

PARENTS GUIDE TO

movie messages: *The Princess and the Frog*

Seek and find worldviews
while having fun as a family

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®



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The Princess and the Frog

BY **PLUGGED IN**
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
TERESA ALBERINI

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 *The Princess and the Frog*.

Note: For young children who aren't ready to play this game, you can introduce them to worldview training with a casual mention like, "Narcissism means you think you're more important than everyone else."

Check out Plugged In's review of *The Princess and the Frog* to make sure it's right for your family.
FocusOnTheFamily.com/PrincessAndFrog



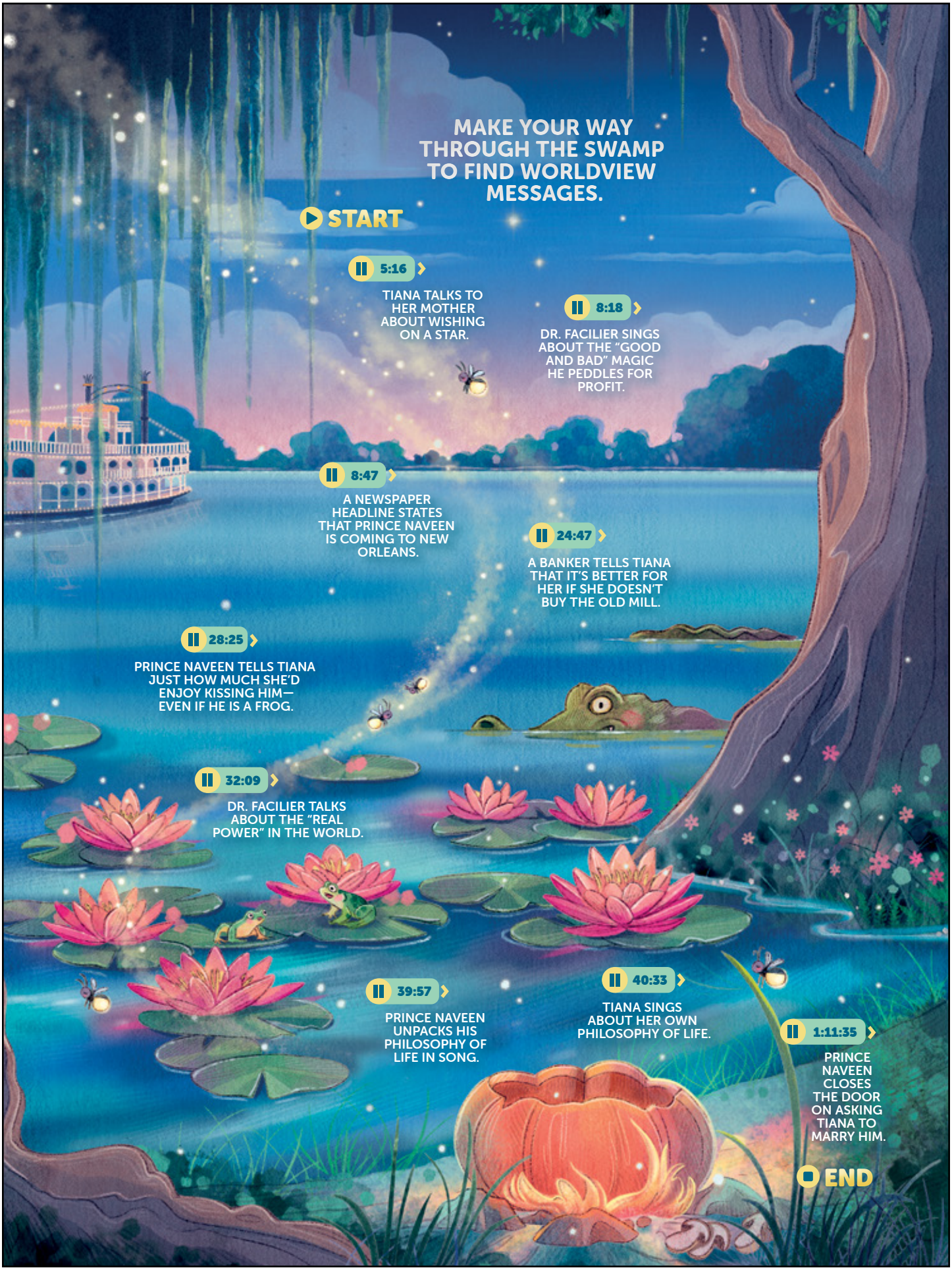


Directions:

1. Give every player a set of 10 worldview cards.
2. Watch *The Princess and the Frog* 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 nine cards is the winner.

