

Sharing God's Story with Finding Nemo



A MOVIE-BASED
DEVOTIONAL
FOR FANS OF ALL
AGES

SIMON L SMITH + REEL PARABLES

PREFACE

This Reel Parables movie-based devotional contains massive spoilers. Massive like “did you know that Darth Vader was Luke’s dad and Luke and Leia are brother and sister?” massive. **Sharing God’s Story with *Finding Nemo*** assumes that you have seen *Finding Nemo* or don’t care if we spoil it for you. You. Have. Been. Warned!

The ideas presented in **Sharing God’s Story with *Finding Nemo***, are those of Simon L. Smith and Reel Parables. I do not speak for Disney/Pixar, the writers, the director, the actors or anyone involved in its making. I do not claim to know their purpose or intent. These are simply my observations on how *Finding Nemo* tells part of God’s story.

If you don’t already own *Finding Nemo*, I encourage you to buy it, watch it, and then use it to share God’s story! If you do buy *Finding Nemo*, will you please consider buying it from our affiliate link (<http://amzn.to/1PU9zuI>)? It doesn’t cost you anything extra and Amazon will send us a small donation.

Finally, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this Reel Parables movie-based devotional. I am pretty easy to find online and would love to talk with you about it.

Thank you and God bless!

Simon L. Smith

www.reelparables.com

INTRODUCTION

Sharing God's Story with *Finding Nemo* is a movie-based devotional for fans of all ages and was designed for parents or adults to read with kids.

Finding Nemo is far more than just another Pixar movie for kids. Sure, it is cute, funny, and emotional. Yeah, both kids and parents tend to like it. But it has so much more. Much like Jesus' "Lost Parables," there is a disobedient/prodigal son and a father who loves him so much that he searches for and chases after him.

In the same way that Jesus taught with stories, we can use *Finding Nemo* to teach others about God's story.

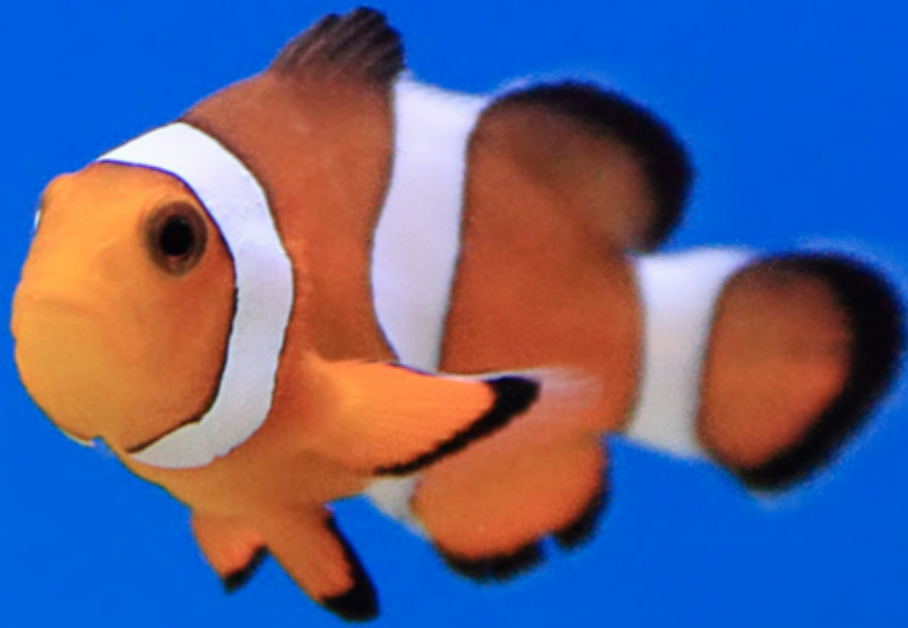
While I certainly fall in a specific theological camp, the point of **Sharing God's Story with *Finding Nemo*** is to share God's story. Although my theological preferences may come through, this is not designed to push my theological views. Instead, **Sharing God's Story with *Finding Nemo*** is designed to teach the big ideas on which we all usually agree. If you find that we disagree on a specific theological point, use this Bible study as an opportunity to teach your personal convictions.

