



PARENTS GUIDE TO

# movie messages: *Chicken Run*

Seek and find worldviews  
while having fun as a family



# Chicken Run

BY **PLUGGED IN**  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
**ANDY ELKERTON**

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 *Chicken Run*.

Note: For young children who aren't ready to play this game, you can introduce them to worldview training with a casual mention like, "That's fatalism, believing there's no point in even trying because it's thought that the future is already decided." Then go on to explain why, as Christians, we believe differently.



Be sure to first check out Plugged In's review to see if *Chicken Run* is right for your family.

[FocusOnTheFamily.com/ChickenRun](https://FocusOnTheFamily.com/ChickenRun)

**GAME  
BOARD**  
page 3

## Directions:

1. Give every player a set of 10 worldview cards.
2. Watch *Chicken Run* 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 seven cards is the winner.

**CARDS**  
pages 4-6

**TIME STAMPS**  
pages 7-9

\*The **Feminism**, **New Age Spirituality** and **Pragmatism** cards are not a part of this movie's game board. If someone plays the Feminism card and wants additional information, 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." If someone plays the New Age Spirituality card and wants additional information, read John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" If someone plays the Pragmatism card and wants additional information, read James 4:17: "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."









**AUTHORITARIANISM** requires strict obedience to an authority—often a single person—at the expense of individual freedom.



**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.



**COLLECTIVISM** is a system where the needs of the group are considered more important than the needs of an individual.



**FASCISM** is a political ideology that often centers on a dictator; individual rights are less important than the strength of the state.



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



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



**NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY** borrows heavily from Eastern spirituality, plucking elements from Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions without belonging to any of them.



**TECHNOCENTRISM** contends that technology can cure all ills, and inventions hold the key to our salvation.



**INDIVIDUALISM** emphasizes self-sufficiency; people strive for goals and hold opinions without regard for the pressures or concerns of others



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

## MOVIE REVIEWS

For a review of *Chicken Run* and other titles, visit [PluggedIn.com](http://PluggedIn.com), Focus on the Family's media review and discernment website.

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REVIEWS





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## II movie messages: *Chicken Run*

### Movie stop 4:40

Mr. Tweedy collects eggs from the chickens.

#### What it is: Fascism

The Tweedy farm takes its inspiration from an old movie called *The Great Escape*, where American and British soldiers try to escape from a German prisoner-of-war camp during World War II. The German government at the time was fascist, and everything about the Tweedys' encampment echoes that sort of system. You could play this card during lots of scenes early in the movie, but here's where we see the economic dynamics most clearly. The Tweedys force the chickens to work for

the good of the "state" (that is, the state of the Tweedys) while getting very little in return. And when the chickens are no longer useful, they get the axe—literally.

#### 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:

Obviously, most real farms operate a little like the one in *Chicken Run*. But the big difference

is that, in the movie, the chickens are shown as being just as smart and sensitive as the folks they slave for. While the chickens care for one another, the Tweedys care only for themselves. Probably none of us have ever suffered under a real fascist system, but we sometimes deal with selfishness of the heart.

#### What to say to younger children:

The Tweedys take a lot from the chickens, even in the beginning, and they don't give much back to them. The Bible tells us to give freely to people. And when people give to us, to be fair and mindful about what they've given. *These words are based on Proverbs 3:27.*

### Movie stop 13:07

Mrs. Tweedy looks at the farm's egg production and grumbles, "I'm sick and tired of making miniscule profits."

#### What it is: Capitalism

Capitalism isn't bad, in and of itself. But it can feed into a big sin: greed. Mrs. Tweedy isn't satisfied with what she has and what she and her husband are earning. She wants more. And while some capitalists want to earn more so they can give more, Mrs. Tweedy just wants it all for herself.

#### Read: 1 Timothy 6:10

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

#### How to talk to tweens and teens:

Mrs. Tweedy is looking, obviously, to her own interests. Mr. Tweedy barely even enters the picture, and she doesn't care about killing her chickens to get her cash. But that's not the sort of attitude that God calls us to embrace. It's fine to make money, the Bible tells us.

But we should always be mindful *why* we're earning that money. God calls us to always think about others before we think about ourselves—and our stewardship of what we have and what we earn is a part of that.

#### What to say to younger children:

How do you make money—through extra chores, yard work or some other way? When do you most feel you need more money? How do you think God would like you to use the money you have? *These words are based on Luke 12:15.*

### Movie stop 17:00

The chickens are tired of Ginger's failed escape plans. So Ginger gives a speech outlining what they're trying to escape to. "There's a better place out there somewhere beyond that hill," Ginger says, with "wide-open spaces and lots of trees." And when someone asks who'll feed them, Ginger says, "We feed *ourselves*."

#### What it is: Collectivism

The sort of chicken utopia that Ginger is painting could take a lot of different political forms (or, as much as chickens can develop political systems). The phrase "feed ourselves" could be very much a part of a capitalist society. It could be a form of communism too. But

there's no question that Ginger expects that their little group will work *together*—both inside the Tweedy farm and outside, if they ever get there. For a long time, Ginger and her fellow hens have given eggs to those who needed them. And Ginger's determined that they *all* escape. One or two just isn't enough for her.

#### Read: Galatians 6:2

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

#### How to talk to tweens and teens:

Caring for one another stands at the heart of our Christian beliefs. Jesus himself tells us that we should first love God with everything

we have—but that we should also love each other. We, like the Tweedys, can sometimes get wrapped up in our own needs and wants, and we can forget about the people around us. Ginger is always thinking about others throughout this movie. And as such, she makes a pretty good role model.

