

Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis—“The Last Battle” — 2018

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SESSION ONE: “By Caldron Pool”



Summary: The Last Battle is a fantasy novel written by C.S. Lewis & published in 1956. It tells the story of the last battle of Narnia and the end of the world there. It takes place 200 years after The Silver Chair and 2500 years after the creation story recounted in The Magician’s Nephew. (www.supersummary.com)

*Narnia has been at peace for a long time, but trouble is brewing on the horizon. **An ape named Shift** persuades **a sweet, but simple-minded donkey called Puzzle** to dress in a lion costume and impersonate Aslan. Shift uses this deception to increase his power and riches, eventually cutting down the Talking Trees and convincing many Narnians to serve the Calormenes.*

***King Tirian & his friend, Jewel the Unicorn**, hear news of what is happening, but they are not fooled by the farce. **The Calormene warlord Rishda** tries to convince everyone that Aslan and the **Calormene god Tash** are the same, but Tirian accuses them of lying. As punishment, he is tied to a tree. Tirian calls Aslan for help & has a vision of Lord*

Digory, Lady Polly, High King Peter, King Edmund, Lord Eustace, Queen Lucy, and Lady Jill. Susan doesn’t appear because she has stopped believing in Narnia.

A week later, Jill and Eustace arrive, rescue Jewel & release the king. Puzzle joins them because he realizes what he’s done. They also save a band of dwarves, but the dwarves have lost their faith in Aslan. Tirian learns that Rishda has accidentally summoned Tash, and the Narnian army has been killed in battle.

Tirian and his soldiers advance on the stable where Tash is kept to attempt to expose Shift’s deception. Rishda’s men force many people into the stable to confront Tash so that they can weed out the weak, and a few of his soldiers join Tirian.

Tirian and Rishda’s forces fight again, but most of Tirian’s soldiers are killed in the battle. Tirian manages to throw Shift in the stable & Tash swallows the ape whole. Rishda offers the remaining Narnians as a sacrifice to appease Tash. Tirian drags Rishda into the stable but they find themselves in a beautiful land. Tash appears just as the rest of the family from England does and by calling on Aslan, Peter banishes Tash to his realm.

The kings and queens witness the end of the world & Aslan appears to judge the faithful.

Animals that were not faithful turn into regular animals & dragons eat the vegetation. Father Time brings down all the stars and the sun & moon. Peter closes the door as Aslan directs them to walk further into true Narnia. They find the gates with characters from the past such as Reepicheep to greet them, and they can see real England.

Aslan tells them that the train they were on in England has crashed & everyone has died. Susan, who was not on the train, is the only survivor. The story ends with the revelation that this is only the beginning of the one true story.

A great deal of Lewis's writing takes the form of allegorical retellings of Bible stories. The Last Battle tells the story of the antichrist, the end of the world and the return of the savior. The themes of the story mirror the Christian tale of the end of times and the final battle between good and evil.

Shift's deception is much like the deception of the antichrist. In the end times, Shift is able to turn many Narnians away from Aslan. As their faith wavers, their army weakens, and Tirian is less and less able to defend his country. Evil seems to be triumphing over good, but the appearance of the original Kings and Queens, who still believe in the one true Aslan, is enough to turn the tide.

Unfortunately, they aren't in time to save Narnia. The previous battles were a test to see who would remain faithful until the very end. Those who can see through Shift's

deception are rewarded by entrance into Aslan's "true Narnia," the final kingdom where they will live side by side with him forever.

Good versus evil is the ultimate battle. Narnia is the land of true believers, while the Calormene people follow a lesser, more malevolent (ill-disposed/spiteful) god. The god Tash desires evil rather than good. His people continually fulfill this wish. Lewis uses the attempts to combine Tash & Aslan into a single god to comment on the belief that "all gods are the same". Narnians find out that Aslan is the only God of good.



There are also themes of redemption. Puzzle comes to understand his role in the deception and ultimately joins the right side. Likewise, one of the Calormene soldiers becomes angry at the deception and is accepted by Aslan despite his history of worshipping Tash. Those who accept Aslan are granted entrance into the final kingdom, and the Kings and Queens are pulled out of death from England into eternal life with Aslan.

Read Chapter One and Discuss the following Questions:

1. "The Devil You Say," is an expression of surprise. But the Devil is no surprise to followers of Jesus Christ. "The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe, with craft and dreadful might, he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal." The Devil is a schemer (Ephesians 6:1-10). The Devil is the father of all lies and liars. The Devil disguises himself as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:14), and masquerades as a friend when in fact he is a deadly foe. St. Peter says, "Your adversary, the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in your faith." Jesus said that the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). Where do we see the Devil at work in Chapter One of The Last Battle?

