

re:View Worldview Study Topic 04 – Naturalism

(To teach this session you will need: “04_Check_Naturalism” DVD, television or projector, DVD player, student handouts, this leader’s guide, and some popular culture examples for the “Activity.” You may also wish to use “review_04_VerseSlides.ppt” for the verses.)

*NOTE: If you’re teaching the abbreviated 7-session series, this is Session 4.
If you’re teaching the extended 13-session series, this is Session 7.*

Suggested Session Layout

Watch “Check” Film [6:02]
Film Discussion [5:00]
Watch “Naturalism” Teaching Segment [7:28]
Teaching Segment Discussion [5:00]
Activity [10:00]
Challenge [5:00]
Total session time [35-40 mins.]

Watch “Check” Film [6:02]

Brief Synopsis: Scott lives life for the moment – at least while he can. Take a peek inside his head as he discovers that his relationship with Julie isn’t what it used to be. He had painted the perfect relationship – why couldn’t she just live within the boundaries? Can the world really revolve around one person? *(For further insight, be sure to watch the directorial comments before viewing the film with your students. You may also choose to show the directorial comments as part of the discussion time.)*

Film Discussion [5:00]

What is Scott struggling with?

You will get a variety of answers. He seems depressed. He wants to break up with his girlfriend. He is suicidal. The overall feeling we’re trying to convey is hopelessness and depression in a world that revolves around one’s self.

How does he eventually resolve the struggle?

He breaks up with the girl, which in reality doesn’t resolve anything.

How would you describe the relationship between him and the girl? Others in the world?

Scott lives for the moment. The relationship was just temporary. As long as she lived in his rules, it was ok, but he lives for the moment, and the moment is over. Scott’s relationship to life and the world is similar – he lives for the moment, and therefore sometimes his life seems very routine and boring. He doesn’t understand why, but that’s because he’s spending too much time looking within for answers that are found outside.

What are some things that Scott says that reveal his view of life in the world?

Note: There will be many more correct answers here – a few of them are:

“Hope is the biggest lie we’ve ever given ourselves.”

“This is either going to end by failure or by death.”

“I don’t want to live by God’s rules, or even your rules.”

“Someday we’re all going to die.”

Film Discussion (cont.)

What do you think Scott represents? The girl?

Scott represents a naturalistic thinking and philosophy and, ultimately, the worldview of naturalism. The girl expresses a God-like quality of unconditional love. To a naturalist, God doesn't exist, unless it is convenient for him (which it never is). You as the leader should mention that God's love is unconditional, and that's why after everything Scott told the girl, she still responds with "but I still love you."

(Feel free to use optional handout "reView_04_CheckFilmQuestions.pdf")

Watch "Naturalism" Teaching Segment [7:28]

Synopsis and Outline: The first of the three worldviews is Naturalism, which teaches that there is no God and that I am in control of my life. There are no ultimate consequences or accountability for my choices, but there is also no ultimate meaning or purpose in life.

- I. Naturalism: The World as We See It
- II. Naturalism and the Ultimate Questions
- III. Naturalism and the Meaning of Life

(For your reference, a teaching outline of Dr. Brown's teaching segment can be found under "reView_04_TeachingSegmentOutline.pdf.")

Teaching Segment Discussion [5:00]

What are some of the specific forms that Naturalism takes?

- a. *Nihilism (focuses upon the hopelessness of life)*
- b. *Materialism (focuses upon stuff)*
- c. *Hedonism (focuses upon pleasure)*
- d. *Humanism (focuses upon making human life better)*

Why is Naturalism called "the world as we see it"?

Because Naturalism teaches that all that exists is what we can see, feel, or otherwise measure — the physical world. There is nothing that is immaterial; no God, no spirit, no angels, etc. As people, all we are are physical beings who have a definite beginning and a definite end.

If Naturalism is true and there is no God or life after death, then what difference would it make in my life?

First, there would be no accountability for my actions, and no consequences for my sins. Second, there would be no moral code to live by except what other people put on me. This life is all I have and I should be able to live it however I want. Nobody should have the right to tell me how to live my life.

If Naturalism is true, then how should we live?

It doesn't matter. There is nothing that gives life meaning except what we give it. If I choose to give my life meaning, I should not impose that meaning on anybody else. As Bon Jovi sang, "It's my life / It's now or never / I ain't gonna live forever / I just want to live while I'm alive / It's my life."

Activity [10:00]

The goal of this activity is to have the students fill in each of the ideas or words that are in RED. They'll begin by filling in the four ultimate questions (first row) and then move to Naturalism (second row). The next step would be to have students provide current examples from media (last row). ("review_04_Handout_NaturalismQuestions.pdf")

Ultimate Questions	Origins	Meaning	Morality	Destiny
Naturalism	Natural means	Accidental None	We decide right and wrong	None No judgment
Media examples (movie, song, ad, video, magazine, book)	Example	Example	Example	Example

To be prepared for this exercise, be sure to check out our resources under the "downloads" section of www.re-films.com. After noting the movies and musical artists from your student's pre-session survey, search the downloads section of re-films.com to find relevant examples of how Naturalism answers the four ultimate questions. Examples may also be found in the re-films.com forums under the "Topic 04 – Naturalism" category.

Challenge [5:00]

Have you students open their Bibles to Psalm 14:1. "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile." The question should be asked, "How does not believing in God frequently result in immoral behavior?" You can discuss this with your students at the personal level, as well as at the historic level (atheistic regimes such as communism, fascism, Nazism, etc.).

Have someone look up 2 Corinthians 4:18, and have them read it.

You see, Naturalism teaches that only what we "see" is real. That is, what in reality can be measured by science in one way or another. This passage indicates that what can be seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. What does this mean practically?

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