**Soul Surfer Movie Guide**

perseverance: continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition

1. How does Bethany respond to the attack? What does her reaction reveal about her strength of character? How does her reaction foreshadow her ability to persevere?

2. On the way to the beach, Bethany prays to Jesus for help. In what ways does her faith give her the strength to handle the crisis that surrounds her?

3. Can you give evidence of the power of perseverance? Have you ever experienced difficulty with something that you eventually overcame with determination? With faith? If so, what happened?

After the attack and emergency surgery, Bethany wakes in a recovery room filled with concerned - and simultaneously relieved - faces. The worst of the medical trauma is behind her, and she must now focus on healing. But Bethany's priorities are slightly different than her doctor's, as evidenced by one of the first things she asks her dad: "When can I surf again?" This stubborn determination, coupled with a passion for the water, would aid Bethany in her perseverance.

4. What does Holt tell Bethany when he visits? How does his description of the events immediately following the shark attack paint a picture of Bethany’s perseverance?

5. Dr. Rovinsky says, “There’s going to be a lot of pain because of the trauma that you’ve endured.” Does the statement apply to more than physical trauma?

6. Tom and Bethany quote Philippians 4:13 -- "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." How is this verse a source of strength for people facing hardships?

7. How does Bethany’s passion for surfing motivate her? Why is motivation an important aspect of perseverance for anyone striving to overcome adversity?
8. When Bethany tells Alana that she’s more afraid of not surfing, do you understand her reasoning? What does this explanation say about Bethany’s incredible courage?

9. What are your thoughts as you watch Bethany’s clumsy attempts to get on her surfboard? How do you feel when she finally achieves her goal and rides her first wave back?

10. Even though Tom and Cheri are just protecting their daughter, how does their concern actually become yet another obstacle for Bethany to overcome?

11. Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

12. When Bethany asks why she had to lose everything, what does her father say? How does his answer encourage Bethany toward an attitude of thanksgiving rather than despair?

13. Tom tells his daughter to pray and to listen for what comes next. Why is it often difficult to exercise patience during life’s hardships? How does patience improve perspective?

14. Knowing Bethany’s beautiful and inspiring story in full, how does God finally transform her devastation and increase her surfing passion beyond expectation?

15. Sarah tells Bethany that compassion can move people to do great things and can also provide a new perspective. Why does compassion change the way we view things?

16. When Bethany takes a break from the medical table to assess her emotions, what do you think is going through her mind? How does the Thai woman’s story influence Bethany?

16. In the second half of the Thailand scene, what is the importance of Bethany’s success in convincing the young child to reenter the ocean and ride the surfboard?
Toward the end of the scene in Thailand, Bethany narrates: “They say the Lord works in mysterious ways. I say that’s an understatement. Who would have thought that teaching a kid to surf would teach me that surfing isn’t the most important thing in the world and that something else is – love? Bigger than any tidal wave, more powerful than any fear.”

17. What does Bethany’s epiphany reveal about the way her perspective has changed since the beginning of the mission trip? How has the overall experience impacted her? (refer to statement above)

Romans 12:10 -- “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

18. What role does faith play in the Hamilton household? What are some noticeable ways that the Hamiltons’ faith strengthens their relationships and creates community?

19. On the drive home from the hospital, Bethany sees the surfboards: “Welcome home, Bethany. We love you!” In addition to the printed message, what does this message really mean?

20. How do Noah and Timmy react to the reporters swarming the van? What do their actions suggest about their concern for Bethany?