*The **Determinism** card is not a part of this movie's game board. If someone plays the Determinism card and wants additional information, read Deuteronomy 30:19-20, which confirms that our choices impact the direction of our lives: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

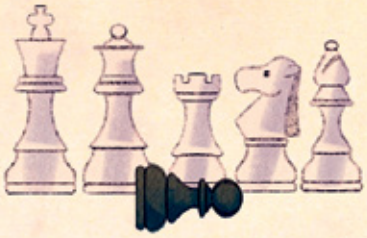
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ALTRUISM prioritizes the happiness or safety of others above our own.



BIGOTRY alleges race superiority through an intolerant attitude and hostile actions based on race, class or social status.

Directions:

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



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.



DETERMINISM is a belief that our biology and backgrounds, not our choices, determine who we ultimately become.



NARCISSISM is a sense that our own needs, wants and whims are far more important than those of other people.



HEDONISM asserts that pleasure is our ultimate goal, and we should do whatever makes us happy.



MAGICAL THINKING is the false belief that our thoughts, desires and wishes have powers that impact the world around us.



OCCULTISM includes asking unseen forces about the future or supernatural events or "knowledge" that is hidden or paranormal.



MERITOCRACY is the belief that one's ability and hard work lead to success, not unearned privileges.



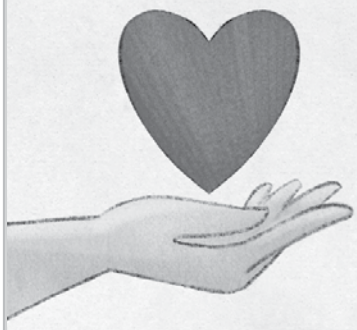
MONARCHISM is a government ruled by a king or queen, who may claim a divine right or authority to rule.

MOVIE REVIEWS

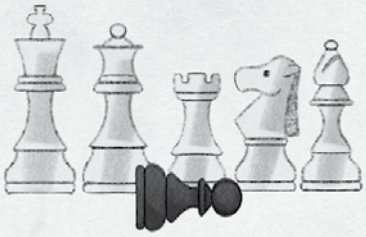
For a review of *The Princess and the Frog* and other titles, visit **PluggedIn.com**, Focus on the Family's media review and discernment website. You can also text REVIEW to 32728 to get movie reviews sent to your phone.

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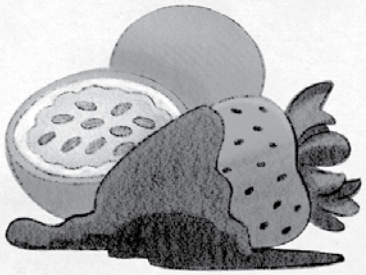
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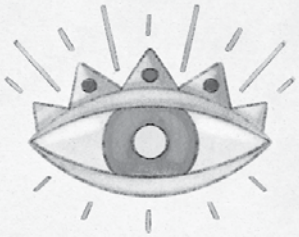
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REVIEWS

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movie messages: *The Princess and the Frog*

Movie stop 5:16

As a little girl, Tiana tells her mother what her friend Charlotte believes: "If you make a wish on the evening star, it's sure to come true." Tiana's mom replies that wishing is fine, but it'll only take her "part of the way."

What it is: Magical Thinking

Actually, wishing on a star does no good at all—but you wouldn't know it from *The Princess and the Frog*. An evening star becomes increasingly important in the story. Ray, the lightning bug, falls in love with the star, calling it Evangeline. He's convinced that "Evangeline" is a firefly and even serenades her. Others talk to the star as if they're praying.

