

PARENTS GUIDE TO

movie messages: *Incredibles 2*

Seek and find worldviews
while having fun as a family

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®



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Incredibles 2

BY **PLUGGED IN**
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
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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 *Incredibles 2*.

Note: For young children who aren't ready to play this game, you can introduce them to worldview training with a casual mention like, "Natural selection means stronger animals outlive weaker ones."



*__Christianity__ and __Technocentrism__ cards are not a part of this movie's game board. If someone plays the Christianity card and wants additional information, read Galatians 2:20, which beautifully describes what it means to be Christian: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." If anyone plays the Technocentrism card, note that even the bad guy actually warns us about growing too attached to technology. Also read 1 Corinthians 6:12: "'All things are lawful for me,' but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything."

Directions:

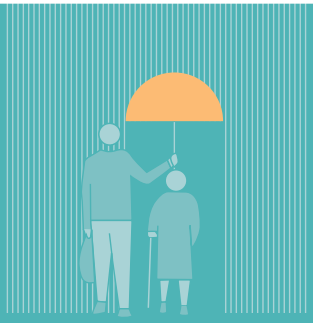
1. Give every player a set of 10 worldview cards.
2. Watch *Incredibles 2* until you reach an incident on the game board. Then pause the movie.
3. Each player chooses a card that matches the worldview identified in the movie and places it facedown. Then players turn over their cards to reveal their answers.*
4. The correct cards are removed from play. The cards deemed incorrect are returned to each player, and the movie continues.
5. This 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 eight cards is the winner.

Be sure to first check out Plugged In's review to see if *Incredibles 2* is right for your family.
FocusOnTheFamily.com/Incredibles2

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ALTRUISM prioritizes the happiness or safety of others above our own.



CAPITALISM is an economic system based on the laws of supply and demand. When demand is high and supply is low, items are usually more expensive.

Directions:

Cut out one set of either color, black-and-white or plain cards (from pages 4-6) for each player.



CHRISTIANITY tells us that our lives and salvation are dependent on God and our belief and faith in His Son, Jesus.



CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE tells us that we have a moral obligation to disobey and resist unjust laws.



TECHNOCENTRISM contends that technology can cure all ills, and our own creativity and creation hold the key to our salvation.



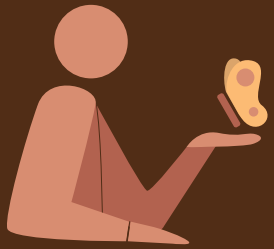
FEMINISM, as a philosophy, pushes against male-centric aspects of society and resists traditional gender roles, advocating for greater female representation.



LEGALISM involves an overly rigid desire to stick to the rules—no matter what the rules are.



THOUGHT REFORM is the theory that a human mind can be controlled against that person's will.



NATURAL SELECTION means survival of the fittest.



NIETZSCHEANISM, the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche, teaches that people's identities are crafted through struggle and not a reliance on God. Nietzsche worried that technology would make people so soft and lazy that they'd never reach their full potential.

MOVIE REVIEWS

For a review of *Incredibles 2* and other titles, visit **PluggedIn.com**, Focus on the Family's media review and discernment website. You can also text REVIEW to 32728 to get movie reviews sent to your phone.

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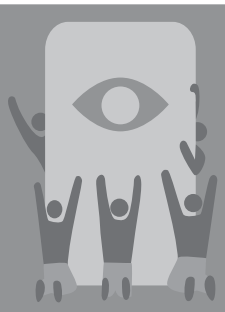
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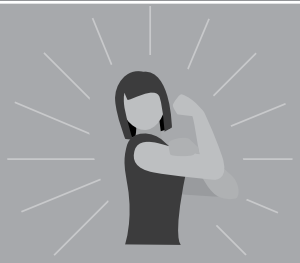
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movie messages: *Incredibles 2*

Movie stop 12:40

After getting in trouble for saving the city from destruction, Helen and Bob argue about whether they should've used their superpowers. Helen concludes by saying that "superheroes are illegal. Whether it's fair or not, it's the law."

What it is: Legalism

Bob and Helen's argument highlights a tricky issue. Without laws, society would break down into chaos and lawlessness. But if we blindly follow the rules no matter what they tell us to do, we can end up promoting injustice. Sometimes we're so focused on obeying human laws that we don't realize we're breaking God's law, a bigger, more important law. "The law should be *fair*," Bob says. "What are we teaching our kids?"

Read: Romans 13:10

"Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

We should always try to follow the laws of our land. Romans 13 is all about how important it is to obey the laws established by "governing authorities." But the Bible also tells us that sometimes we must follow God's higher law. It was against the law for Esther to approach the king (Esther 4:16), but she did so to save her people. Daniel broke the law of Babylon when he refused to sin against the Lord and pray to the king (Daniel 6). And Jesus showed that the Jewish laws of the day could be bent or broken in obedience to God's moral law.

What to say to young children:

Rules should be for our protection. And we should follow rules that are for our good. Of course, discernment versus ignorant obedience is important. Think about how that applies to the rules your mom and dad make: When they tell you not to run off without them or to eat your veggies before dessert, they do it because they believe it's best for you—and they're usually right. *These words are based on Colossians 3:20.*

Movie stop 19:06

Winston tells three frustrated would-be superheroes that his business, Devtech, is "perfectly positioned to make some wrong things right."