The goal is to educate and encourage believers through God's story, engage the world with God's story, and equip the Church to do the same.

Unless noted, all Bible quotes are from the NET Bible - net.bible.org.

So sit back, enjoy the movie (maybe with some popcorn!) and get ready to share God's story with *Finding Nemo*!

Seek and Save the Lost



1

SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

Scene: Marlin, Nemo's dad, chases after him when he caught by the diver!

Marlin was super afraid of the open water. First, his wife and other kids were killed. Now, Nemo was caught by a diver. Marlin's worst fears – and the reason for all of his rules – came true. But Marlin still loved Nemo and chased after him!

In Luke 15 Jesus told the story of a Lost Sheep, a Lost Coin, and a Lost Son. *Finding Nemo* is very much like another Lost Parable; *Finding Nemo* is the Parable of the lost Fish. Nemo is the prodigal son and Marlin is the father that loves him so much that he chased after him to find him!

We know the lost sheep is important to the shepherd because he left the 99 that were safe to find the one.

We know the lost coin was important to the woman because she looked for it until she found it.

We know the prodigal son was important to the father because he looked for him, saw him when he was still far off, and ran to welcome him home!

These are all pictures of how God loves us! We are important to God!

God looked for Adam and Eve in the garden after they sinned because he still loved them.

God died for us, before we ever loved Him, because He loves us. (Romans 5:8)

Ponder

Why did Marlin chase after Nemo?

Why was Marlin willing to go into the open water to save/find Nemo?

Why does God chase after us? After you?

How do we know God still loves us, even when we sin? (Romans 5:8)

(Parents, now would be a good time to play hide-and-seek with your kids. When you find them, hug them and tell them how much you love them and how much more God loves them!)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me so much. Thank you for coming to find me and save me. Thank you for dying for me while I was a sinner who didn't even know you yet. Thank you for forgiving me and for loving me.

Selfless, Not Selfish



2

SELFLESS, NOT SELFISH

Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Scene: Dory is trapped in the net. Nemo wants to save her. Marlin is afraid that Nemo will die if he tries to save Dory.

Dory is trapped in a net, just like Nemo was when he was captured after disobeying his dad. We know that Nemo knows that he can swim, even with a small fin. We know that Gill helped him to realize that he was “better” than he thought he was. His dad, however, doesn’t know this. His dad still thinks that Nemo can’t swim well because of his small fin.

So when Nemo wants to swim into the net where Dory is caught, his dad gets scared!

Nemo wanted to save Dory, even though it was dangerous. Nemo wanted to save Dory, even though he could get hurt or die. But Nemo thought more about Dory’s interests (getting free) than his own (getting hurt or killed). Nemo treated Dory as more important than himself.

Marlin, who was concerned that he would lose Nemo again, let go of his own selfish ambition (to keep Nemo) and treated Dory as more important.

This is how God loved us! He thought more of us than himself. God loved us so much that he was willing to die for us!

Ponder

What was Marlin afraid of?

What could have happened to Nemo?

Why was Nemo willing to risk his own well-being to save Dory?

Why was Marlin willing to risk losing Nemo to save Dory?

How can you treat your family as more important than yourself?

How can you treat your friends as more important than yourself?

Prayer

God, thank you for loving me so much that you would die for me. Please help me see my family and my friends as more important than I see myself. Please help me see ways that I can humble myself and help my family and friends.

The Greatest Love



3

THE GREATEST LOVE

No one has greater love than this – that one lays down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)

Scene: The whole movie.

Finding Nemo is very much like one of Jesus' Lost Parables. Even though Nemo disobeyed his dad, his dad still loved him. Even though Nemo was literally caught in his sin, his dad still loved him.

