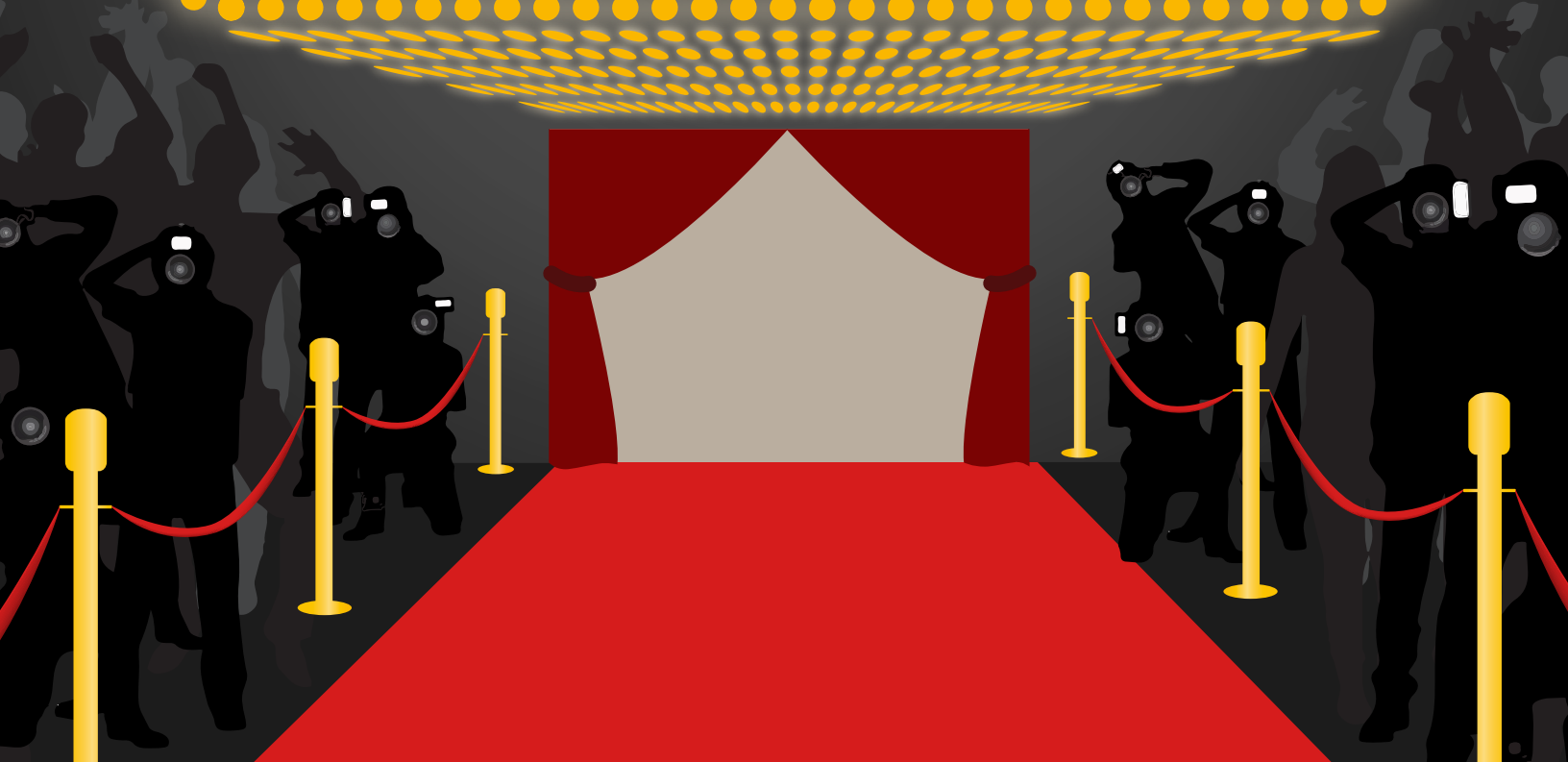


**LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION!**



Week 4

TOPIC

Persistence

BIBLE STORY

Peter and John Persistently Preach - Acts 3-5

MOVIE

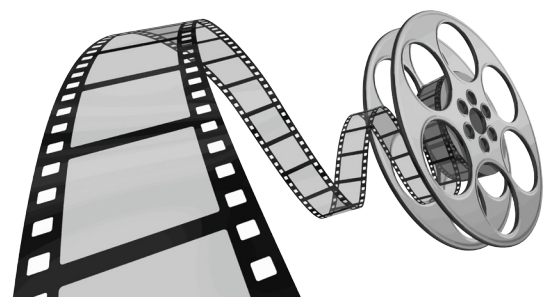
Finding Nemo

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I will never give up on pursuing God.

WEEKLY VERSE

“Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.”
1 Chronicles 16:11



Week 4

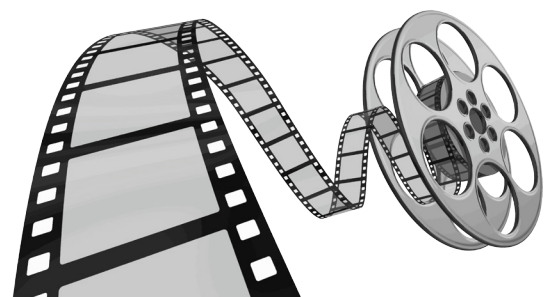
SKIT

Skit Information

The skits will require two people. One person will play themselves (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

Character Bio

The character's name is Cameron Action. Cameron Action is an eccentric director who loves to tell other people what to do. He thinks everything in life is a movie he need to "direct". He is a director at his own movie studio, Action Studios. Consider putting your character in all black: shirt, pants, and shoes. Extras: Add a clapper board prop, megaphone, beret, and a fake mustache.



Week 4

SKIT

Leader: Has anyone seen Cameron Action recently? I'm a bit worried about him. I received a phone call from him earlier today, and he sounded pretty upset. Hopefully we will see him so we can figure out what's wrong.

Cameron: *Makes a dramatic entrance and lays down on the floor.*