What it is: Capitalism

Winston believes that the government is the source of those "wrong things," especially its ban of superheroes. The solution? His business, his money and his influence. Capitalism, the economic system he is using, encourages new businesses to meet needs and gaps. But Winston also mentions that his wealthy father donated to "superhero causes." He knows that his own PR company can help shape public opinion. And thanks to his creative sister, Evelyn, Devtech can provide the gadgets to help its star superhero, Elastigirl, succeed.

Read: Acts 20:35

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

How to talk to tweens and teens:

The Bible doesn't have a problem with money; the key issue is the *love* of money (1 Timothy 6:10). Most churches and charities do a lot of good in the world thanks to generous givers, many of whom are wealthy. Certainly, the world has its share of greedy tycoons, but if we use money wisely and give it freely, it can be a powerful force for good.

What to say to young children:

Winston may be rich, but he's not lazy. Hard work and money often go hand in hand. For example, your parents might pay you to do additional chores around the house. God designed us to work hard and enjoy the rewards that come from doing our very best. You might be rewarded with money, a fun treat or a simple thank-you. But an even better reward is knowing you've helped someone and put a smile on your heavenly Father's face! *These words are based on Proverbs 14:23.*

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movie messages: *Incredibles 2*

Movie stop 22:58

Helen accepts Winston's job offer to help change public opinion about superheroes by doing some old-fashioned "heroing." "You know it's crazy, right?" she says. "To help my family, I gotta leave it; to fix the law, I gotta break it."

What it is: Civil disobedience

When Helen says that she needs to break the law to fix it, she's practically defining the concept of civil disobedience. As we said earlier about legalism, this can be tricky stuff to wade through. The apostle Paul tells us we need to be "subject to the governing authorities" (Romans 13:1). But remember, Paul was ultimately executed by the governing authorities because he broke the laws of Rome. He engaged in civil disobedience because he knew that God was calling him to preach and teach about Jesus. Paul understood that obeying God would require breaking Roman law, but he was willing to submit to authority and accept the consequences.

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 to tweens and teens:

The great fifth-century theologian Augustine taught that an unjust law is no law at all. Christians throughout history have been willing to engage in civil disobedience—following God's higher law, even if it meant accepting the punishment of man. German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was part of a plot to bring an end to Adolf Hitler's evil reign—and he was executed for it. Martin Luther King Jr. engaged in civil disobedience to combat racism in the United States—breaking the law to fix it—and he went to jail 29 times. God's law is higher than human rules, but following His law often comes with a cost.

What to say to young children:

Helen says that she has to break the law to fix it. But when you're a kid, that's usually not a good idea. What can you do to fix a rule that you think is unfair? A good first step is to talk with your parents about it. Ask them to help you understand the reason for the rule. Then if you still think it's unfair, calmly explain why you think the rule should be changed. Remember, good parents don't come up with rules just to make you sad or mad. They make rules because they're looking out for you—even if it doesn't always feel that way. *These words are based on 1 Peter 2:14.*

Movie stop 34:30

As Elastigirl tries to stop a runaway monorail train, she discovers that the driver is in a kind of trance.

What it is: Thought reform

This is the first time we see Screenslaver controlling people's thoughts and actions. While Hollywood tends to exaggerate the power of mind control, we should be aware of the many influences in our lives that try to manipulate us and change our way of thinking.

Read: 2 Timothy 1:7

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Incredibles 2 relies on an unrealistic version of thought reform as a storytelling tool. When Bob and Helen become controlled by Screenslaver, their children step up and save the day, which is pretty neat. But in real life, no one can make us do things we don't want to do. The Devil tempts us, and there will always be people who try to lead us astray, but the decisions we make are our own and no one else's.

What to say to young children:

Have you ever blamed a bad decision on someone else? Like saying that your brother or sister "made" you do something wrong? Or have you ever insisted that you just had to eat that cookie, even though you were told not to? Remember, God gives you the power to make your own choices, and He can help you do what's right. *These words are based on 1 Corinthians 10:13.*

Continued on the next page.



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⏸ movie messages: *Incredibles 2*

Movie stop 53:00

Helen and Evelyn are talking about the challenges they face. When Evelyn suggests that women have special challenges, Helen says, "You mean, 'It's a man's world' and all that?"

What it is: Feminism

A feminist thread runs throughout the movie, but this conversation is probably the most obvious reference to it. Feminists oppose male dominance in society, as well as traditional male and female roles. In Bob and Helen's marriage, for example, we see them flipping traditional household roles: Helen goes to "work" as a superhero while Bob tries to keep everything together at home.

