and emotions to the film, especially regarding the emotional climax of the story.

As I viewed these reactions and thought about my own reactions to the film, I started to ask myself, "Why did this story move me and everyone else so deeply?" While part of the reason has to do with its humor or its entertainment value, I think it also has a lot to do with how this story handles a lot of different themes that are central to who we

are as humans, including courage, hope, unity, and sacrificial love.

The more I thought about it, the more I could see the layers of biblical or spiritual themes, ones that are illustrated by using sentient animals to show things about our human nature. It reminds us of how we can work through the differences that we have with each other, the importance of doing what is right when the odds are stacked against you, and how the different types of love described in the New Testament work with and build off of each other. All you have to do is look at this film through the lens of the cross.

With this knowledge as the foundation, I invite you to embark with me on an adventure into the biblical and practical truths that are present in the story of *Zootopia 2*. This journey will be full of twists and turns, very much like Nick's, Judy's, and Gary's personal journeys. Through it all, you will hopefully rediscover an engaging tale of love, unity, and hope pointing us back to the God who is the source of it all.

# How to Use This Book



*Redeeming the Bunny, the Fox, and the Viper* is meant to be a guide through the spiritual themes present in the story of *Zootopia 2*. Some of the themes we explore will be truths that are biblical in their nature. Others will be illustrations of the consequences of our sins if we choose to reject biblical truth. All of these truths will weave a tale of love, unity, and hope that you won't soon forget.

In each chapter, there will be a description based on one or more scenes of *Zootopia 2*, reflections, Scriptures (which are italicized for distinction), "Going Deeper" questions, and additional Scripture references related to that chapter's theme. Although we will mostly be drawing from the second film, there may also be information from *Zootopia* and *Zootopia Plus*.

Due to copyright restrictions, I will be limited in my ability to share story dialogue in this book. Therefore, direct quotations from *Zootopia 2* will be limited. Instead, I will give scene descriptions

and reference short quotes that should help you know which part of the story I am referencing. If you are unfamiliar with the scene, I encourage you to go look it up on Disney Plus, Blu-ray/DVD, YouTube, or elsewhere on the internet, so you can follow along with the story.

I want to clarify that while I am aware that this film is titled *Zootropolis 2* in many European markets, I will stick to calling the city in this story Zootopia for clarity. I will also stick to the character names from the American release of this film. I hope this will not prevent any international readers from enjoying this book.

I also want to clarify that since this book is a continuation of *Redeeming the Bunny and the Fox*, you may want to read that book before completing this one. However, I have done my best to make sure that the story and themes discussed will still make sense, even if you haven't read the previous book or seen the first movie.

Finally, because of the buzz surrounding this topic at the time I am writing this, I want to state that I do not believe that Nick and Judy are a couple in *Zootopia 2* (sorry to disappoint the "WildeHopps" shippers who are reading this). It turns out that there is quite a bit of evidence to

disprove it, and I believe that trying to insert a romance into the film undermines the story that the filmmakers told. In fact, I argue that while this film does not deal with romantic love, it illustrates the other types of love that are highlighted in Scripture in profound ways that will change the way you understand love and the way you watch this film. I hope that even if you disagree with me on this point that you will be open to hearing the perspective I have to offer.



Here are a few recommendations to prepare yourself for these devotionals:

- 1) Familiarize yourself with *Zootopia 2*, especially if you haven't watched it in a while.
- 2) Have a pen/pencil and paper handy if you want to take notes, especially if you plan to use them for the "Going Deeper" questions.
- 3) Have your Bible or Bible app ready when you read. I recommend using the ESV or NIV since those versions are the ones that will be used in this book.

This book can be used in one of two ways. First, you can read five devotions a week for five weeks, which will take 35 days to complete. Second, you can read one devotion every day for 25 days, which will take three and a half weeks. The first option is designed for those who want to use this for a group Bible study. You can find instructions for how to lead a Bible study through *Redeeming the Bunny, the Fox, and the Viper*, starting on page 300.

Since this is a book based on what is seen as a children's film, I also want to explain that there are multiple ways to use this with your family. First, if your child is around junior high age and/or has solid reading skills, then they should read this book themselves to see what they can learn from it on their own. If your children are younger or are not at the right reading level yet, I would encourage you to go through the devotional yourself first. Each chapter will explain the biblical/spiritual concepts in the story in detail so that you will better understand it. Then, you can use the themes and lessons discussed in these chapters to start discussions with your kids. I hope this will turn this book into a tool that you can use to have meaningful conversations with your whole family

that can shape the way they see the movies they watch.

If you don't have a family or you just happen to be a big Disney/*Zootopia* fan, then you are in good company, because that is exactly where I am. I believe that this story has something to teach everyone who is willing to view the movies we watch through the lens of the cross. Let's get started.

