

## Going deeper

### Day 1

*A young woman, Kate, is studying to be a marine biologist. She takes her friend, Sue, on a dive in their small submarine to collect samples for research.*

**Kate:** Oh hi, Sue! What are you doing this holiday?

**Sue:** I suppose I have to study. I'm really struggling with some of the subjects.

**Kate:** Don't worry, I did too in my first year of Marine Biology. I almost gave up, but I'm glad I didn't because now I get to do what I've always dreamed about.

**Sue:** I wish I were also in my final year, like you. That's another three years.

**Kate:** I'll tell you what. Why don't you join me tomorrow, when I make my first dive in my dad's mini-submarine?

**Sue:** What! Are you serious?!

**Kate:** Sure! My dad has been teaching me to use it, and he said I could take it down by myself, as long as I have someone with me.

**Sue:** I'd love to, Kate! When do we go down?

**Kate:** I'll come pick you up at eight tomorrow morning.

**Sue:** How exciting! Okay, bye Kate, I'll see you tomorrow.

**Kate:** Make sure you're ready. And remember, you don't need any makeup.

*The girls leave the stage and after a few seconds, they re-appear. (It's the next day and they're just getting into the sub). They could wear a different jacket to indicate a change of clothes.*

**Kate:** Okay, Sue, you sit in that seat... and mind you don't bump any controls.

**Sue:** Oh, wow! I've never been under the sea. I'm so excited, but nervous too. Do you think something could go wrong while we're down there?

**Kate:** There's always a risk, but this sub is one of the best, so we'll be okay. All the checks done... alright, here goes... starting to dive.

*The hum of the sub's motors is heard over the speakers.*

**Sue:** I can't believe I'm actually under water. Wow, look at those fish over there!

**Kate:** I need to get some samples of the coral in the bay to see how pollution is affecting its growth. Coral needs clean water to survive and pollution can cause a disease which stops its growth.

**Sue:** But why is that so important? I mean, coral isn't like a fish or some other sea creature.

**Kate:** No, but it is a place for fish to feed. Fish need coral just like birds need trees.

**Sue:** It's wonderful how everything in nature fits together – it's like someone had a master-plan.

**Kate:** That someone is God. He is the One who created everything; all the creatures under the sea, all the animals on land, all the stars – everything!

**Sue:** But my friends at Varsity say there is no God. Everything just happened.

**Kate:** Do you really believe that, Sue? Do you really think all these things made themselves?

**Sue:** I know it sounds silly, but my friends always seem to have a clever answer. I don't know what to believe.

**Kate:** I understand that it's not easy to believe in something, or someone, you cannot see. But believe me; I know that God is real even though I cannot see Him.

**Sue:** How do you know that, Kate?

**Kate:** I became His child, and now His Spirit lives in my heart. He changed me, and only God could have changed my rebellious heart.

**Sue:** That's what I want too. I often feel guilty about the wrong things I've done and I don't know how to feel clean and good.

**Kate:** All you need to do is ask Jesus to forgive you and give you a new heart.

**Sue:** Will you pray with me, Kate. I don't know how to pray.

**Kate:** Sure! Just let me get the sub in to neutral.

Okay, just say these words in your heart:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I have done wrong, so I ask You to forgive me and take away my sin. Please change me on the inside so that I'll want to do what is right. From today, help me to follow You. Amen

*Kate gives Sue a hug, and the **MC** leads the kids in prayer as the two exit the sub.*

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## Day 2

**Sue:** You know, Kate, I really do feel different inside. It's like I'm a whole new person. I feel so light and happy.

**Kate:** Well, perhaps you've made history. You may be the first person to give their life to Jesus a hundred meters under water.

**Sue:** What I don't understand is how God could hear my prayer from down here. Did my prayer go up through the water?

**Kate:** God can hear our prayers wherever we are... our prayers go directly from our hearts to the Throne-room in Heaven. When we ask God to make our hearts new, like you did, His Spirit comes to live in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is our connection to God.

**Sue:** I think I get it. It's just that my faith is so weak... I'll never know if my prayer makes it to Heaven.

**Kate:** Well, you probably know the story of Jonah. He disobeyed God by not going to preach to the people in Nineveh. Instead, he ran away. He hid at the bottom of a ship going the opposite way. So when the ship was out at sea, God sent a storm.

**Sue:** Yes, I remember the story. The men threw him overboard and a huge fish swallowed him. Then he prayed to God to save him.

**Kate:** That's right. Now, if God heard Jonah's prayer from inside the fish, don't you think He heard your prayer from inside here, asking Him to save *you*?

**Sue:** You're right! But how does prayer work? I mean, how can God hear my thoughts?

**Kate:** Okay let me show you something. You see this screen here. It's a sonar picture of what's out there. The sub sends out a high-frequency signal and then shows us what's ahead.