Read: Galatians 3:28

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

There's nothing wrong with Helen's career as a superhero. In fact, Winston says that Helen's Elastigirl is probably a better pick at this point (because Bob's superhero alter ego, Mr. Incredible, tends to destroy everything, and that doesn't look as good on TV.) Girls and women can engage in rewarding and important careers. But we shouldn't lose sight of another key message in the film: *Helen loves being a mother*—and she's great at it. "Done properly, parenting is a heroic act," costume designer Edna tells Bob, and she's right. Some feminists would say that women shouldn't embrace the role of a traditional wife and mother. But when it comes to real influence—and doing real good—there's no more important job in the world than motherhood.

What to say to young children:

What do you want to be when you grow up? Would you like to be a top athlete? A movie star? An astronaut? Do you want to be a parent? Remember, you can do more than one thing. And whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability. Because doing your best honors God. *These words are based on 1 Peter 4:10.*

Movie stop 57:24

As Elastigirl closes in on who she thinks is behind it all, Screenslaver makes a speech that explains: People are replacing "true experience" with "simulation." And where do they seek that simulation? On screens, which allow people to remain "ever-passive, ever-ravenous consumers who cannot bring themselves to rise from their couches."

What it is: Nietzscheanism

Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche had opinions about a lot of things. (He's probably most famous for claiming that "God is dead.") Many of his views were flawed, but he did have an idea that's worth discussing: He believed that people need to engage fully in life to reach their true potential. (This is true, but not aside from God's direction.) He once wrote that "he who lives as children live—who does not struggle for his bread and does not believe that his actions possess any ultimate significance—remains childlike." Nietzsche lived in an age that was increasingly saturated in its own forms of technology. And while he recognized how helpful technology could be, he also thought it could make life so easy and entertaining that it would keep people from reaching their full potential.

Read: Proverbs 12:24

"The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Screenslaver is certainly the bad guy in *Incredibles 2*. Nietzsche was wrong about a lot of things too. But he and Screenslaver were partially right about one thing: We love our screens a little too much. The downside of technology is that we can miss out on experiencing real life and reaching the full potential God wants for us. Did you know that kids spend an average of seven hours on screens every day? That's almost 50 hours a week! How much time do you spend on screens during an average day? Could you be doing something better or more important with your time?

What to say to young children:

How much time do you spend on screens, such as TV or video games? While screens can't actually hypnotize you, sometimes kids who spend a lot of time on them can look a bit like Screenslaver's victims. And no one wants to look like that! Screens can be fun, but real life is way more exciting. What God has planned for you is so much better than what you'll find on a screen! *These words are based on Philippians 4:8.*

Continued on the next page.

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movie messages: *Incredibles 2*

Movie stop 1:34:08

Under the hypnotic control of Screenslaver, Elastigirl, Mr. Incredible and Frozone make an ominous speech to those aboard Winston's yacht. "We no longer serve you," Frozone says. "We serve only us. May the fittest survive."

What it is: Natural selection

Frozone's "may the fittest survive" statement echoes *survival of the fittest*, often associated with Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and natural selection. Darwin alleged that the strongest species (or the strongest members of a species) will survive and thrive, while the weaker ones will not. Frozone's hypnosis-induced statement is particularly chilling, since the superpowers that he and the other superheroes possess leave regular humans at a distinct disadvantage.

Read: John 1:3

"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Incredibles 2 doesn't tell us how the superheroes got their superpowers. Was it evolution? God's gift to them? Maybe both? The movie doesn't go there. But if our heroes really did embrace the theory of natural selection and all its ramifications, it could be a pretty scary philosophy indeed. Frozone and his superpowered pals seem to be saying that nonpowered humans are *inferior* to them. And that's counter to what the Bible teaches us about God creating all of us in His image (Genesis 1:27).

What to say to young children:

Sometimes, even people without superpowers can try to make you think they're better than you. But that's not true: God gave them gifts, but He gave you gifts too. You're precious in His eyes—just as precious as anyone else. *These words are based on Psalm 139:14.*

Movie stop 1:41:05

Evelyn—revealed as the actual Screenslaver—tells Helen that "if it weren't for your core beliefs, I think we could've been good friends." Helen looks at her and says, "At least I have core beliefs."

What it is: Altruism

The movie doesn't specify what Helen's core beliefs are. But as we watch what she does in the film, we get a clear idea that her guiding belief is *altruism*. Helen genuinely cares for people and puts their interests above her own. She's also a conscientious wife and mom. And in her superhero guise as Elastigirl, she works to save lives—even when it puts her own life at risk. She even saves Evelyn. "The fact that you saved me doesn't make you right," Evelyn tells Helen.

"But it does make you alive," Helen replies.

Read: Philippians 2:3-4

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Saving Evelyn's life was an act of altruism that reflects Helen's core beliefs. It's a rejection of the "survival of the fittest" notion that Frozone mentioned. For Helen, sacrificing for others sums up what she's all about. And when you think about it, that's what makes someone a hero—whether or not that hero has superpowers. As you ponder Helen's core belief of altriusm, does it make you want to live that way too? How can you help the people around you? How can you sacrifice for them?

What to say to young children:

Helen isn't a hero because she can stretch really far. Bob isn't a hero because he's really strong. Their superpowers are helpful, sure. But they're heroes because they give so much of themselves to help the people around them. Have you ever given up something you wanted in order to help someone else? What did you do? *These words are based on Galatians 6:2.*



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