

THE BLIND SIDE

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A Study Guide by Craig Detweiler
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TURNING THE CAR AROUND

SERMON STARTER

Has God ever nudged your heart? Maybe you've driven past someone and felt a tug, a sudden surge of compassion. The Spirit may have prompted you to act. Did you keep driving or did you turn around? It is tempting to move on. We have appointments, jobs, responsibilities. Besides, how much difference can we make? Yet, in *The Blind Side*, Leigh Anne Tuohy dares to turn around, to stop the car, to get out and make a difference.



PLAY THE SCENE

"She's about to get her way."

PLAY THE SCENE: "She's about to get her way."
The Tuohy family is quite content.

Sean Tuohy (Tim McGraw) was a legendary basketball star at Ole Miss who now owns most of the fast food restaurants in Memphis. His wife, Leigh Anne (Sandra Bullock) is an interior designer in constant demand. Their teenage daughter Collins plays volleyball and serves on the cheerleading squad. Their young son, S.J. (Sean Junior) has energy and ideas to spare.

Returning from a volleyball game, Leigh Anne spots Big Mike walking the streets on a chilly evening. She is troubled by the sight and insists that Sean turn their car around.

Big Mike insists he is going to the gym. But Leigh Anne presses further wondering why he is going to a gymnasium that is closed. When Big Mike equivocates, Leigh Anne confronts him, "Don't you lie to me." Sean watches from a distance. He's seen Leigh Anne in action many times before, "She's about to get her way."

BIBLICAL CONNECTION

When it comes to caring for those in need, sometimes we have to be insistent. The needs are often so simple and tangible: food, shelter, clothing. Jesus redefined the test of a true disciple. In Matthew 25:35-36, he lays out tangible measures: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me."

Leigh Anne takes Jesus' words seriously. She pushes past fear or prejudice to make room for a cold and hungry stranger. She stops what she's doing, turns her family and their car around. She dares to get out, to search for an answer, to meet a need. The Tuohys welcome Mike into their home.

LIFE APPLICATION

Who do you know who is hungry or thirsty tonight? How can you respond? Who needs shelter or clothing in our community, especially as temperatures drop and winter approaches? How could our faith community provide a comfortable place to stay—either for those in our immediate community or even across the planet?

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