**Sue:** So, what does that have to do with prayer?

**Kate:** Well, even though the sonar signal cannot be seen or heard, it works so well that we can rely on it to keep us from crashing into things.

In the same way your prayer is like an invisible signal that goes straight to God. He is ready to hear from you anytime – day or night.

**Sue:** Wow! That makes me feel so special. I won't pray too often though. I guess God is pretty busy and I don't want to bother Him with my everyday problems.

**Kate:** *(Chuckles)* Oh, Sue! God's got everything under control, and He loves it when we pray to Him! The Bible encourages us to pray all the time about everything! It's in Phillipians 4.

Let me show you... I have a Bible back here. Just hang onto the controls while I get it.

**Sue:** Um... okay.

*Sue leans over while Kate scratches around behind her seat.*

*Suddenly the submarine stalls - (the sound of the engine cuts).*

**Sue:** Oh, no! What's just happened?

**Kate:** I think we got the propeller snagged in some seaweed.

**Sue:** Is that bad?

**Kate:** Yip, pretty bad.

**Sue:** I'm so sorry, Kate! ... What now?

**Kate:** I'll get out the emergency manual and see if there's a way to get loose, otherwise we'll be down here for a very long time.

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**MC:** Oh dear! I hope they get the submarine unstuck. We'll leave them to work on a plan and find out what happens tomorrow.

### Day 3

**Kate:** Let's see what the manual says about getting a submarine unstuck. Umm... Here! ...

It says that if getting caught up in seaweed, alternate between full throttle reverse thrust and full throttle forward thrust.

**Sue:** What does that even mean?

**Kate:** It means that we need to go forward and back to get the propeller spinning again. Once the seaweed is untangled, we can slowly manoeuvre out of here.

**Sue:** Okay, while you're doing that, I'm going to pray. I am so excited to know that when I pray, my prayer goes straight to heaven. I know for sure that God is able to get us out of here.

**Kate:** I believe that too!

**Sue:** Dear God, it's me. As you can see we're stuck here in this seaweed. I'm sorry, I should have been looking where I was going, so I feel pretty bad. So Lord, please get us unstuck. Amen.

**Kate:** Amen!

*Sound of the motor revving and then stopping and revving again. Both Sue and Kate rock forward and back as the sub jerks.*

**Kate:** I think we're out! We've made it!

**Sue:** Thank you, Lord!!

**Kate:** And, we're on our way!

I always have two books on the sub. One is the handbook for the submarine; the other is the handbook of Life – the Bible.

**Sue:** I guess, both are used to get us out of trouble.

**Kate:** Ha-ha, I never thought about it that way; but you're right. And both are used to keep us on course.

*After a short while...*

**Sue:** What a treasure of colours and shapes lies undisturbed down here... It's a pity not many people know about it.

**Kate:** Talking of treasure, I must take you to an old wreck that was once used to carry rich treasures to and from our shores.

**Sue:** That sounds exciting! Maybe we can find a sunken treasure chest or something.

**Kate:** No chance of that. What the rust hasn't destroyed, thieves have looted over the years. What's left is pretty much worthless.

Look, there's the wreck over on the right.

**Sue:** Oh wow! I can't believe this is real. It looks like one of those scenes one sees on TV.

*Kate passes Sue a camera.*

**Kate:** Here's a camera. You can take some pictures if you like.

**Sue:** Yes, I'd love to show my friends... otherwise they'd never believe me.

*Sue takes some photos.*

**Kate:** Do you know what I think of when I see this, Sue? I think of what the Bible says about treasure.

**Sue:** Does the Bible talk about treasure?

**Kate:** Sure! In Matthew, it says, 'Don't store up treasures here on earth, where rust destroys them, and where thieves can steal it. But store your treasures in heaven.'

**Sue:** But, how would I get my treasure up to heaven?

**Kate:** Well, if you read the Bible, and do what it says, you are sending treasure up to heaven.

Every good deed we do here on earth will be rewarded. That means, one day when we get to heaven, our reward will be there waiting for us.

**Sue:** What kind of treasure do you think it will be, Kate?

**Kate:** Not sure, but it will be very beautiful, and the best is that it will last forever.

**Sue:** Well, I'm certainly going to get a Bible. Then I can find out the good things God wants me to do.

**Kate:** I've got a spare Bible, Sue - I'll gladly give it to you. Remind me when we get back.

**Sue:** Oh wow, thanks, Kate. I'm super excited that I'll have my own Bible. I can't wait to get started!

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**MC:** Who of you reads from the Bible every day, or from a Bible storybook?

Our bodies need food every day so that we can grow and stay healthy, right?

