SOUL SURFER

RAD NITE YOUTH GROUP GATHERING

Searching for Something Bigger. Gain a greater perspective on life by understanding God's plans and purposes.



Scene Setup:

A group of teenagers, including Bethany, are gathered in the church's beachfront hall for their youth group "RAD Nite." Youth leader Sarah Hill leads them a game she calls "Can You Tell Your Ear from Your Elbow?" during which the teens look at zoomed-in pictures of items such as a fly's eye and a walnut and then have to guess what they're seeing. Sarah uses the strange pictures to make an important point—that frequently the best way to make sense of life is to step back, see a different point of view, and "get some perspective."

SOUL SURFER Quote:

"So, if you're dealing with something that's hard to handle or just plain doesn't make sense, do whatever it takes to get some perspective. Talk to your parents, come see me, or pray about it. From a different point of view, you'll often discover that things aren't quite as confusing as they seem." –Sarah to the youth group

Key Scripture:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." *–Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*

Study and Discuss:

Read: Jeremiah 29:10–14

In this passage, God is speaking to the people of Israel through the prophet Jeremiah. The Israelites are about to be conquered by their enemies, the Babylonians, and spend the next 70 years in exile. But God reassures His people that they will return home to Israel, and He will listen to them and prosper them.

1. In this passage, God reveals His character and His love for His people. What comfort and encouragement do you receive from this passage?
2. What's your reaction to the promise God makes in verses 12 and 13?

Read: Isaiah 55:8–9 and Proverbs 3:5–6

1. Has there been a time in your life when things "just plain didn't make sense?" What happened, and would you say you had a broad perspective on the problem or a limited one?
2. When you're faced with problems or difficult decisions, do you trust in God completely, or do you tend to rely on your own judgment? What would help you lean more on God and His wisdom?

Read: Ephesians 2:10

1. How do you feel about the fact that God call you His "handiwork?" (Some translations use the words "masterpiece" or "workmanship.")
2. In what ways did Bethany use the loss of her arm as a way to "do good works" for others? What could you do with your life's circumstances to positively impact the lives of the people around you?

Lessons in Becoming a SOUL SURFER

Greg, an accomplished surfer, was out in some large surf one day and wound up wiping out and getting spun around by a powerful wave. Once he got past the tumbling motion, Greg put his feet on the sand and pushed up toward the surface. He immediately got a nasty surprise as his head smacked against something hard. Only discipline and years of surfing experience kept him from panicking—and perhaps drowning. Greg suppressed his fear and took in his surroundings. The huge wave had swept him into a small, underwater cave. When he pushed off from the bottom, he had struck his head against the cave's ceiling. Once Greg saw the big picture and realized his situation, he was able swim out through the mouth of the cave and make his way up to the surface.

Our perspective can be small and limited by our individual experiences, our fears, and a lack of knowledge of the future. But God is "omniscient," which means that He has the capacity to know all things in the past, present, and future. When we trust in God's promises, believing that He loves us and has a good purpose for our lives, we see a different—and bigger—point of view. So, do whatever it takes to get some perspective. That new perspective will allow God to use you to accomplish the good works for which He created you, the ones He planned even before you were born!



For a four-week video-based study for your family, adult small group, or youth ministry, visit **SoulSurferOutreach.com**. You will find more information on the ***SOUL SURFER* DVD-based Study** from Outreach, Inc., as well as books, study materials, and church resources. The SOUL SURFER study is the ultimate combination of faith, film, and family!

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