How do we know? Because Marlin chased after him.

Marlin looked for Nemo like God looked for Adam and Eve when they were hiding from him in the Garden after they had disobeyed him (sinned) and ate the forbidden fruit.

Marlin looked for Nemo like the shepherd looked for the lost sheep.

Marlin looked for Nemo like the woman looked for the lost coin.

Marlin looked for, and accepted back, Nemo like the father that looked for, and accepted back, his prodigal son.

This is how God loves you.

But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

This is why Jesus is your very best friend! This is how much Jesus loves you!

No one has greater love than this – that one lays down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)

Jesus loves you so much that he died for you. Jesus wants you to love him and to trust him.

Then he brought them outside and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:30-31a)

Ponder

Do you believe in Jesus?

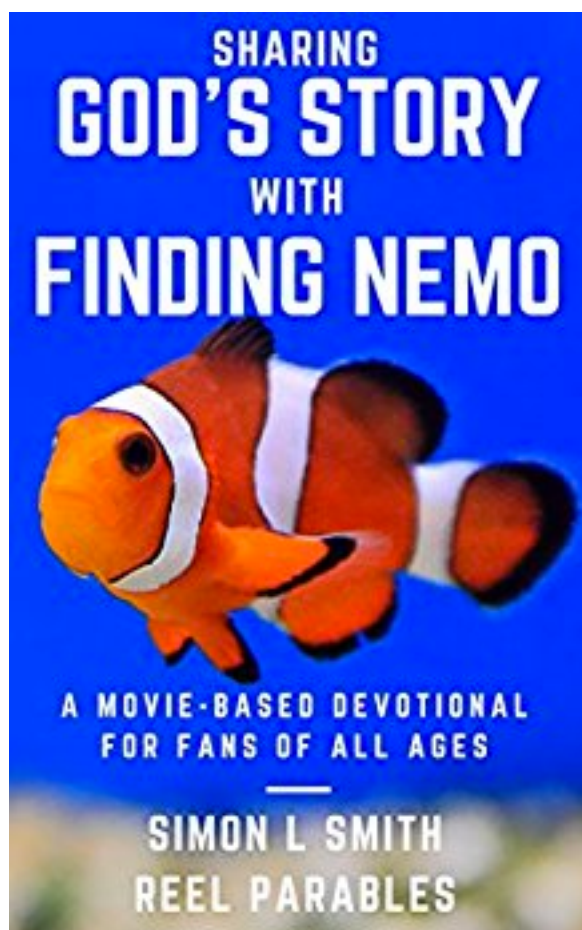
Do you know that Jesus loves you so much that he would die for you?

Do you believe that Jesus died for you?

Prayer

Thank you, God, for sending your son, Jesus, to die for me. Thank you for loving me so much!

AVAILABLE AT AMAZON



Sharing God's Story with Finding Nemo is a movie-based devotional for fans of all ages and:

- Uses *Finding Nemo* to share God's story (like Jesus did with His parables).
- Covers our whole story; sin, sacrifice, and salvation.
- Includes a Gospel presentation and “alter call.”
- Has been designed for parents and adults to read with children.
- Includes 13 easy to read and easy to understand chapters.
- Includes discussion questions for teens, adults, and children.
- Is perfect for parents, pastors, teachers, etc. who want to share God's story with their kids and youth.

Chapter 1 – Do Rules Help Us or Hurt Us?

Chapter 2 – Peer Pressure

Chapter 3 – Caught by Sin

Chapter 4 – Seek and Save the Lost

Chapter 5 – Best Friends

Chapter 6 – Iron Sharpens Iron

Chapter 7 – Help One Another

Chapter 8 – Encourage One Another

Chapter 9 – Selfless, Not Selfish

Chapter 10 – Confession

Chapter 11 – Restoration

Chapter 12 – Created for Community

Chapter 13 – The Greatest Love