

PARENTS GUIDE TO

movie messages: *Frozen* (2013)

Seek and find worldviews
while having fun as a family

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®



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Frozen (2013)

BY **PLUGGED IN STAFF**
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
HANNAH DAVIES

The entertainment industry bombards us with obvious and subtle messages. But we often don't recognize them as worldviews or notice how they skew our thinking. To help you and your family identify varying worldviews in the culture, play this game of Movie Messages while watching *Frozen*.





Directions:

1. Give every player a set of 10 worldview cards.
2. Watch *Frozen* until you reach an incident on the game board. Then pause the movie.
3. Each player chooses a card that matches the worldview identified in the movie and places it facedown. Then players turn over their cards to reveal their answers.
4. The correct cards are removed from play. The cards deemed incorrect are returned to each player, and the movie continues.
5. This board game doesn't cover every worldview in this movie. Players who have guessed wrong can catch up by calling out the correct worldview if it comes up again in the movie. (This can only be done with worldview cards that have been removed from play.)
6. The first player to get rid of seven of his or her cards is the winner.

***Fatalism**, **Karma** and **Naturalism** cards are not part of this movie's game board. If someone plays the Fatalism card and wants additional information, read Philippians 4:13, where we're told we can do anything because God strengthens us. If someone plays the Karma card and wants additional information, read Matthew 5:44-45, where the Bible reminds us that the world isn't fair and that we should look to God for wisdom on how to act. If someone plays the Naturalism card and wants additional information, read Romans 1:20, which talks about God's "invisible attributes" that have been "clearly perceived."

Note: For young children who aren't ready to play this game, you can introduce them to worldview training with a casual mention such as, "That's materialism. People are more important than stuff."

Read Plugged In's review of *Frozen* first to make sure it's right for your family.
Pluggedin.com/Movie-Reviews/Frozen-2013/

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BIOCENTRISM
argues that humans are just one of many animal species, not set apart in any way, morally speaking.



FATALISM
is the belief that there's no point in taking action because events are predetermined.

Directions:

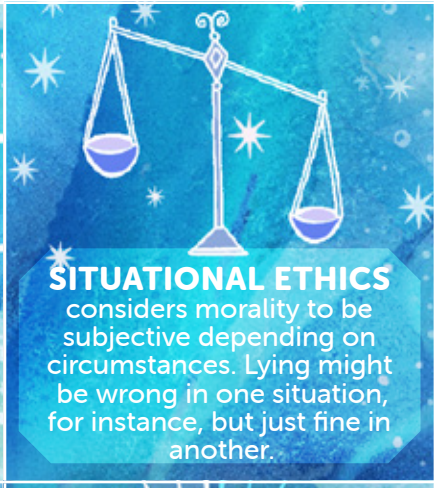
Cut out one set of either color or black-and-white cards for each player.



MONARCHISM
is the belief in a government ruled by a king or queen, who may claim divine right to rule.



NATURALISM
is the belief that the universe was created through natural causes, without a creator—no souls and no afterlife.



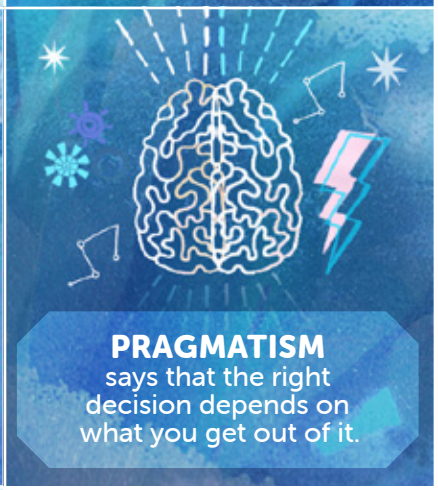
SITUATIONAL ETHICS
considers morality to be subjective depending on circumstances. Lying might be wrong in one situation, for instance, but just fine in another.



KARMA
is believed to be a good or bad force that affects you—either now or in another life—depending on the good or bad you do today.



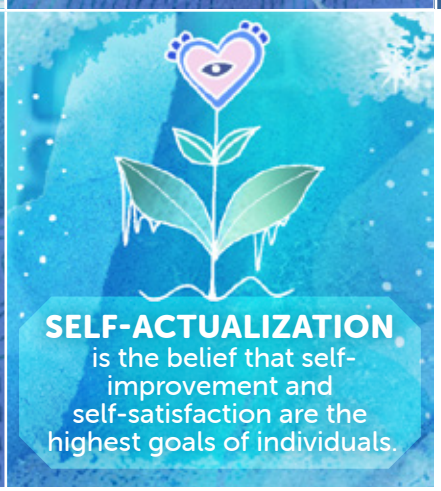
MATERIALISM
involves valuing stuff over people.