# Chapter 1

## Going Undercover



The day started like any other at the ZPD. During roll call, Chief Bogo reminded his officers how important it was to have solid partnerships, saying that if they wanted to put away criminals, partners needed to always be on the same page. The Chief then told everyone about their latest suspect, an anteater customs inspector who had been involved in illegal smuggling from overseas. After assigning the more experienced partner teams to the important parts of the sting, Bogo tried to tell Officers Hopps and Wilde that they

were only allowed to observe since they were only rookies. However, when he looked up from his call sheet, Nick and Judy were not there. Clawhauser then came through the door and told the Chief that they were already on their way to stop the ant eater “with their baby.”

You see, they had only been partners officially for a week, but being official partners proved to be much harder than they anticipated. They worked together so naturally to solve their first case, they figured it would be easy to work together. But this transition had been anything but easy. They often had different opinions about how to work a case, since Nick was very laid back and Judy was very direct. They were also still rookies who had not proven themselves to their fellow officers. To prove themselves, Judy felt that they needed to solve another case like the last one to prove they were a great team. So when they heard about this customs inspector, they decided to take the initiative to track him down.

Nick and Judy, disguised as a couple with a baby in a stroller, tried to stroll through the docks to catch the inspector in the act. Judy asked Nick if he was sure that this would work. Nick said that she was the one who insisted that they needed to

make a big bust and encouraged her to follow his lead. When the inspector saw them, he was surprised to see a fox and a bunny as a couple, but Nick pointed out that they were parents first. When the inspector tried to send them away, Nick started a clever act in which he claimed that their little boy had been in an accident and would love to have his foot casts signed by a customs inspector. Nick even managed to pull off emotion for the act. But while the inspector was signing the foot casts of the boy (who happened to be Nick's friend Finnick), Judy used a toy train that doubled as a lockpick to try and open one of the shipping containers. Just when she got the lock, Chief Bogo came out over the radio to tell them to stand down. When everything spilled out of the container, the inspector ran for a nearby catering van and took off. Nick said that they couldn't win all the time, but when a pig rode up on them in the Squeal Mobile, Judy said, "Agree to disagree."

As they pursued the inspector and Judy ran through a cart of wool, Nick joked with her about why she always drove. Captain Hoggbottom and Officer Truffler tried to catch up to them, telling them to let the "real teams" handle it, but Judy outdrove them. Officers Higgins and Bloats tried to

use spikes from a porcupine, but the inspector swerved to avoid them. When he got distracted by Judy chasing him, he leaned his head out the window and got knocked out by a sign, while he was headed straight for the Zootennial parade. Judy rammed it to catch up to the van and told Nick she was going to jump. Nick tried to ask her to stop, but she jumped and all he could do was grab the wheel. She drove into the car, pushed the inspector aside and stretched herself to hit the brake in the oversized vehicle. She avoided the parade but crashed over the bridge and landed on top of a statue of Ebenezer Lynxley, the inventor of the weather walls that made Zootopia possible. The statue was completely destroyed, and the Zebros team snatched the inspector, taking credit for the arrest.

After the crash, Judy looked around in the van and found some clues, including a reptile skin, some markers, and a brochure for the Zootennial celebration. Judy realized that she had just stumbled onto something much bigger.



Right from the beginning, this story hits the ground running. And I guess it seems right that it should. After all, it took almost ten years for fans to finally get this sequel. The beginning of the film does a great job at summarizing what happened in the previous film, including how Nick and Judy caught Bellwether, how they got her convicted during her trial with the carrot recording pen, and how unusual it was for Nick and Judy to be paired up as partners on the job. I also love seeing that Judy gifted the carrot pen back to Nick at his graduation (after the recording was no longer needed for Bellwether's trial, of course). I also like to see them getting up in the morning to get ready for work. While most of us would like to claim we are Judy in our morning routines, I am definitely more like Nick since I am a night owl and want my routine to be simple when I am half awake.

I do think it's important to note the timeframe of this film. In *Zootopia*, Judy spends about four to five days on the force before she and Nick crack the Otterton case. About a week after that, she quit her job and when back home for about three months before she returned to Zootopia. After Bellwether is arrested, at least a few months go by. In that time, Judy rejoined the ZPD, Nick went through

police academy training, and Bellwether was put on trial. Given that most police academies in the United States last about 4 to 6 months, I conclude while this story starts a week after Nick's first day on the job, this storyline probably starts between 6 to 12 months after Judy's graduation. So while Judy is further along in her rookie year, she and Nick are both still rookie cops.

