



Announcements

SERVE Day // Saturday, July 15th // All Campuses // Register your group for a serve project and join thousands of believers across the United States to impact our nation for Jesus.
Churchoftheking.com/serveday.

Warm-up

What is the last movie you saw at the theater?

Today we are going to continue our series *God At The Movies*. This week we are going to look at the movie... *Finding Nemo* to see what hidden spiritual truths we can apply to our daily lives.

Word and Application

We see in the movie *Finding Nemo* the main theme is an unconditional love a father has for his son. Initially Nemo believed the boundaries established by his father were too strict. Making the decision to venture beyond the confines, Nemo had to face the consequences of that choice.

You see, with God, healthy boundaries are a blessing created to protect us, *not* restrict us. He wants us to avoid the consequences from choices that lead us outside the boundaries of His protection. . Our heavenly Father doesn't want us to be burdened down by guilt or shame. Nemo's choice took him and his father into a place they never intended to venture.

Read 1 John 5:3 & Isaiah 53:6

What's the difference between *protective* and being *overly protective*? Can you think of a rule you were given as a child that was established out of love and protection, but from which you consistently rebelled? Describe how your perspective has changed.

Just like Nemo's father Marlin risked it all to find his son, God prepared a way for us to be returned to His arms. Moreover, God gave us children so we would have an illustration of how infinite God's love is.

Read Luke 15:7, 9. What do these verses have in common? How does knowing that when you were reconciled with the Father, all of heaven celebrated your return? Share a memorable time when others celebrated you.

Read Luke 15:20–24

When the prodigal son returned home, he thought his father would disown him; thus, he was willing to return as a servant rather than a son. Some people think that God feels this way when we stray in the wrong direction, but that is the farthest thing from God's heart. God's love for us is a relentless and inexplicable love that is independent of behavior or reciprocation of his love. How does God's unconditional love for us empower us to love those around us in the same manner?

It doesn't matter what sin you've done or what mistake you've made. God is madly in love with you. He wants an intimate relationship with you today.

Read Psalm 23:6. What does this verse mean to you?

God's love for us is demonstrated in the fact that He gave up His Son to die in our place for us to be filled with the fullness of God. Describe how your future looks as a fully manifested Son or Daughter of God?

This week, we want to leave you with two action steps:

1. Identify any doubt you have of the Father's unconditional love and his forgiveness for past sin. Read Luke 15:7,9; Luke 15:20-24 and Psalm 23:6 again. Place yourself in each verse as the recipient of God's love.
2. Ask God to show you how to extend love to a *prodigal* child, friend, or neighbor.

Prayer

Thank God for His amazing love for us and all that He accomplished through His Son Jesus to be brought back into a personal relationship with our Father who loves us unconditionally. Pray specifically for the needs of the group.