PRAGMATISM
says that the right decision depends on what you get out of it.



OCCULTISM
includes supernatural events or "knowledge" that is hidden and paranormal.



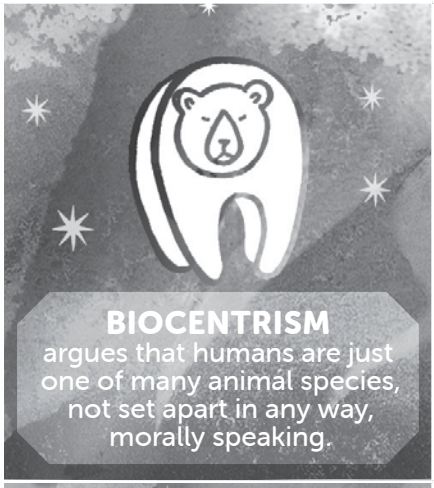
SELF-ACTUALIZATION
is the belief that self-improvement and self-satisfaction are the highest goals of individuals.

MOVIE REVIEWS

For a review of *Frozen* and other titles, visit **PluggedIn.com**, Focus on the Family's media review and discernment website.

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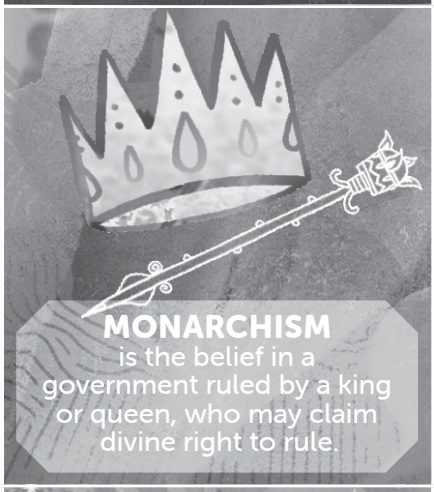
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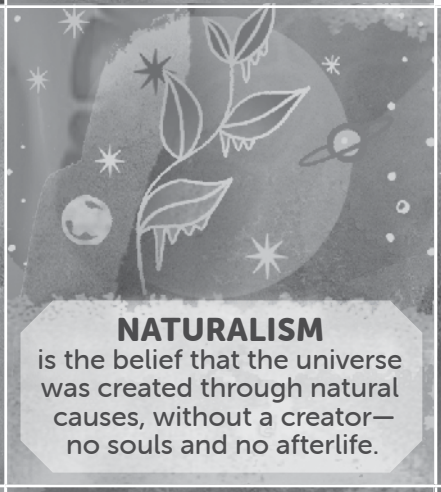
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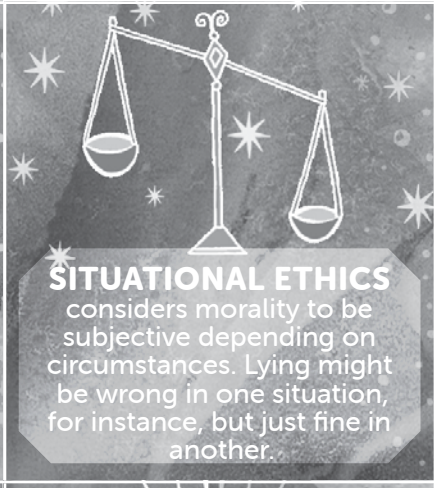
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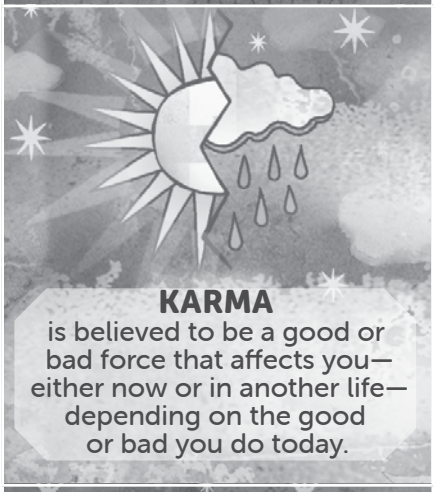
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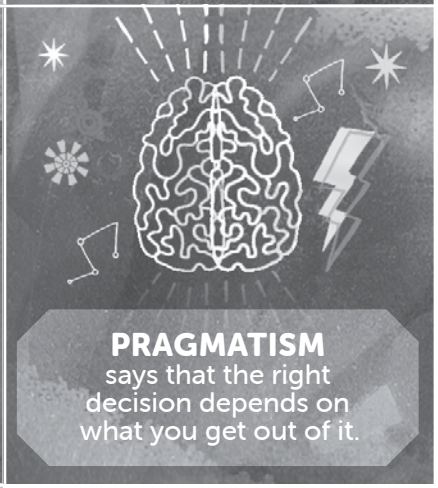
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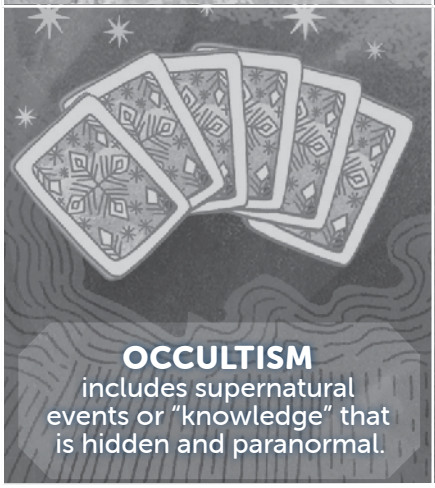
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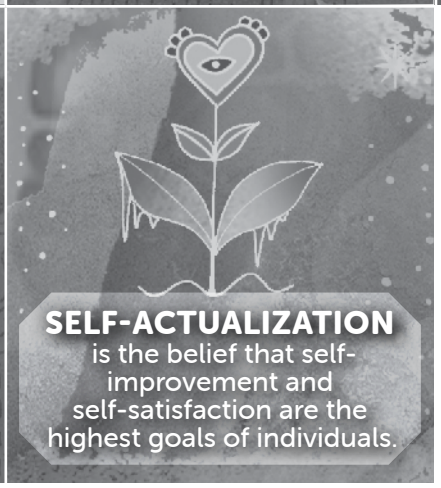
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movie messages: *Frozen* (2013)

