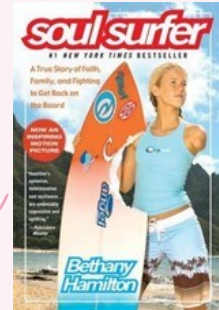




TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

SOUL SURFER By Bethany Hamilton



"I don't pretend to have all the answers to why bad things happen to good people. But I do know that God knows all those answers, and sometimes He lets you know in this life, and sometimes He asks you to wait so you that you can have a face-to-face talk about it."

GENRE

Memoir

Christian

Non-Fiction

THEMES

Determination

Faith

Family

Resilience

Surfing

BOOK SUMMARY

"Soul Surfer is a true story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on the Board."

Bethany shares her journey of family, faith, and resilience after a brutal shark attack changes the course of her life. Fighting fear and doubt, Bethany strengthens her resolve to get back in the water and achieve her dream of becoming a pro-surfer and finds her determination met with support from people all over the world. Bethany accidentally becomes a celebrity and understands that God is using her to tell others about His love.

Bethany gives God the glory and shares about her saving faith in Jesus and belief for a happy and worthwhile life despite her suffering. She says, "I'm proud to be part of God's plans, and I hope, in some small way, this surfer girl from Hawaii can make Him proud, too." (p210)

1 QUESTION ONE

What did you find most inspirational about Bethany's story?

2 QUESTION TWO

How did Bethany's family contribute to her healing, strengthened faith, and determination after the shark attack?

3 QUESTION THREE

On page 106, Bethany asks the question, "Why me? Why did God choose me and what does He have in mind for me?" Can you relate to how Bethany was feeling?

4 QUESTION FOUR

Bethany's response to "Why would you still believe in God?" is, "It's a tremendous relief to be able to put your trust in God and take the burden off your own shoulders" (p135). Do you trust God with your burdens, or do you hold onto them yourself out of fear?

5 QUESTION FIVE

"I always try to say something about my belief in God" (p140). Do you share your faith at every opportunity?

6 QUESTION SIX

"You can do it...but quickly another voice inside my head yelled back, "' Forget it, you're going to fail'" (p179). Can you relate to Bethany's inner dialogue? How do you conquer feelings of inadequacy?

7 QUESTION SEVEN

Bethany says where we put our hope is crucial; "The only thing that will never...fail you is your faith in God"(p206). Is your hope and faith in Christ, or do you tend to rely on your own strength?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

"Father Damien" is a role model to Bethany (p136). Share an inspirational person or role model in your life.

9 QUESTION NINE

Bethany has a beautiful perspective on the sovereignty of God. She says, "So I think this was God's plan for me all along. I am not saying that God made the shark bite me. He knew it would happen, and He made a way for my life to be happy and meaningful in spite of it happening." (p208). Discuss.

10 QUESTION TEN

Bethany's story shows us that a relationship with Christ means that good things can come out of a bad situation no matter our circumstances. Share a time in your life where this has proven to be true.

NOTES

Disclaimer: This Teen Book Club Guide has been prepared by Blossoming through Books and is protected by copyright law. Please seek express permission from Blossoming through Books before making copies by contacting blossomingthroughbooks@gmail.com.