

Leadership Movies: “Talk the Talk, Run the Run”

by Luke Aeschliman

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 The movies “Forrest Gump” and “Finding Nemo”
- 2 VHS or DVD player
- 3 Preview the times noted in the session to confirm them with your videos.
- 4 Thank you cards and pens

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS

Divide the group into two groups. Give the first group this assignment: Come up with 3 examples of something that is easier to SHOW than to TELL somebody how to do it. Give the second group this assignment: Come up with 3 examples of something that is easier to TELL somebody how to do than to SHOW them. When the groups have their examples, ask them to do just the opposite: ie: the first group will TELL the second group what to do; and the second group will SHOW the first group what to do.

For example, Group 1 might want to teach Group 2 how to do a certain dance. That is easier to show, but they will have to tell Group 2 how to do the dance. Or, Group 2 might want to teach Group 1 to say the alphabet, but they have to show them how to do it.

CONNECT WITH THE MOVIES

- 1 Cue “Finding Nemo” to show from 1:24:00 to 1:29:05.
- 2 Watch the clip.
- 3 Discuss:
 - How does Nemo demonstrate leadership skills?
 - When should you use this type of leadership? Is it always appropriate? Share examples.
- 4 Cue “Forrest Gump” to 1:51:51 and stop it at 1:56:07.

Note: It is important to stop it at the exact time because there is some inappropriate language next and some events that would have a reverse effect on the leadership role that follows.

5 Watch the clip.

6 Discuss:

- How does Forrest demonstrate leadership skills?
- When should you use this type of leadership? Is it always appropriate? Share examples.

REFLECT

Discuss leadership styles that were demonstrated and viewed in the movies—one that leads with words and one that leads with actions. Is one better than the other? What are the pros and cons of each type of leadership? Does a leader need to do both? Why or why not?

How did Jesus lead? What are examples of his leadership with words and with actions?

RESPOND

Hand out note cards and pens. Ask students to think of leaders they admire for the way they lead with words, or actions, or both; and to write a note of appreciation to that leader. Collect the cards and make sure they get delivered, or ask students to be responsible for delivering their cards.

Close with a prayer.