Movie stop 5:53

After Elsa accidentally strikes Anna with a bolt of cold, the girls' father hurriedly looks through a book filled with runes—an ancient text he hopes may hold a secret for helping both of his daughters. The book eventually points him to the rock trolls.

What it is: Occultism

Those engaged in the occult seek secret or hidden knowledge through paranormal or supernatural forces. More obvious examples of dabbling in the occult include playing with Ouija boards or using tarot cards in fortune-telling. Because the king seeks help from the rock trolls—essentially, "supernatural" beings—this qualifies as occultism. In the Bible, King Saul's visit with a witch in 1 Samuel 28 is a similar trip to seek knowledge from a supernatural source.

Read: Leviticus 19:31

"Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God."

How to talk with tweens and teens

The king is obviously desperate to help his children. And when we're desperate, we sometimes look for help in all the wrong places. Obviously, the trolls in *Frozen* are kind and funny. But the king should have looked to God for answers, not trolls. Tell me about a time when you looked for an answer in a wong direction? How was your search similar to or different from getting the information from a supernatural being?

What to say to young children

The trolls in *Frozen* are very helpful, but God wants us to come to Him when we have big problems. Besides, secrets can be dangerous—and as we find out in *Frozen*, they almost always come out. *These words are based on Luke 8:17.*

Movie stop 12:33

The Duke of Weselton, in Arendelle for Princess Elsa's coronation, is excited to get into the castle. "Open those gates so I may unlock your secrets and exploit your riches!" And then he catches himself: "Did I say that out loud?"

What it is: Materialism

Weselton and Arendelle are already trading partners, it seems. But the duke is looking for additional advantage: He wants to increase his wealth (and that of his country), and he's apparently willing to hurt the kingdom of Arendelle to do it. It appears this goal—to get richer and make Arendelle poorer—is his highest ambition early in the story. And that makes the duke a poster child for materialism.

Read: Luke 12:15

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.' "

How to talk with tweens and teens

We need food and shelter to live. We enjoy going out to eat, playing video games and attending concerts. All of these things require money, and none of them are inherently bad. But the Bible warns us that the love of money and material possessions—valuing them above things with more lasting worth—is dangerous. We should never be jealous of someone else's possessions or, worse yet, be like the duke, who tried to cheat his way to greater wealth.

What to say to young children

The Duke of Weselton is like a kid who wants someone else's toy. Have you ever wanted something that belonged to someone else? Has someone else ever wanted something that belonged to you? Always remember that God tells us to be happy with what we have. *These words are based on Hebrews 13:5.*

Movie stop 15:50

Elsa is getting ready for her coronation, and she looks at a portrait of her father holding an orb (the ball-like thing) and a scepter.