In the same way, our hearts need the good food of God's Word. The Bible shows us the way to live, and when we do what it says, we please God.



## Day 4

**Sue:** Ah, I just love being down here. I hope I'll also be able to do research under the sea one day. At the moment, my classes are so boring... and all those names I have to remember.

**Kate:** Tell me about it. I've been there for the past three years. I'm so glad I'm almost done.

**Sue:** So tell me, Kate, what would I need to be able to navigate a mini-sub like you do?

**Kate:** As with most things, we learn from reading all we can about whatever we want to become good at. So, when I asked my dad to teach me how to use the submarine, he told me to read the user manual from cover to cover before he'd take me on my first lesson.

**Sue:** Wow! That must have taken you weeks and weeks. It's almost as thick as your Bible.

**Kate:** It did take a long time, Sue. And I keep going back to it so I don't forget things. That's also why we should read the Bible every day. There's so much we can learn from it; and that's how we grow in our faith.

**Sue:** I wouldn't even know where to start reading the Bible.

**Kate:** Well, the Old Testament has many stories of God's faithfulness to those who lived before the time of Jesus. The Gospels tell us all about the things Jesus said and did. And the rest of the New Testament teaches us about the Church, and how to live.

**Sue:** Oh, okay. I think I'll start with the Gospels.

**Kate:** Use the index – I found it quite useful in the beginning.

*Sue takes the bible and looks in the index.*

**Sue:** I don't see anything here called 'The Gospels.'

**Kate:** No, Sue! The Gospel is just a name for the Good News of Jesus. The Gospels are the first four books in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**Sue:** Oh... here we go: Page 1083. I'll start right there when I get back home.

So, what else do I need to know before I can navigate a sub?

**Kate:** Listen to advice. Always listen to what experienced submariners tell you. They have gained a lot of experience over the years, and their advice can keep you from making mistakes. You learn much quicker by taking their advice than by learning from your own mistakes.

The same is true for your spiritual growth. God wants us to meet with other believers so that we can help each other.

**Sue:** So is that what church is all about?

**Kate:** In a way. But more than that; the Bible tells us that the Church is the body of Christ, and we are all a part of it. And so, each one of us has a different and important job to do.

**Sue:** Then I want to become part of the Church too. I want God to use me in whatever way He wants.

I think I'd like to go to *your* church.

**Kate:** That would be great, Sue! I could pick you up on my way.

**Sue:** Okay, so getting back to my submarine training. Is there anything else I should know?

**Kate:** Yes, there's one more thing: Practice, practice, practice. You need to be disciplined in your training. It's no good just reading the manual – you have to practice doing what it says. Going deep has to become as natural as walking.

**Sue:** Well, I think I'm up to it.

**Kate:** You're right - I think you are.

And I know that you will also live out your faith by putting into practice what you know is right and true.

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**MC:** Do *you* think that Sue will grow in her faith?

What will she need to do?

- \* Read the Bible.
- \* Become part of the Church.
- \* Do what is right.

## Day 5

**Sue:** So, how far are we from home base?

**Kate:** Almost there. One can't see far under water, so it's always surprising how quickly home base comes into view.

In fact, there it is... We're back home!

*Kate and Sue exit the submarine and appear on stage next to the sub. They go sit on a bench and drink their bottled water.*

**Sue:** Kate, thank you so much! This trip has been absolutely amazing. I've seen things I've never seen before...

**Kate:** ... and you've experienced something new.

**Sue:** For sure! I now know what it feels like to be free from sin and guilt. I am a brand new person inside.

**Kate:** Who are you going to tell first?

**Sue:** Umm... probably my mom and dad; then I'll tell Lisa – she's my best friend at Varsity.

**Kate:** I think I know her... I often see the two of you together at the cafeteria.

**Sue:** Yip, that's her!

The thing is that I don't know what to say. She might think my studies made me go funny in the head.

**Kate:** You know, Sue, God's truth is very powerful and goes right down to the heart. Just tell people how Jesus has changed you.

**Sue:** But I don't know much about the Bible.

**Kate:** That's okay. For now, just tell people what you know and believe.

**Sue:** You mean, like: Everyone has done wrong; but God loved us so much that He let Jesus die for our sins.

All we need to do is ask Him to forgive us and make our hearts new. Then one day we will be with God in heaven and live forever.

**Kate:** You've got it! I couldn't have said it better.

**Sue:** Well, I'd best be getting home.

*Kate and Sue get up, give each other a hug, and start to leave.*

**Sue:** Thanks again, Kate. It's been the best day ever!

**Kate:** We must do it again... I'll message you soon. Bye!

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**MC:** Well, I certainly learned a lot from Kate and Sue this week. Can you remember some of the things they talked about?