You would think that after Judy and Nick solved a case that was so deep it involved two different mayors, they both would have earned some respect and trust from their fellow officers. But that was apparently not the case. They were still rookies and they were both the first animals of their species to ever join the ZPD. While we do see that they had started to let some smaller species onto the force, it was still true that the majority of beat cops in the ZPD were still larger mammals, such as lions, tigers, hippos, rhinos, polar bears, and more. Even together, Nick and Judy are small enough that they can usually share a chair (which I think is rather amusing). While they had proven that they could be cops, they hadn't proven that they could be great cops. As we can see later, Judy feels the weight of those judgments from her fellow officers.

It's also worth noting that at the beginning of the film, there are some very clear misconceptions about partnership and working in harmony as a team that need to be mentioned. Chief Bogov's comment about partners being on the same page is an interesting insight into the way that many people perceive a healthy partnership. However, being on the "same page" isn't quite as simple as it seems. Sometimes, this mentality can lead to one partner's opinion being suppressed while the other takes the lead. Just because you aren't arguing doesn't always mean there is peace in the relationship. With a clear emphasis on pairing partners of the same species and the struggle between interspecies partnerships we see later in the film, there also seems to be an opinion that the more alike you are, the more likely you are to be on the "same page" and work together better. All of these ideas are also working against everyone's perception of Nick and Judy's partnership, and this is before they mess everything up with their undercover sting.

From this scene, it's starting to become clear that a few cracks are starting to form in the way that Nick and Judy function as a team. Judy's goal from the beginning is to get a big bust or crack a

big case that will prove to everyone that she and Nick are a good team. Judy gets so caught up in accomplishing this goal that she jumps into dangerous situations without thinking about the consequences. Nick on the other hand, while he wouldn't mind getting a bust, isn't concerned about proving himself to anyone. Since he spent years trying to prove that things didn't get to him, he didn't feel the need to seek that approval. However, he was usually willing to go along with Judy's plan until she started making dangerous choices. That is when he would start to become more worried about her than he would about the case or the bust. Yet she was so caught up in what she was doing that she didn't notice Nick trying to protect her.

This is honestly not new to their partnership. At the end of their last case, Judy decided to steal the entire train car so that they could take all the evidence to the ZPD, despite Nick's objections. When the rams caught up to them and one of them tried to grab Judy, Nick tried to fend him off, but he got pushed back. When Judy got injured, Nick was very worried about her and refused to leave her behind. But in the end, they managed to get on the same page when it came to the plan to catch

Bellwether. In that case, it worked out. But it would seem that some of those same problems they had with working together are still there.

When it comes to partnerships, we can tend to mistake absence of conflict as peace and differences between individuals as disunity. However, this isn't necessarily true. Sometimes, conflicts are suppressed because others don't want to deal with a problem, which usually results in the problem exploding. Differences in opinion or in working styles also don't have to mean disunity or that you can't work together. I believe that Chief Bogo and most of the ZPD have this mentality and it has been part of what has held many partners back. Through it all, I think that they were completely missing out on the most important trait needed for a partnership to work and be successful: love.

There are a lot of misunderstandings about what love is and is not in our culture. When I just mentioned love, you might have been thinking about romantic love. But that is not the only type of love there is. Yet because there is one primary word for this concept in English, I think that we can tend to think that most types of love are the same. However, the type of love that we usually

think of when someone says, “love” is not even mentioned in the New Testament at all. The truth is that there are four fundamental types of love: friendship, affection, romantic love, and sacrificial love.

All of these types of love are an important part of being a human. However, because I don’t believe romantic love is a part of this story, it will be left out of this discussion. We will spend more time discussing friendship and affection in the coming chapters. For now, I want to focus on the most divine and mysterious of all of these loves, and that is sacrificial love.

In the New Testament, the word that is most commonly translated as “love” is *agape*. In some other translations like the King James Version, this word is translated as “charity.” There are two sides of *agape* that are important to remember. First, *agape* is the word to describe the love that God has for us. This love did not want to leave us separated from Him when we were lost in our sins:

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NIV).*

This is a love of extreme affection, compassion, and kindness. It's a love that overlooks our sins and imperfections and chooses to see us for our inner worth. It's a love that compels God to be slow to anger and quick to forgive. It's a love that won't leave us where we are without giving us a way out. But most importantly, it's a love that puts our needs ahead of His own, which is why He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. Whether or not you accept or reject this love is up to you, but it's important to recognize that this love is a gift we could never earn. We should be grateful for this gift every day of our lives.

The other side of *agape* love is the call for us to love God and love others with the same type of love we have already been shown. That's why Jesus said that these were the two greatest commandments in the Law and the Prophets:

*“[A Pharisee], an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’*

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the*

*Prophets hang on these two commandments”*  
(Matthew 22:35-40 NIV).

