

Adam's Second Daddy

MOVIE:
FINDING NEMO



Lesson Objective:

To communicate to teens the reality that Adam and Eve and all who descend from them have disobeyed God and as a result turn to Satan as their daddy.

Intro to the Movie:

Nemo and his father, Marlin, live together in a sea anemone. Marlin is overly protective of his son. An attack by a killer eel earlier in the movie explains Marlin's paranoia of the open sea. The pain of losing his wife and family causes him to exert more protection than was necessary for his only son. Consequently and understandably, Nemo grows weary of his father's oppressiveness. This mounting tension is the catalyst for a verbal spat that spurs Nemo to do that which his father explicitly forbade: he swims out to the open sea and touches the "butt" (meaning boat). Nemo's defiance results in his capture by scuba divers and taken to a dentist's office aquarium in Australia. The rest of the movie chronicles Marlin's heroic quest to find his son at all costs. In the end, father and son are reunited and their relationship restored. It is a powerful story of a father's unconditional love for a rebellious son.

But the movie also has a lot to teach us about the consequences of our choices. Nemo's decision to swim out to sea took him in a direction he never intended go. That is because every decision is a direction, and every direction has a destination. When we choose to make poor decisions, those choices take us down a road that ultimately has a destination of pain and suffering. Likewise, when we make right choices, those good decisions direct us down a road that leads to blessing, peace, and joy.

(The 3D lenses) As you prepare your teens to watch the movie, invite them to pay close attention to all of the ramifications of Nemo's choice to disobey his father. It is very likely that many – if not all – of your teens will have already seen this movie. That makes it all the more necessary to challenge them to discover something new that they hadn't noticed before.

*** Special Note to Leaders** – Because *Finding Nemo* is already several years old (released in 2003) and was so popular, we realize this movie might be a harder draw for teens. Therefore, we offer the following suggestions for generating excitement for the evening:

- Advertise the evening as a mystery movie night; don't tell teens what you're going to watch ahead of time. Use the element of surprise in your favor!
- Offer a significant raffle prize to three people (i.e. 50% reduced registration fee for an upcoming trip, free movie coupons, gift certificate to the PX, the latest electronic device give-away, etc.)
- Decorate the room as an underwater world and play a couple wild and crazy games around that theme.
- Ahead of time, prepare a "student spotlight" video where you interview a random student. Then, show it at movie nights.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. Did you notice anything new or pick up on anything that you had never seen before?
2. What was it that pushed Nemo to swim out to sea? Describe the impact his decision had on himself and his father.
3. Think about a time recently when you chose to disobey something your parents asked you not to do. Tell us about it. What were the consequences?
4. Do you sense that Marlin's intentions were good in being so protective? Was he being overbearing? What about your parents? Do you feel they have good intentions in the guidelines they set for you? Are they being overbearing?
5. When God created the world and after he made Adam, he told him one thing he was not to do. Genesis 2:15-17 records this command: ¹⁵Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. ¹⁶He told him, 'You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, ¹⁷except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the

fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.” Why might God offer this instruction to Adam? Do you think God did so for good reason? Why or why not?

6. In Genesis 3:1-7, we learn how Adam and Eve respond to God’s only prohibition. Read it below and discuss what might have prompted them to disobey God.

¹Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the LORD God had made. The snake asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?”

²“We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden,” the woman answered,

³“except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die.”

⁴The snake replied, “That’s not true; you will not die. ⁵God said that because he knows that when you eat it, you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad.”

⁶The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it. ⁷As soon as they had eaten it, they were given understanding and realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.

Group Input:

Leader-solicited responses from the large group on reactions to some of the questions.

Gathering of ideas and themes recognized in the discussion groups with a focus on guiding the audience toward the main objective: *To communicate to teens the reality that Adam and Eve and all who descend from them have disobeyed God and as a result turn to Satan as their daddy.*

Bullet Objective:

Put this summary section in your own words, but here are some ideas you can use:

Marlin gives Nemo two clear instructions: 1) “Get back here!” and 2) “Don’t touch the boat!” Nemo willfully violates both commands doesn’t he? One of the great aspects of this movie is that it illustrates well this timeless, eternal principle in life: direction determines destination not intention. Nemo’s decision to disobey is what brought him to the destination of the dentist’s aquarium. It resulted in separation from the father.

Notice the parallel in Genesis 2:16-17 regarding God’s instructions to Adam. “¹⁶He told him, ‘You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, ¹⁷except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.’” God gives Adam almost unlimited freedom to enjoy the Garden. He gives one negative prohibition, “Don’t eat from this particular tree.” Why should Adam not eat from it? Because if he does he will die. Was it right for God to tell Adam what not to do? You bet! God didn’t want to see Adam die. That’s not his intention. At this point in the narrative, who is Adam’s daddy? That’s right. God.

Now, in Genesis 3, everything changes. Would someone read Genesis 3:6 for us?

The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it.

What do Adam and Eve do? The one thing that God said not to! Same as Nemo, isn’t it? When Nemo chose to disobey, he removed himself from under the umbrella of his father’s protection. The same thing happened for Adam and Eve. The moment they violated God’s command, they removed themselves from under the blessings God had to offer them. So instead of blessings from God, they received discipline for their disobedience.

Incidentally, who did Adam and Eve listen too? The serpent. And because they listened to the serpent, who became their new daddy? The serpent. Did Adam and Eve succeed in representing God? No. They failed. Now, instead of representing God they represent the serpent whom we later come to know by the name of Satan. They sinned and their original image (identity) is now fallen. See the visual aid below. (You are free to borrow this visual aid.)



Here's the really bad news, friends. Adam and Eve are the world's original parents. Everyone who has ever walked this planet has descended from them. They are our original ancestors, and, sadly, they have passed onto us their 'new' daddy. Psalm 51:5 says, "I have been evil from the day I was born; from the time I was conceived, I have been sinful." All of us are born into sin. It's like we all have been permanently stained by sin. All of us, throughout our lives, have made choices that violate God's moral law. Our choice to disobey is a direction that will ultimately bring about a physical and spiritual death; and if not dealt with properly, the consequence of sin is separation forever from God and a final destination for us in a place called hell.

Challenge:

1. Adam and Eve attempted to cover up their sin. They tried to hide their mistake from God by sewing fig leaves together and running away from God. Get back in your small groups and with your leaders. In what ways do we do the same thing? How do we attempt to cover up our sin?
2. In your small groups, see if you can devise a way to eradicate the permanent mark of sin you inherited from Adam and Eve.

Lord, thank you for this time and for bringing each and every one here. I pray that you will continue to open our minds, hearts, and ears to understand your Truth. Bless us each in our own special way. Amen!