Read: 1 Timothy 4:7

"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

From wishing on a star to reading a fortune cookie or wearing a lucky sweatshirt during a game, we can be tempted to believe that superstitions will make a difference in our lives. But the truth is, they have no bearing on what happens. If you want your wishes to come true or want to see changes in your life, pray about it first and then get to work. As Tiana's mom says, "You got to help it along with some hard work of your own."

What to say to young children:

Do you ever wish on a star? Some people do. But remember that even if you feel these things will make something happen that you're hoping for, they really don't. Instead of wishing on a star, talk to God about your hopes and dreams. He always hears your prayers and works things out for our good. *These words are based on Romans 8:28.*

Movie stop 8:18

Dr. Facilier, the movie's main villain, gets his first snippet of screen time as he sings about having "magic, good and bad" and tells a man's fortune using tarot cards.

What it is: Occultism

Occult themes are everywhere in *The Princess and the Frog*. Those elements are predominantly expressed in the voodoo religion. You could play this Occultism card at a dozen different junctures in the movie, but this is the first real mention of occult magic. We see voodoo dolls, spiritual shades that attack the living, magical amulets powered by blood and, of course, the dark forces Dr. Facilier calls on. But Mama Odie, a "voodoo queen" who claims to be 179 years old, regrettably gives the occult a more positive spin in the story.

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 to tweens and teens:

Dr. Facilier's name comes from the French word *facile*, which means "easy." His magic promises an easy way to gain wealth and power, but it also takes on an unquestionably dark tint. To the movie's credit, we see the cost of dabbling in that darkness at the end. Unfortunately, *The Princess and the Frog* doesn't knock Mama Odie's equally problematic form of voodoo. (Though if you watch the movie closely, she offers a lot more advice than magic.) The Bible makes it clear that God looks down on both kinds of magic.

What to say to young children:

Dr. Facilier talks about his "friends on the other side." Are they actually his friends? The only way to make true friends is by showing kindness and love to others, not by using magic or secret powers. What could you do to show you're interested in becoming someone's friend? *These words are based on Isaiah 8:19.*

Movie stop 8:47

A headline reads, "Prince Naveen comes to the Crescent City," and we see a picture of the charming noble.

What it is: Monarchism

Kings and queens, as well as princes and princesses, have been part of world history for thousands of years. A monarchy is typically based on the idea that God selected a certain family with a royal bloodline to reign over the inhabitants of a country. We don't know exactly how powerful Prince Naveen's family is, but the fact that he's a prince impacts how people see him. That's especially true of Tiana's friend Charlotte, who has wanted to marry a prince since she was a little girl.

Read: 1 Samuel 8:6-7

"But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.' And Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, 'Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.' "

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Like all of us nonroyal people, kings and princes can be either good or bad. The mistake some people make is believing that any noble or ruler is inherently better than everyone else. It seems that Charlotte has fallen into this trap. She's willing to do practically anything to marry a prince. Maybe she thinks that being a princess will make her better than others somehow. Whether you become a prince or princess someday, the important thing to remember is that your self-worth comes from God, not from money or an important title or anything else.

What to say to young children:

Have you ever pretended to be a prince or princess? What's fun about acting like royalty? Charlotte wants to be a princess so badly that she'll do anything to make her dream come true. But Tiana doesn't care about being a princess—even though she becomes one in the end. Who do you think has the best attitude about being a princess? Why do you think so? *These words are based on Psalm 139:13-14.*

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movie messages: *The Princess and the Frog*

Movie stop 24:47

During Charlotte's elaborate party, a pair of bankers inform Tiana that she's been outbid for the property she's been saving most of her life to buy. They insist it's for the best. "A little woman of *your background* would have had her hands full trying to run a big business like that," one banker adds with condescension.

What it is: Bigotry

Bigotry is an attitude that can become a worldview, whether it's rooted in racism or caste systems or simply favoring one economic class over another. In the movie, one of the bankers points to Tiana's working-class background rather than her race as the reason she wouldn't be able to run a business. But racism is undoubtedly a factor as well, since it was a strong force in New Orleans in the 1920s and 1930s. Regardless, the bigoted banker clearly thinks that Tiana wouldn't know what to do with a restaurant if she owned one. "You're better off where you're at," he concludes.