Leader: Oh dear. I guess I should ask him what's wrong. Cameron, can you hear me? What's wrong?

Cameron: Don't even bother trying to help me. I'm giving up!

Leader: That doesn't sound great. What exactly are you giving up on?

Cameron: Everything! My studio, my career as a director, MY LIFE!

Leader: That seems a bit dramatic. Why exactly are you giving up on everything?

Cameron: *Sits up at this point.* Well, you know how I became friends with that other studio director, who shall remain nameless?

Leader: Yes, of course, but what does he have to do with this?

Cameron: He has everything to do with it!

Leader: Ok, go on.

Cameron: Things were going great! I invited him over to my studio, we were sharing stories and ideas, when I realized something awful. I will never be as successful of a movie director as he is! There is no use going on with my life! *Lays back down on the ground dramatically.*

Leader: Wow. Ok, so you are just going to give up on your life entirely just because you aren't as good of a director as someone else? That seems silly.

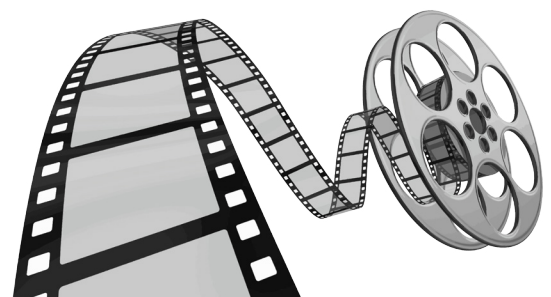
Cameron: Well, it doesn't feel very silly to me. I must be the best or there is no point!

Leader: That is probably an unreasonable goal. Your goal should be to try to be the best director you can be. It's not about being better than everyone else. I thought we already covered this.