In this context, we are called to not only love the Lord in the same way He loves us, but we are called to let that love translate to every other relationship in our lives. This includes seeing past the sins of others to see their worth as a person created in the image of God. This includes learning to be slow to anger and quick to forgive. This includes caring enough about others to not leave them where they are. But most importantly, it's a love that requires us to be able to put the other person's needs ahead of our own.

I have come to believe that *agape* should be the foundation for all other types of love. While the other types of love tend to come to us more naturally, I believe that without *agape*, the other types of love become selfish. If you are not capable of putting another person's needs ahead of your own, you will struggle with every other relationship in your life. You will struggle to be a good neighbor, a good friend, a good co-worker, a good parent, a good sibling, or even a good spouse. This is powerfully illustrated by the most popular passage about love in the New Testament:

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres”*  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV).

I love how the characteristics of love are stated so simply in this passage. As I look at myself, this passage quickly highlights the things I say and do that are done in love. But at the same time, it also exposes the things I say and do that are not done in love. Probably one of the things that is most insightful is the part about being self-seeking. The ESV translates this idea as “*does not insist on its own way*” (1 Corinthians 13:5 ESV). I know that for me, this is a constant struggle. We all want to do things our own way. But doing so doesn't love others; it shows love of self. When it comes to how we treat others, we have to learn how to put other people's needs ahead of our own.

So what does this have to do with Nick and Judy, and the concept of partnership? Well, I think that just like all other relationships in our lives, *agape* should be the foundation of any quality partnership. But for that to happen, the partners have to be willing and able to put the other

person's needs ahead of their own. For Nick and Judy, as well as many of the other partner pairings we see in the film, while I think they have the capability to have that kind of partnership, they haven't gotten there yet. They've only been on the job for a week and have known each other for less than a year. They are both still struggling with wanting to do things their own way without fully listening to the other person. However, I also see a lot of potential. Based on their last case, we know that they are capable of working together in a way that is considerate of the other person. They just have to find a way to put their differences aside.

I believe that throughout the rest of this story, Nick and Judy's adventures can teach us much about how we can love others well, have the courage to do what is right in adversity, and how understanding our differences can help unite us. I hope that as we continue this journey, you will learn what it means to put the needs of others ahead of your own, and discover what unexpected blessings may come along the way.



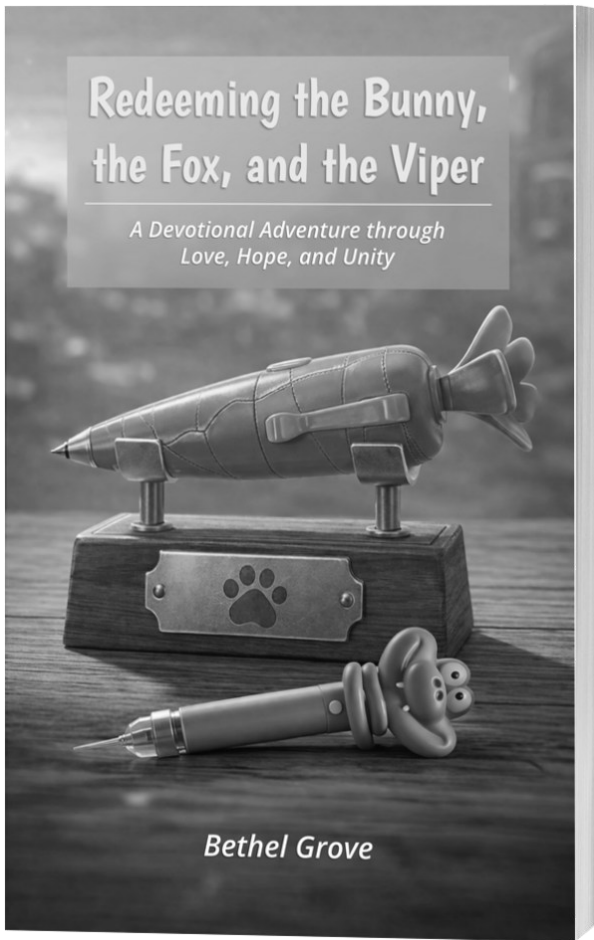
## Going Deeper

1. Do you think that being on the same page is always a sign of a healthy partnership? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think that Nick and Judy are struggling to work together at the beginning of this film?
3. What traits come to your mind when you hear the word “love”? What type(s) of love are these traits associated with (romantic love, friendship, etc.)?
4. Do you think that *agape* love should be foundational for all our relationships? Why or why not?
5. What steps can you take to demonstrate *agape* love today?

## Other Verses on *Agape* Love

1 Corinthians 13, 1 John 4:7-21, John 13:34-35, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 Corinthians 16:14

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