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:

Looking down on people or disrespecting them because of their race or economic class or for any other reason has no place in Christianity. Being different or having a different background like Tiana's doesn't make someone inferior or less capable of succeeding. The Bible cautions against making snap judgments about people because of how they look or where they live or whether they're wealthy or poor. God looks beneath the surface to people's hearts, and that's what He wants us to do. Have you ever looked down on another person because he or she is different from you? How do you think God would want you to treat that person?

What to say to young children:

Have you ever been made fun of because of the way you look or what your parents do for a living? How did that make you feel? Have you ever made fun of someone else for the same reasons? How do you think that person felt? The way people look and what they have aren't important to God, and they shouldn't be important to us. God looks past these things to people's hearts. He wants us to treat people with kindness and respect, no matter how different they are from us. *These words are based on 1 Samuel 16:7.*

Movie stop 28:25

Prince Naveen has been turned into a frog, but he seems to think he's still impossible to resist. "You must kiss me," he says to Tiana. "You will enjoy it. I guarantee. All women enjoy the kiss of Prince Naveen."

What it is: Narcissism

People often think that princes are better than everyone else (as we saw earlier), and princes may think this way as well. Even as a frog, Prince Naveen thinks he's quite the catch as he proudly tells Tiana about his great looks and his "fabulously wealthy family." We all have moments when we think better of ourselves than we should, but some people—like Prince Naveen—take bragging to the level of self-worship.

Read: 1 Peter 5:5

"Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' "

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Prince Naveen's conceited self-regard is played for laughs in *The Princess and the Frog*. But in real life, pride is nothing to laugh at. Some people think that pride is one of the biggest sins because it can lead to so many others. When we think too much of ourselves, we forget how dependent we are on God for everything—including all the stuff we like about ourselves. But when we remember that God is the source of all we have and all we are, it's much easier to be humble. Keep that in mind and you won't easily fall into the pride trap!

What to say to young children:

What do you do best? What makes your parents proud of you? There's nothing wrong with knowing what you're good at. You don't have to lie about what you do well just to be humble. Being humble just means you give credit to God, who gave you all these gifts. *These words are based on Proverbs 11:2.*

Continued on the next page.



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movie messages: *The Princess and the Frog*

Movie stop 32:09

We already know that Dr. Facilier sells his voodoo magic as a quick way for people to get what they want. But he also tells Lawrence, Prince Naveen's valet, that "the real power in this world ain't magic. It's money."

What it is: Capitalism

Money is powerful. It always has been. And like all capitalists, Dr. Facilier is keeping his eye on the laws of supply and demand. His main client, Lawrence, wants the power and prestige of his boss, Prince Naveen. And Dr. Facilier promises he can supply it all—for a steep price. Meanwhile, Dr. Facilier has his own desires for wealth and power, and he's willing to risk an even higher cost for it: his own soul. Dr. Facilier—true to the meaning of his name—wants money the easy way. But it comes with an incalculable cost.

Read: Hebrews 13:5

"Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Money isn't the problem. "Big Daddy," Charlotte's father, has clearly made a lot of money and seems perfectly fine. Rather, the problem is the love of money—or, more appropriately, the *desire* for it. Envy motivates Dr. Facilier and Lawrence—they want what other people have. But the Bible warns us about "the uncertainty of riches" (1 Timothy 6:17) and encourages us to trust in God instead. Clearly, Lawrence and Dr. Facilier have ignored that warning. Understanding that our money belongs to God can help us use it wisely and avoid desiring it for selfish purposes. How do you think God wants you to use your money?

What to say to young children:

It's OK to have money and make money. But don't be like Lawrence, who wanted it so badly that he was willing to lie and steal and hurt other people to get it. When it comes right down to it, money and the stuff you can buy with it don't last very long at all. Only the love and grace of God last forever! What are some good things you can do with money? *These words are based on Luke 12:15.*

Movie stop 39:57

As Prince Naveen, Tiana and Louis the Alligator travel to visit Mama Odie, Prince Naveen sings about his philosophy of life. "Life is short. When you're done, you're done! We're on this earth to have some fun."