Cameron: Well, I still don't get it!

Leader: How about this? Did you ask your movie director friend how long he has been in the movie directing business?

Cameron: He did mention it during one of his stories...



Week 4

SKIT

Leader: So, how long has he been a movie director?

Cameron: About 20 years.

Leader: And how long have you been a movie director?

Cameron: Well, I kind of just got into the movie business last year.

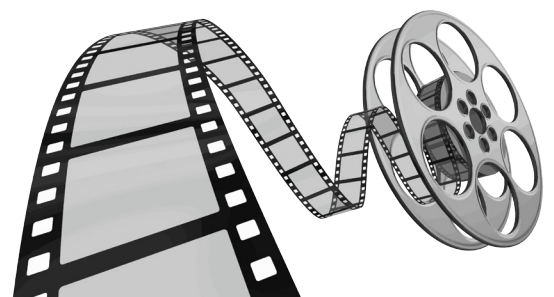
Leader: So, let me get this straight. You expect to be just as good of a movie director as your friend when he has been working in his career for over 20 years and you have been doing it for only a year?

Cameron: Well, when you put it that way it does sound pretty silly. *Stands up.*

Leader: Yes, it certainly does. It is going to take some serious persistence and perseverance to make Action Studios the next big movie studio. Are you willing to put in the time and energy it takes?

Cameron: I think so! I'm going to go back to my friend's studio and ask him what he did to make his studio so successful.

Leader: Great idea! We will see you next week!



Week 4

GAME: EAT THE BAIT!

Supplies

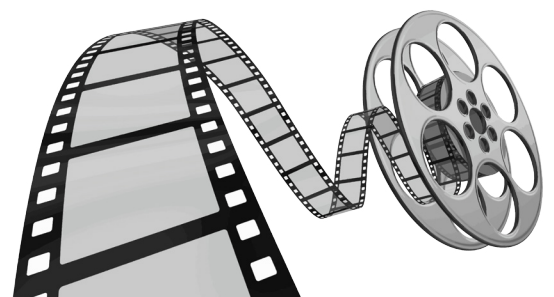
- Gummy worms
- Bowls (1 per kid)
- Table

Setup

- Set up a table on the stage or wherever you would like to play the game. Fill bowls with gummy worms (about 5-10 worms per bowl).

How To Play

1. Choose 2 kids from each team to play.
2. Have each kid stand behind their own bowl of gummy worms with their hands behind their backs.
3. When the leader says go, the kids must start “eating their bait” using only their mouths.
4. The first kid to finish eating all of their bait wins.
5. Tip: Make sure none of the kid have food allergies before playing this game.



Week 4

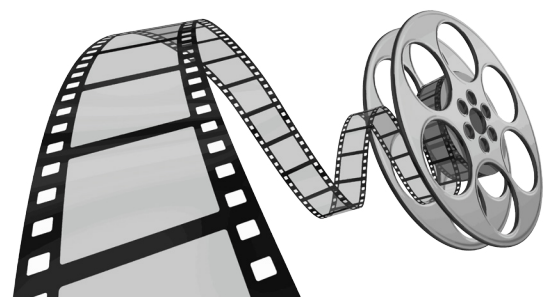
MESSAGE

Supplies

- A Bible in your preferred version (this curriculum uses the NLT version primarily)
- Finding Nemo Movie Clips prepared:
 - Nemo gets caught clip(14:46-16:22)
 - Word spreads clip (56:01-56:53)
 - Never give up clip (1:18:47-1:20:51)
- Optional: Props for talent object lesson if applicable

