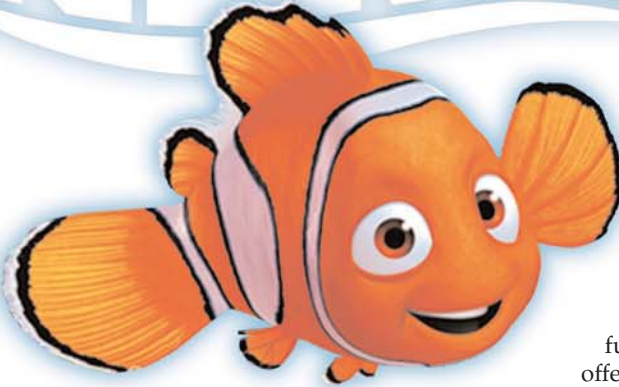




Disney Pixar

# FINDING NEMO



**Rated:** G

**Running Time:** 100 minutes

**Themes:** Bravery, perseverance, conquering fear and parental anxiety, forgiveness, friendship, trust, heroism despite “handicaps,” a father’s love, cooperation, obedience

**Cautions:** Harrowing adventures feature deadly jellyfish, saw-toothed sharks and other hungry creatures. The opening scene involves the death of a parent (implied). Also, mild bathroom humor and the word “butt.”

fulness, and an appreciation of the adventures life can offer when we’re not paralyzed by fear.

### Story Summary

For a clown fish, Marlin isn’t much of a jokester. In fact, he hasn’t found *anything* humorous about the ocean and its hazards ever since a vicious barracuda killed his mate and their unhatched brood. One egg survived: his son Nemo. And Marlin has vowed to keep him safe. Of course, from a youngster’s point of view “safety” can feel suffocating, and it can make Dad seem like an overprotective anxiety machine.

One day, the exasperated little guy disobeys his father and swims into open water where he’s promptly netted by a scuba-diving dentist. A panicked Marlin chases the man’s boat until Nemo’s captors disappear into the distance, the only hope of rescue being a lost diver’s mask bearing a Sydney, Australia address. Marlin is joined on his quest by new friend Dory, a blithe Blue Tang with short-term memory loss. Their perilous journey has its ups and downs—a big boost coming from a laid-back sea turtle who gives Marlin sage parenting advice.

Meanwhile, Nemo ends up among the diverse inhabitants of the dentist’s aquarium, and soon will be handed over to the cavity-filler’s bratty niece, who has a reputation for mishandling pets. The tank dwellers devise a plan to spring Nemo (and themselves), but the scheme goes belly up. Then hope for a father/son reunion is restored when a pelican drops by to share a news flash about a clown fish braving sharks, poisonous jellyfish and hungry seagulls in search of his lost son.

Eventually, Nemo finds his way down a drain, back into the ocean and into the comforting embrace of his dad. But the reunion gets cut short as Nemo races to save Dory and other fish trapped in a huge net. Once home, Nemo and Marlin share a more relaxed relationship, respect for each other’s resource-

### Family Activity

Life will happen to our children. We can only anticipate and protect them from so much. A great motto is *Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child*. Still, our kids need to know they can trust us to help them navigate that road. Here’s a fun exercise in trust: After the film, blindfold your child and set up obstacles throughout the room (boxes, stacks of books, pillows, etc.). With only verbal cues, talk them through the maze to a destination where a surprise awaits them—a small reward for following your directions. Then, to show that you trust *them*, take a turn by putting the blindfold on yourself!

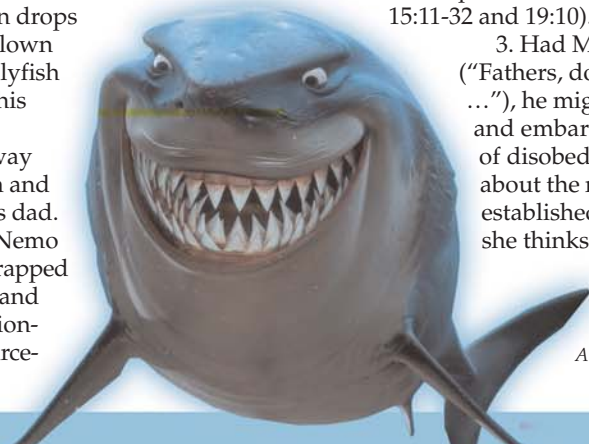
### Talking Points

1. Nemo’s gimpy fin, Dory’s poor memory and Marlin’s anxiety didn’t keep them from acting heroically when it really mattered. Does your child have a special challenge or know someone who does (a peer with a disability, a grandparent with Alzheimer’s)? Help your child embrace those differences without letting them define the way they see themselves or others.