What it is: Hedonism

People who doubt God, don't believe in an afterlife or don't have an overarching sense of morality often wonder, *What's the point of being good at all?* Prince Naveen's philosophy is, "We're on this earth to have some fun." That's the mission statement of most hedonists. Some people think that hedonists sin a lot because there's no punishment if they do. But most hedonists just want to have a good time. Prince Naveen's love of music and fun isn't bad—but it did get him into some trouble when his family cut him off until he learned to pair his love of fun with a sense of responsibility.

Read: Romans 12:2

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

There's nothing wrong with enjoying life—within limits. Obviously, "enjoying" sin isn't what God has in mind for us. Even if there's nothing inherently wrong with doing what you love to do—like Prince Naveen's love of listening to jazz music—it can be wrong if it distracts you from God or your responsibilities. It's interesting that a lot of *The Princess and the Frog* takes place right before Lent, when many Christians give up things—even good things—that might distract them from focusing on God. What are some good things in your life that might distract you from more important things?

What to say to young children:

What kinds of things do you enjoy doing? God created this world for all of us to enjoy. But He also created us to learn and work and help others. Most important, He created us for a relationship with Him, and He never wants fun to get in the way of that. Whenever you're doing the things you love, remember that Jesus has given us everything to enjoy and thank Him for it all. *These words are based on 1 Corinthians 10:31.*

Continued on the next page.

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movie messages: *The Princess and the Frog*

Movie stop 40:33

After Prince Naveen sings about his own philosophy of life, Tiana has her turn. "If you do your best each and every day, good things are sure to come your way," she sings.

What it is: Meritocracy

Tiana's worldview is practically the opposite of Prince Naveen's. She believes in work, and she has toiled incredibly hard to give herself a chance to start a restaurant. We should applaud Tiana's work ethic and recognize that hard work often does pay off. But, like hedonism, work can also distract us from how God wants us to live and relate to Him.

A work ethic like Tiana's, while admirable, can become an idol if we're not careful.

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:13

"Everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man."

How to talk to tweens and teens:

Teens and tweens are dealing with a lot of pressure—pressure to get good grades, to keep up with their extracurriculars, to please Mom and Dad, to be there for friends. Do you wonder at times how you can possibly keep doing it all? If you're more like Tiana and less like Prince Naveen, remember that "doing it all" isn't necessarily something that God wants you to do. It's great to work hard to reach your goals. But don't let work come between you and God or keep you from enjoying His gifts.

What to say to young children:

Tiana is a great worker. But people who work hard sometimes forget to have fun. Do you ever feel like you work too hard? Do you sometimes think your parents work too hard? Do you and your family take time to have fun together? What does that look like? Do you have fun working together too? *These words are based on Proverbs 17:22.*

Movie stop 1:11:35

Prince Naveen is about to propose to Tiana. But Tiana—not knowing what Prince Naveen is up to—starts talking about how opening a restaurant would fulfill not only her own dream but the dream of her father as well. Prince Naveen believes that the only way he can help Tiana live out her dream is by sacrificing his own happiness—and marrying Charlotte instead. "I promise I will do whatever it takes to make it come true," he tells Tiana.

What it is: Altruism

While we often see people in movies sacrifice their lives for someone else, Prince Naveen decides to sacrifice his life in a different way: Instead of dying for Tiana, he wants to live for her—even if it means marrying someone else. This is a peculiar example of altruism.

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:

Prince Naveen started off as conceited and materialistic, caring only about himself and having fun. Over the course of an eventful day or two, he learned to think about and love someone beside himself. That's a good lesson for us. We don't need to make the kind of sacrifice Prince Naveen was willing to make for Tiana, of course. But the Bible tells us to look out for the interests of others (Philippians 2:4). We can do this in big or small ways. Whatever you do, remember that a simple act of kindness or a word of encouragement can mean just as much as a big sacrifice. What are some small sacrifices you can make for others today?

What to say to young children:

Prince Naveen learned how to think and care about someone else. It's important for us to learn how to do that too. How do you show that you care about other people? Do you pitch in when someone in your family needs help? Do you tell your family and friends how much you appreciate them? Think about some ways you can make other people's lives a little better or easier. *These words are based on Galatians 6:2.*



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