What it is: Monarchism

We know from the very beginning of the story that Arendelle is a kingdom—a country ruled by a king or a queen. But when Elsa looks at her father in the picture, she feels not only the fear that she's going to freeze everything in sight but also the weight of responsibility for what the coronation represents. Monarchism believes in monarchy as the best form of government. The picture Elsa looks at features two long-standing symbols of a monarch's rule and alleged God-given authority: the scepter and the orb. In most European countries, the link between a monarch's earthly realm and God's heavenly one is stressed in those symbols: Both the orb and the scepter are topped with a cross symbolizing God's ultimate authority. In the portrait of Elsa's father, both are topped with what looks like a stylized flower.

Read: Proverbs 29:2

"When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan."

How to talk with tweens and teens

Arendelle seems as if it's close to an absolute monarchy. With a few exceptions, the queen can pretty much tell people what to do. That's great if a good king or queen is on the throne. But as we see in the Bible, and throughout human history, kings and queens can be pretty bad. They may claim that they get their authority from God, but their actions can be anything but godly. Should we be suspicious of people who don't act according to what God tells us we should do?

What to say to young children

As princess and queen, Elsa can order a lot of people around. But she also has to listen to people sometimes, too. Can you think of times when Elsa listens? *These words are based on Proverbs 19:20.*

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movie messages: *Frozen* (2013)

Movie stop 31:10

Elsa's magic has been discovered, and she runs into the wilderness. She sings "Let It Go" and decides she can't go back to Arendelle. She doesn't even want to.

What it is: Self-actualization

Beginning with her father, Elsa was taught to: "Conceal it. Don't feel it." She's always tried to "be the good girl you always have to be." That's all swept away now. And despite leaving her sister and her kingdom behind, she feels a sense of freedom. She can be completely herself without meeting anyone's expectations. While the song is lovely and powerful, take a closer look at the lyrics, especially this line: "No right, no wrong/No rules for me/I'm free!" She's declaring herself free not just from the weighty expectations of her upbringing but also from every other law or responsibility she might've had. The song is beautiful, but it's also exceptionally selfish: The only thing that matters to Elsa in that moment is her own freedom and self-realization.

Read: Philippians 2:4

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

How to talk with tweens and teens

"Let It Go" is a great illustration of the power of music and imagery to impact how we think and feel about a character. We're encouraged to love the fact that Elsa can finally be who she is and do what she wants. But eventually she, and we, must return to some sober facts: She ran away from her job and her family and brought eternal winter to the kingdom she was ordained to protect. Anna's love and, ultimately, her sacrifice for her sister are where the real beauty of the story lies. Love not only brings Elsa's power as queen under control, but it also draws her back to Arendelle as its ruler. And that's fitting because love is the opposite of selfishness. Love is inherently about putting other people ahead of yourself, and Elsa, in returning to her kingdom, does just that. (At least in this movie.)

What to say to young children

Elsa leaves Arendelle because she doesn't want to freeze everything in sight. She doesn't know that she already has. Anna's able to help her, eventually, not by getting angry but by loving her. Do you sometimes get angry? When you do, do you sometimes accidentally hurt people? What should you do when that happens? *These words are based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-5.*

Movie stop 38:47

Kristoff sings a little ditty to Sven in a stable. "Reindeers are better than people," he sings. And Sven, at least in Kristoff's ventriloquism, agrees. "Yeah, people will beat you and curse you and cheat you/Every one of 'em's bad except you."

What it is: Biocentrism

Kristoff is perhaps exaggerating. But taken to extremes, these sentiments feed into biocentrism, a worldview that holds that all life is on an equal moral footing: Humankind is substantially no better or worse—and no more deserving of life and protection—than reindeers or dogs or lobsters.

Read: Genesis 1:26

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' "

How to talk with tweens and teens

God wants us to be good stewards of the earth and everything in it. He wants us to care for His creation. But the Bible also makes it clear that humans are God's greatest creation, and not at all on par with the animals He has given us dominion over. The rock trolls even hint that Kristoff's somewhat equal relationship with Sven is odd (in the song "Fixer Upper"). But whatever Kristoff says, his actions show that he's a good steward—at least of his reindeer. Sven works for Kristoff, but he's fed carrots and treated kindly.

What to say to young children

As Kristoff points out in his song, people are not always very nice. But if reindeers were really better than people, would that mean that Sven would have to earn money like Kristoff and buy his own food? Would Sven be the one fretting about the ice business? God asks us to care for what He has made. Do you have animals in your life? How do you care for them? *These words are based on Genesis 1:29-30.*

Movie stop 44:06

As Anna treks off into the snow alone, without any help from Kristoff, Sven (through Kristoff's ventriloquism) reminds Kristoff that "You won't get your new sled if you're dead."