Introduction

We will be focusing on the topic of persistence today. What do you think persistence means? *Allow kids to respond.* Persistence means “a firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.” In other words, persistence is the ability to stick with something. You are going to keep going no matter what tries to stop you or get in your way. When I watched the movie, Finding Nemo, persistence was the main word that came to my mind. The entire movie is all about Marlin persistently trying to find his son, Nemo. Let’s check out our first clip to see why Marlin was searching for Nemo. *Play “Nemo gets caught” clip.* Nemo is Marlin’s only son, and he is willing to stop at nothing to find him. When you think about it, all the odds are against a tiny clown fish like Marlin finding his son, Nemo. What are some of the challenges he faces while searching for him? *Allow kids to respond.* His challenges included the massive ocean and a variety of predators who would love to have Marlin as an afternoon snack, but he doesn’t let any of those things stop him. *Play “Word spreads” clip.* Marlin is so persistent in his journey that word begins to spread about his search until it finally makes it all the way to Nemo. *Play “Never give up” clip.* Nemo and Marlin never give up on trying to find each other. Eventually, their persistence pays off and they are reunited.



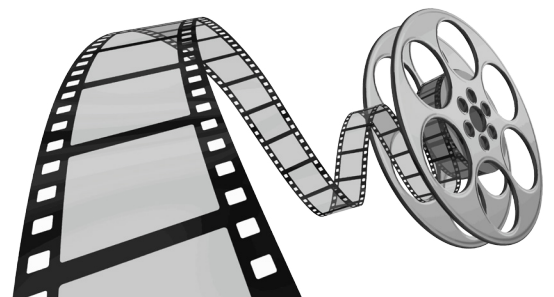
Week 4

MESSAGE

Bible Story

If you think Nemo and Marlin were persistent, check out some of Jesus' followers in the Bible. For example, Peter and John. After Jesus left the earth to go back to Heaven, His disciples didn't just go back to life as usual before He came. They continued to spread the word about Jesus more than ever, but not everyone was super thrilled about their message. In Acts 3, Peter and John can be found in the temple healing the sick, telling people about Jesus, and how their sins can be forgiven. That sounds pretty awesome, but in chapter 4, some of the "religious leaders" come on the scene. They didn't like Peter and John's message, so they had them arrested and thrown in jail. The next day, the religious leaders brought them in for questioning, and commanded them to never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Do you think that stopped Peter and John? *Allow kids to respond.* Absolutely not! In fact, this was their response from Acts 4:19-20 "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard." The religious leaders threatened them further, but eventually let them go.

Peter and John weren't scared or stopped by their threats. They continued to preach the word of God with boldness. In chapter 5, we see that Peter and John are back at it again, healing the sick and telling people about Jesus. This time, the Bible tells us that the religious leaders were filled with jealousy and had them thrown back in jail. Do you think they could stop Peter and John this time? *Allow kids to respond.* Definitely not. Let's see what happened in Acts 5:19-21, "But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, 'Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!' So, at daybreak, the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching." Say what? An angel came and broke them out of jail, and they still continued teaching people about Jesus? Can you imagine the religious leaders' faces when they saw the very men they had just thrown in prison back in the temple teaching? They arrested them yet again, questioning them about why they were continuing to teach people about Jesus. They ended up beating them, and once again commanding them to never speak the name of Jesus again. Do you think they



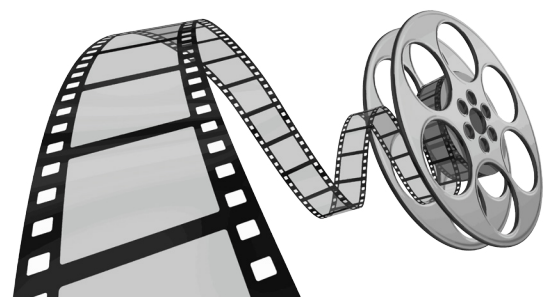
Week 4

MESSAGE

stopped teaching about Jesus after that? *Allow kids to respond.* Nope! Acts 5:42 says, “And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: ‘Jesus is the Messiah.’” Talk about persistence! Nothing was going to keep Peter and John from sharing the good news of Jesus with anyone they could find.