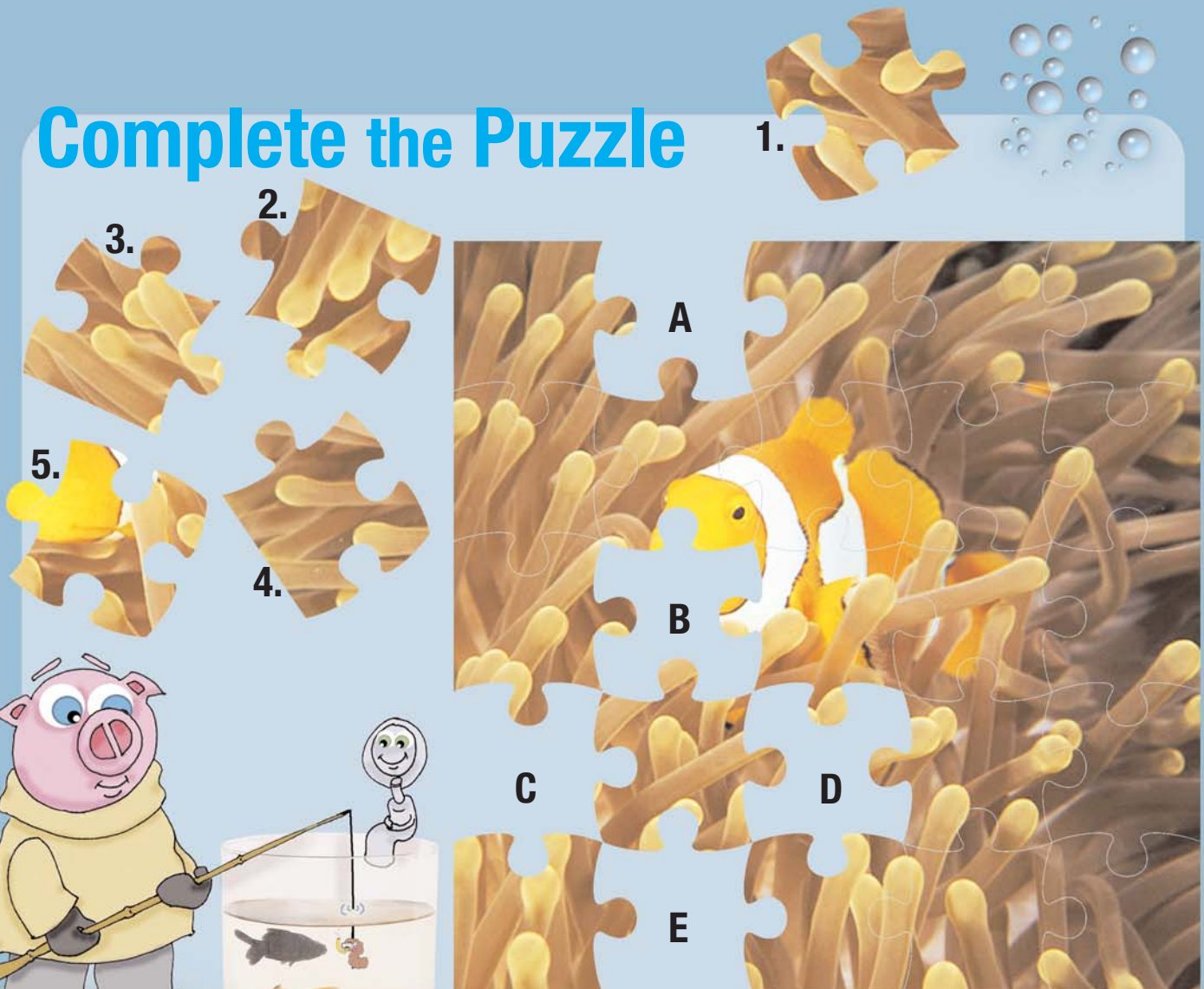
2. This story is a beautiful illustration of a father’s tireless pursuit of his lost son. During your bedtime Bible reading, help your child see how, despite man’s disobedience, God went all out to rescue us and restore our relationship with Him (John 3:16, Phil. 2:4-11, Luke 15:11-32 and 19:10).