What it is: Pragmatism

Kristoff grumbles that his experience with Anna has "ruined me from helping anyone ever again." But the lure of a new sled—which Anna promised Kristoff if he helped her—is the carrot that brings the ice merchant back. In that moment, he's not as concerned with doing the right thing as he is about weighing what's in it for him.

Read: James 4:17

"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

How to talk with tweens and teens

Frozen probably isn't suggesting that Kristoff would've left Anna to freeze to death. But Kristoff's reasoning is still interesting, because it reflects human nature: Sometimes we need encouragement to do the right thing. It's right to study hard in school, but some parents try to encourage good behavior by paying their kids for good grades. Some workplaces reward good performance with bonuses. The government encourages charity by giving people tax breaks.

What to say to young children

Sometimes, when we do something because it helps us (like Kristoff does here), it can actually lead to doing the right things for the right reasons. For instance, if Kristoff hadn't continued to help Anna on her adventure, the two never would've become close, and Kristoff wouldn't have rushed into danger to save her. Have you ever done something selfishly at first and then kept doing it for the right reasons? *These words are based on Proverbs 21:3.*

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movie messages: *Frozen* (2013)

Movie stop 1:15:45

Anna—seeking true love's kiss to thaw her frozen heart—is sorely disappointed when Hans cruelly tells her that he doesn't love her. He wanted the kingdom of Arendelle—and he plans to get both Anna and Elsa out of the way to claim it. "I . . . am the hero who's going to save Arendelle from destruction," he says.

What it is: Situational ethics

Hans is no hero. But he doesn't see himself as a villain. He sees himself as someone who must do villainous things to get what he feels is right—in other words, what he wants. Hans reminds us that he's the 13th son in his own kingdom, so he'd have "to marry into the throne somewhere." He wants to marry Anna and kill both her and her sister to claim the throne. But the prince does look like a hero to the rest of the kingdom—and perhaps he even thinks he'd be a pretty good king. He knows that bringing back summer will be a good thing for Arendelle—even if it means killing Elsa to do it.

Read: Matthew 7:12

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

How to talk with tweens and teens

Hans' actions are the culmination of several worldviews we've talked about. Like Elsa in "Let It Go," Hans believes that his own self-actualization is more important than doing what society would say is the right thing. Like Kristoff, Hans embraces pragmatism—reasoning that killing Elsa will benefit both the kingdom and himself. Like the Duke of Weselton, he's clearly materialistic. All of those feed into his villainy. But we don't need to plot the murder of princesses to fall into the trap of situational ethics: We can cheat on tests because we see the "greater good" of passing a class. We can fall prey to peer pressure to preserve our relationships with our friends. When have you seen someone embrace situational ethics? When have you practiced situational ethics yourself?

What to say to young children

Sometimes we can do bad things for what seem like, at the time, good reasons. We might lie, for instance. We can even convince ourselves that it's OK to steal or cheat. But the Bible tells us that God's commandments are meant to be kept, no matter what. *These words are based on Matthew 5:19.*

A Teachable Movie Moment

A supply-and-demand teaching moment Kristoff has an ice-selling business during an ice storm. This could be a good time to help your kids learn more about capitalism, an economic system based on the laws of supply and demand.

Movie stop 37:21

Anna and Kristoff meet in Wandering Oaken's Trading Post and Sauna, where Oaken and Kristoff haggle over the price of mountaineering gear. When Kristoff offers Oaken $10 (or whatever the currency is in Arendelle), Oaken says, "Oh dear, that is no good. See, that is from our winter stock, where supply and demand have a big problem."

"You want to talk about a big supply and demand problem?" Kristoff says. "I sell ice for a living."

What it is: Capitalism

Whereas the communist worldview requires people to share resources equally (at least theoretically), capitalism runs on the idea that people deserve to keep whatever they earn—the fruits of their labor. The engine of capitalism is supply and demand: the lower the supply of something, the higher its demand, so the more expensive it's going to be. Since it's technically summertime in Arendelle, there's a lot of ice to go around. And that leaves Kristoff's ice business high and . . . dry.

Read: Proverbs 31:16-18

"She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night."

How to talk with tweens and teens

Capitalism can be quite compatible with Christianity; many Christians believe that God blesses them with good business so they can turn around and give more of their money away.

What to say to young children

Can you think of some jobs that wouldn't be in demand in the summertime? (Parents, if your kids need suggestions, think of a snow-shoveling business or, like Oaken's business, selling winter coats.) What about summertime businesses that wouldn't work in the winter? Do you think that Oaken should've sold his gear to Kristoff for less? *These words are based on Hebrews 13:16.*

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