



January 13, 2010

Dear Parents and Teens:

Hopefully, your teen has been talking to you about our Faith Formation classes over the last few weeks, which have been based on the film, *To Save A Life*, which we told you about in a letter last November. Tonight, we completed Part 3 of the series, and four sessions remain. If you did not receive the letter in November, the information in that letter is repeated herein, and we have new information to share because it's time to go see the movie, which opens nationwide on Friday, January 22!

In the *To Save A Life* series, we have been begun dealing with hard but very real issues like social acceptance, cutting, teen suicide, depression, and somehow being Jesus' hands and feet in a hurting world. Even though these are difficult topics, our discussions are helping us become equipped to reach out to the hurting and lonely and to truly make a difference in their world.

Parents, I really encourage you to ask your teen about their experiences each week, and to be ready to listen to what they're learning and how they're being challenged. Similarly, teens, talk openly with your parents and be excited to share what you're learning!

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### Series Schedule (Updated)

- 12/09/09: *Lowering the Waterline* —If we are going to love the hurting and lonely, then we first need to know how much God loves us.
- 01/06/10: *You're Not Alone* —We need to notice and respond to hurting and lonely peers in our sphere of influence.
- 01/13/10: *Say Something...Do Something* — We want to not just know about hurting and lonely peers, but to serve them and be "Jesus' hands and feet."
- 01/20/10: *What's your Logline?* — We want to meet our peers in their hurt and to help others rewrite their stories based on how God sees them.
- 01/27/10: *How to Save a Life* — God can actually use our small acts of service for the hurting and lonely to save people's lives and change the world.
- 02/03/10: *Agape Feast* — We'll celebrate together with a huge potluck dinner like the early church.
- 02/10/10: *Stepping Into the Bigger Picture* — We will learn to reach out to the hurting and lonely *in community*.

Janet Rubino, Joseph Byrd, and I attended a sneak peek of the film this past November, and we all agree it's awesome! Our series each week has been both educational and entertaining, and involves open discussion, interactive activities, clips from the movie, and more.

**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE MOVIE ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010.**

The highlight of our series will be a field trip to Rave Motion Pictures in Hoover, on Friday, January 22, 2010, to see *To Save A Life*. We'll attend the 7 p.m. showing, and the cost will be just \$5 (the balance is being covered by Faith Formation and the SPIRIT Youth Group). We'll meet at the church at 6 p.m., and return at about 10 p.m.

Now, a little about the film's rating. *To Save A Life* has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "due to thematic elements involving teen suicide, teen drinking, some drug content, disturbing images, and sexuality." Unfortunately, teens today are hurting, and facing challenges like never before – we see it in our own youth groups and local schools (and so does the film's writer, Jim Britts, who is an experienced youth worker).

Because of that, *To Save A Life* doesn't shy away from tough topics. It deals with social divisions, school violence, cutting, suicide, teen pregnancy, and divorce – not in a graphic way, but in a way authentic to too many teens' real lives. And it points to a way out of these problems through following God's path and reaching out to others. Ultimately, it asks the question, "What's my life going to be about?" and dares teens to answer with boldness, honesty, and open-handedness.

We hope you will both allow and encourage your young person to see the movie. Attendance is not required as part of Faith Formation classes, but I'll be personally disappointed if everyone who has attended at least one of our *To Save A Life* classes does not attend the movie, as well. The movie clips we've seen during classes will all come together at the real thing!

Transportation will be provided, and as mentioned above, the cost is just \$5, but if you cannot afford the \$5 payment, that is not a problem – the fee will be covered by the church. If you've brought friends to the classes, then please definitely invite them to the movie. **Please note, parents, that you must expressly indicate on the attached ticket order form that your child may drive him- or herself to and from the theater in order for him or her to do so.**

Everyone who attends, including friends/guests, must complete a Diocesan Permission Form. SPIRIT Youth Group members who have a DPF on file need not complete an additional form, as attending the movie is also considered a SPIRIT event. If a blank DPF is not attached to this letter, then you're okay – you don't need to complete one. But if a form is attached, please complete it and return it next Wednesday.

To order your ticket, please complete the attached order form and bring it with you to class next Wednesday, January 20. If you're able to pay the \$5, please include it as well; if not, don't worry about it, and know that all information regarding payment is kept confidential. **YOU MUST COMPLETE AN ORDER FORM IN ORDER TO ATTEND.**

If you have any questions about our weekly series or about the film itself, please feel free to call me at 608-0119 or 903-2222.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Whitaker*