3. Had Marlin read Ephesians 6:4 (“Fathers, don’t exasperate your children...”), he might have avoided frustrating and embarrassing Nemo to the point of disobedience. Talk with your child about the need for boundaries you’ve established—especially ones he or she thinks are unfair.

—by Bob Hoose



# Complete the Puzzle



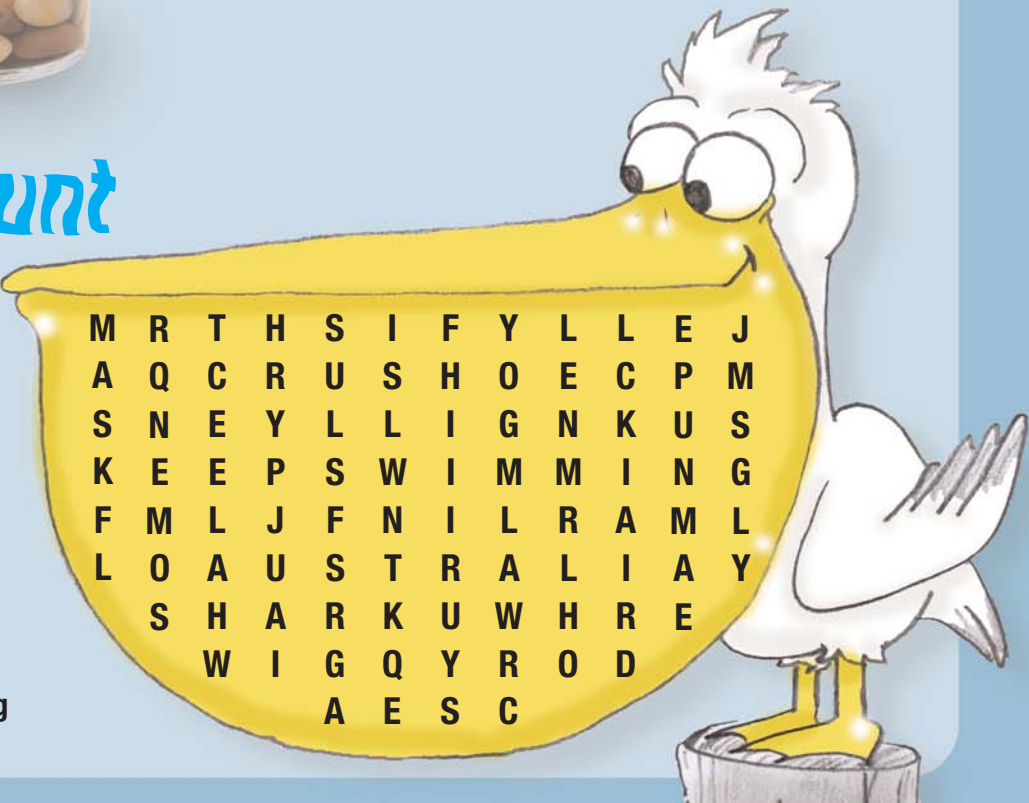
Puzzle Answers: A-4; B-5; C-3; D-1; E-2



## Harbor Hunt

See if you can find Nemo ... and the other words on this list! They'll be located up and down, across, diagonally ... even backwards!

- Nemo
- Coral
- Whale
- Marlin
- Gill
- Reef
- Dory
- Mask
- Jellyfish
- Sea
- Crush
- Australia
- Shark
- Aquarium
- Nigel
- Keep Swimming



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