Life Application/Object Lesson

God wants us to show the same persistence in pursuing our relationship with Him. *Make the object lesson personal today. Share a talent you have with the kids. Use props to show them if applicable. The talent could be a musical instrument, singing, dancing, juggling, cooking, etc. Explain that it takes persistence and time to become good at something. If you give up quickly because it’s hard you will never become good at it.* We can’t give up on pursuing God the first time we mess up, forget to pray, or forget to read His Word. God knows that we will never be perfect. He just wants to know that we will continue to persistently seek after him. 1 Chronicles 16:11 says, “Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.” Just like Peter and John never gave up on sharing Jesus with other people, God wants us to do the same thing with our friends. We can’t give up the first time we ask a friend to come to church and they say no. Keep on asking! I may have mastered one thing with my talent, but there is always more to learn and grow in. We will never reach a point in our lives where we don’t need more of God. We can always learn and experience new things in our spiritual lives too. We don’t read the Bible once and say, “I’m good. I never need to read it again.” We don’t pray for an hour and say, “I’m all prayed up for the year.” Every time we read God’s Word, He can show us something new, every time we pray God can speak something new into our lives. God will never give up on pursuing us, but we must continue to pursue Him. *Optional: Pray a prayer for salvation with the kids. Offer an altar call for kids who want to make a commitment to persistently pursuing God for the rest of their lives.*



Week 4

GAME: NEMO SAYS

Supplies

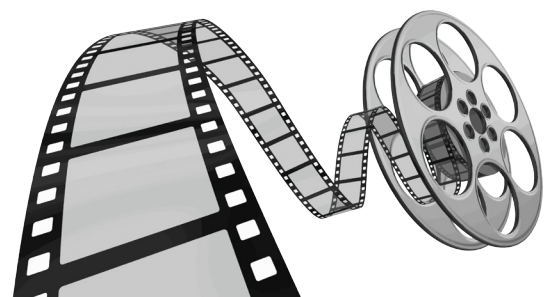
- No supplies are needed for this game.

Setup

- No setup is required for this game.

How to Play

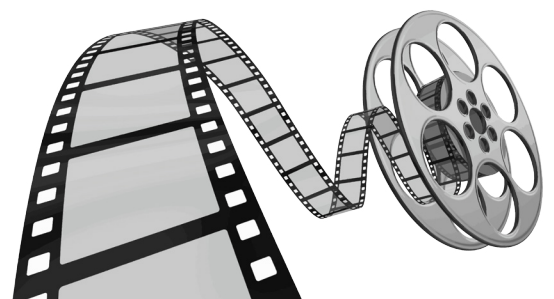
1. Everyone can play.
2. Have the kids spread out away from each other and/or chairs in the room.
3. Play the game like Simon Says only it's Nemo Says. If you say an action without saying Nemo Says and a kid does it, they are out.
4. Keep playing until only one kid remains. Play more rounds if time.
5. Nemo Says Actions: wiggle like a worm, swim like a fish, jump like a jelly fish, put a bubble in your mouth, chomp like a shark, surf like Crush the turtle, search like Marlin, etc. Add more actions if desired.



Week 4

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What does persistence mean?
2. Give an example of something that requires persistence.
3. What other people in the Bible showed persistence?
4. How can you be persistent in following God?
5. Optional: Look up these verses about persistence and discuss them as a group.
 - Galatians 6:9
 - Matthew 7:7
 - Matthew 6:33
 - 1 Chronicles 16:11



Week 4

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of our current series?

Answer: Lights, Camera, Action!

2. Who helps Marlin find Nemo?

Answer: Dory

3. Who showed persistence in preaching about Jesus in our Bible Story today?

Answer: Peter and John

4. What is Today's Takeaway?

Answer: I will never give up on pursuing God.

5. What happened when the religious leaders tried to put Peter and John in prison?

Answer: An angel came and broke them out of jail. They went back to the temple to teach about Jesus.

