

GENERATE HEALTHY DISCUSSIONS

HAPPY FEET

WARNING: May Cause Toe-Tapping.

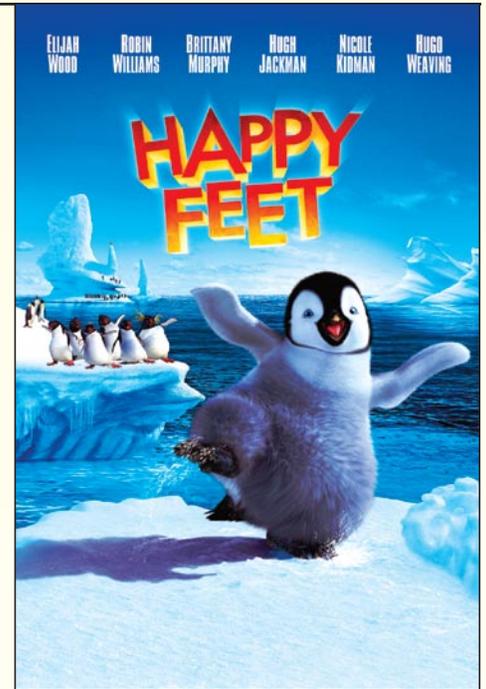
In the great nation of Emperor Penguins, you are nobody unless you can sing. Unfortunately for Mumble, he is the worst singer in the world, but he can dance! His parents worry that without a Heartsong he will not find his one true love. His inability to sing makes him an outcast in the Emperor Penguin Nation and he is soon cast away by the elders. On his own he befriends a group of Adelie Penguins who accept him as he is. The Adelie Amigos take Mumble to see Lovelace, a Rockhopper Penguin, who serves as the Penguin Guru and will answer any question for the price of a pebble. Together this ragtag group of friends set off on an adventure to discover the true cause of the fish shortage so that Mumble can return to his family and friends once again.

PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS

- Invite someone from a local dance studio to teach youth groups various dance steps.
- Visit a nearby zoo, aquarium or aquatic center to learn more about endangered fish and other animals of the world's oceans.
- Organize a community service project for your congregation with a local conservation group.
- Bring members/youth together to talk about things that make them different and things that bring them together. Have them discuss ways to help make everyone feel included as a member of the congregation/community.
- Have your members share their "heartsongs" and use those songs to make a mixed CD for your congregation/youth group. Bring the group together to talk about why they chose that song.
- Take members to a Christian concert and to a dance recital, then discuss the differences between singing and dancing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

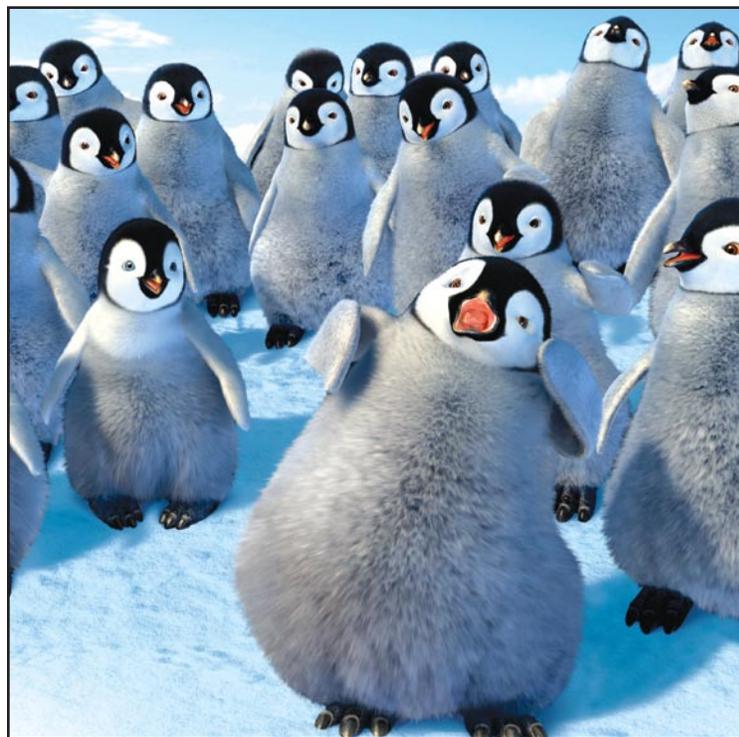
1. Before Mumble was hatched, Memphis, his father, was charged with keeping watch over him while his mother, Norma Jean, went out to fish. In what ways does this resemble human behavior? In what ways does it differ?
2. Do you think Mumble would have turned out differently if his father had not lost the egg during the long night?
3. One of the penguins tells Mumble: "A penguin without a heartsong is hardly a penguin at all". Do you think Mumble was any less of a penguin because he couldn't sing? Did Mumble have a heartsong?
4. Who were the aliens that abducted the skua? Why did they abduct him?
5. Mumble was ejected from his community several times in various ways because he was "different" from the rest of his tribe. Have you ever been ejected from a group because you were different? How did that make you feel? What can you do to help others who are "different" feel welcomed and accepted in your community?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED):

6. The elders stated that the penguins were experiencing lean times and fish were scarce, this lead Mumble to seek out the cause of this. What was the cause? How does our behavior and actions as human beings affect other animals around the globe? What can our congregation do to help save an animal that lives in Antarctica?
7. Lovelace was seen by the Adelie penguins as a prophet. Why did they revere him in this way? What happened when he revealed his true nature? What does the Bible say about false prophets? Have you met someone in your life who you believed to be a hero or mentor who disappointed you? What happened? Do you still look up to that person?
8. How was religion tied into this film? How has religion shaped your life? Has your faith change through the years?
9. When Mumble woke up in the zoo, he tried to talk to the “aliens” and explain what they were doing to his fellow penguins, but all the people heard was squawking. Have you ever felt as if your voice was not being heard? How can you use your voice to be heard and help spread your church’s message?
10. Before Mumble was ejected from his tribe the elders and his father tried to get him to stop dancing and using his feet, Mumble said “Don’t ask me to change Pa.” Has someone ever asked you to change? Why? Did you? Why or why not?
11. When Mumble returned to the tribe, the elders rejected the idea of the aliens coming and that dancing would get them to help save the tribe, yet the younger penguins were quick to join. Why is it harder to make changes to our lives as we get older? Do you feel set in your ways? Do you think your parents are? Your grandparents? How do you deal with change?
12. In the end Memphis apologized for the wrongs he had done to Mumble. Many parents often make decisions that they feel are best for their children, but sometimes can be harmful. Has that happened to you? How did you overcome it? Have your parents apologized? Would you accept that apology?



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13. The amigos suggest that Mumble is very “accidentally cool”, what does that mean? Can someone be cool on accident?
14. Why is it that Ramon and the Amigos stuck by Mumble when the rest of his tribe abandoned him? Do the Amigos remind you of the disciples? Why? Who do you feel sticks by you no matter what?
15. Why did Mumble send Gloria away when she came to join him on his quest to find the aliens? Do you think he did the right thing? Was he honest with her in the way he sent her away? Could he have handled that differently?
16. As Mumble is swimming away in search of the aliens, Lovelace says: “I’m gonna be telling your story, Happy Feet, long after you’re dead and gone!” What kind of story will they tell about you? What story do they tell about Jesus?