

A Guide to Watching Disney's 2019 "The Lion King" in Light of the Four Realities

(4 Realities are from the "Battle for the Heart" curriculum)

Disclaimer: This is a secular film. Although it does have themes related to the Four Realities, we recommend you read the plot and/or watch the movie in advance if you think it might have material not suitable for your children. This movie guide is meant as an aid, not an endorsement.

Suggestion: choose one theme – the one that seems most relevant to you, your family or child – and stick to that single line of discussion rather than attempting to engage around all four realities in one sitting.

Reality 1: God has chosen you for his Eternal, Larger Love Story

1. In what ways does "The Lion King" point us to the Eternal, Larger Story?
2. How do you see the father heart of God reflected in this movie?
3. What do you sense God speaking to you, personally, about his heart for you?
4. How does it feel to hear God speak that to you?

Reality 2: You have been given a part to play that is yours and yours alone; if you do not find the way no one will.

1. What examples do you see of characters trying to play someone else's part, one that is not theirs to play? What is the result?
2. What happens in the gorge?
 - What was Simba thinking?
 - What was he feeling?
 - What do you think his deep desires were?
 - What choice did he make?
3. What is the result when Simba chooses not to play the part he was given to play?
4. How is Simba eventually given the courage to go back home and play his part?
5. Where in your life have you struggled with stepping into the part God has called you to play in his Larger Story?
6. What would it take for you to have the courage to step into your part?

Reality 3: Evil is hunting you

1. How are good and evil portrayed in the movie?
2. How do you see characters (Simba, Scar, Timon & Pumbaa) walking in pride?
3. After Mufasa rescues Simba and Nala from the hyenas, he has a conversation with Simba about what is at stake.

What does Mufasa say is at stake in Simba's reckless choices?

What is Simba's reason for his disobedience?

What would you say is Simba's deep desire behind wanting to appear brave to his father?

4. What do you think about the fact that there is something at stake in the choices you make?

Reality 4: The Fellowship (the Holy Trinity, the Word of God, the Communion of Saints, and the community of believers) desires to protect you and propel you into your part in the Larger Story.

1. Who is a part of Simba's fellowship (the people he knows and trusts to walk through life and challenges with)?
2. How does Simba's fellowship protect him and propel him into his part of the Larger Story?
3. Who in your life do you consider to be part of your trusted fellowship?
4. How does your fellowship protect you and propel you into your part in God's Larger Story?
5. How does it feel to know you have people you can count on in your life?