#### What to say to younger children:

We all need to take care of each other sometimes. Whether you have younger brothers and sisters who might need your help or friends who could use your support sometimes, it's really good to do what you can. God asks us to do just that. *These words are based on John 13:35.*

## II movie messages: *Chicken Run*

### Movie stop 22:11

Rocky says to the admiring chickens all around him, “Yep, just give me a pack on my back and point me where the wind blows.”

#### What it is: Individualism

Rocky’s showing off a little, presenting himself as a free spirit unfettered by fences and egg-based deadlines. He wants to roam the world and be answerable only to himself.

#### Read: 1 Corinthians 12:14

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

### How to talk to tweens and teens:

Rocky’s individualistic philosophy is worlds apart from Ginger’s sense of collectivism. He doesn’t much care for the hens at first, and he only helps them as part of a bargain that’ll help him. He even shows quite a bit of callousness to the chickens’ life-or-death plight. “It’s a cruel world, dollface,” he tells Ginger. “You might as well get used to it.” But when he leaves the coop, Rocky realizes that it’s unfulfilling to live only for himself. It’s a good lesson for all of us. It can be hard to live in community, be it in a family or a group of friends or anything else that other people are a part of.

But in the end, those communities foster happiness and fulfillment far more than being a “Lone Free Ranger” does.

### What to say to younger children:

Rocky doesn’t want to be a part of Ginger’s group of chickens at first. He doesn’t want the rules and responsibilities. But God says that we should be part of groups, and you’re a part of a lot of really important groups: your family, friends, and school or sports teams. When isn’t it easy to be a part of these groups? How might it get even tougher? Why might being in a group be worthwhile? *These words are based on Hebrews 10:24-25.*

### Movie stop 27:40

Rocky begins to train the chickens to fly. “Now the most important thing is we have to work together as a team,” Rocky tells them, “which means you do everything I tell you.”

#### What it is: Authoritarianism

We can find authoritarianism in a lot of different places. Fascist governments, for example, are authoritarian. But authoritarianism might also be found on sports teams and in classrooms and even in families. (You certainly don’t *vote* if you’re going to go to school, do you?) Often we need to listen to someone in authority because that authority knows

what he or she is doing. But that last point is important: The authority needs to know what he or she is doing, and Rocky clearly does not.

#### Read: Matthew 20:26

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant.”

### How to talk to tweens and teens:

The Bible tells us to submit to God-given authority, be it our parents or our government. But Rocky’s authority is really given to him by the chickens themselves: They agree to do what he tells them to because they believe he’ll teach them to fly. Rocky doesn’t act like

a servant; he acts like their boss, even though he knows full well that he can’t teach them to fly. But sometimes maybe even faulty authorities have their place: Those chickens did learn to work as a team with Rocky’s help, and they did exercise their muscles a lot. And they needed both that exercise and that teamwork if they ever have a chance of taking flight.

### What to say to younger children:

Rocky isn’t a very good authority. But God set authorities over you—such as your parents—to do what is right by you. What are the names of some people who are in authority over you? How do you obey those in authority over you? *These words are based on Hebrews 13:17.*

*Continued on the next page.*



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## II movie messages: *Chicken Run*

### Movie stop 33:50

The Tweedys unbox their huge pie-making machine. “This will take Tweedy’s farm out of the Dark Ages and into full-scale automated production,” Mrs. Tweedy says.

#### What it is: Technocentrism

Mrs. Tweedy believes that her pie-making machine will solve her problems, turning the farm into a huge money-making enterprise. That’s a hallmark of technocentrism, a false ideology that can be pretty tempting.

**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.”

#### How to talk to tweens and teens:

Mrs. Tweedy puts her faith in her pie-making machine. Some of us put our faith in the power of the internet or the promise of artificial intelligence. Society often says that our own inventions might make us exponentially happier or smarter or better. But while all our inventions can do some remarkable things,

they never solve the underlying problems we all have, or the hurts we experience.

#### What to say to younger children:

Mrs. Tweedy thinks her pie-making machine will cure all her problems. But what happens the first time she uses it? It breaks down. Some of the inventions we make for ourselves are pretty amazing—but we shouldn’t put our faith in them, like Mrs. Tweedy does. We should only put our faith in God. *These words are based on Psalm 20:7.*

### Movie stop 1:00:50

Rocky is gone, and it seems as though all the chickens’ hopes are dashed. “The only way out of here is wrapped in pastry,” says Ginger’s friend Bunty.

#### What it is: Fatalism

Bunty has always been the coop’s voice of no-nonsense cynicism. But here, she slips into a darker place that’s of no help to anyone. She believes, momentarily, that they are all doomed, and that it’s no use even trying. And had the rest of the chickens listened

to her, Mrs. Tweedy would have gotten her pie-making business off to a flying start.

**Read:** Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

#### How to talk to tweens and teens:

We know that Rocky does return and the chickens do escape the Tweedys. Against all odds, they even find their chicken utopia. Although *Chicken Run* is only a movie (and a silly one at that), real history is filled with

equally improbable moments—when people chose to hope instead of despair. Indeed, our whole faith is based on hoping when all seemed lost—when our Savior died like a common criminal and was unceremoniously buried. But we know how that turned out, don’t we?

#### What to say to younger children:

It can be easy, and even tempting, to give up hope. But God tells us to never lose hope, because with Him, all things are possible. *These words are based on Isaiah 40:31.*

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