

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



April 7, 2024

“Surrender” - #1 in the series God on Film

Texts (NIV): Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 10:23

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Consider the scene from the movie “Bruce Almighty,” in which Bruce Nolan (Jim Carrey) suddenly finds himself in the clouds, face-to-face with God (Morgan Freeman). During their conversation, Bruce learns to pray with heartfelt honesty, experiencing a moment of spiritual surrender and a blessing beyond belief.
 - How does it feel when you’re conversing with someone who is not being totally honest about their thoughts?
 - Why is praying with heartfelt honesty sometimes difficult?
3. **Read Proverbs 3:5.**
 - Think about surrender as *giving up control, yielding, or giving over.*
 - What keeps us from easily giving up control of a situation or circumstances?
 - Can you recall when you were forced to “not lean on your own understanding?” What was that process like?
4. **Read Proverbs 3:6.**
 - For some, the word *submit* - in times of heightened sensitivities to gender equity and individual rights - can have negative connotations.
 - How would you explain what it means to submit to the Lord “in all your ways?”
 - What does it mean for God to “make your paths straight?”
5. **Read Jeremiah 10:23.**
 - How does this verse help you think about vulnerability as an aspect of surrender?
 - Bonus Item: The Welcoming Prayer by Fr. Thomas Keating
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaDAp-UPfNw>
6. How can we pray for you?