2. Read Mark 13. What did Jesus have to say about the END TIMES and the LAST DAYS?

3. What is the name of the Ape introduced at in Chapter One? Describe Shift's appearance and character. Is he someone you would want as a close friend? How does his name fit his personality? Shift has one friend, a donkey named Puzzle. Are two people really

friends if they don't treat each other as equals? How do you feel when people are condescending or belittling toward you?

4. What do Shift and Puzzle fish out of the Caldron Pool in the Western Wild? Puzzle wants to give the lion's skin a decent burial out of respect for Aslan, but Shift has other ideas. What shifty plans does the Ape have? Shift plays the role of a seamstress & makes a coat for Puzzle. In the dark of the night, Puzzle almost looks like Aslan! Puzzle doesn't want to deceive the residents of Narnia, but Shift sees the lion's skin as an opportunity for wealth and power.

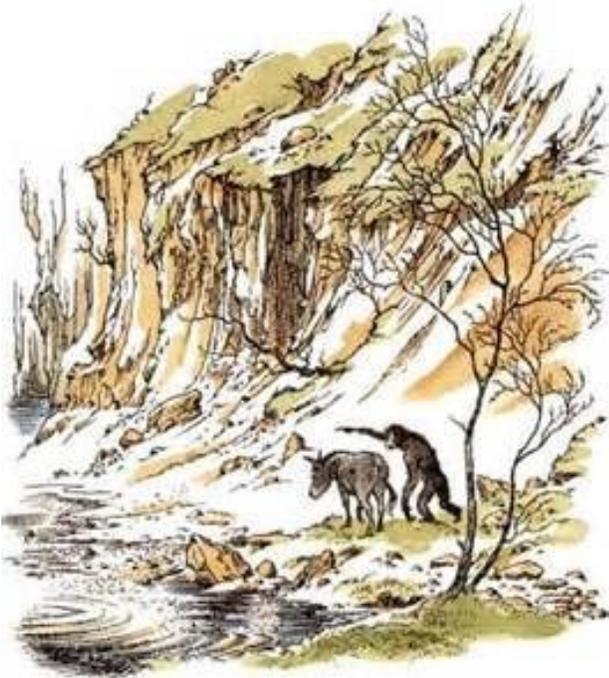
5. Have you ever known anyone who claims to be clever, but really isn't? Puzzle knows that Shift's scheming is wrong, but he is weak and easily led astray. Jesus once warned his listeners of the consequences of leading a little one astray. Read Matthew 18:6. What are the watery consequences? What is a millstone?

6. What is your one big takeaway from Chapter One?

SESSION TWO: "The Rashness of the King"

Read Chapter Two and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In chapter one we met a "shifty" Ape and a self-deprecating Donkey with low self-esteem. Read John 15:1-17. How does Jesus' definition of friendship differ from that of Shift? Jesus warned his disciples that the end of the world (Day of the Lord) would include deception and false prophets. Jesus said, "Beware of wolves who disguise themselves in sheep's clothing!" Why is it so hard to recognize truth from a lie?



2. In Mark 13, Jesus offers "signs of the close of the age". In my name, people will try to lead you astray. Watch out for the false prophets

and false Christs. Wars and rumors of war must take place, but the end is not yet. There will be earthquakes and famines, but these are just the birth pains. Christ-followers will be persecuted and put on trial. Families will betray one another. Be on your guard! Watch! The Son of Man will come on the clouds in all His glory! The fig tree has a lesson to teach. There is one constant in the midst of change, chaos and decay; namely God's Word will not pass away! Only the Father knows the appointed time and He's not telling. But remember, He is your Father!



3. Puzzle knows right from wrong, even though Shift is determined to manipulate him for his own selfish purposes. With friends like Shift, who needs enemies. Chapter One ends with a thunderclap and an earthquake. Puzzle knows that it is a sign from Aslan. But Shift twists Aslan's sign and uses it once again for his own deceitful purposes.

4. King Tirian is the last of the Kings of Narnia. How old is King Tirian when we first meet him in Chapter 2? What is the name of the Royal City? What is the name of Tirian's best friend? How is their friendship different from that of Shift and Puzzle? There are reports that Aslan has returned to Narnia. The signs in the heavens indicate not that Aslan has returned, but rather that a great evil has entered Narnia. What terrible thing is happening in Lantern Waste?

5. King Tirian & the Unicorn go & investigate the great evil. It's one thing to believe the word of another, or to trust hearsay, but another thing to have our worst suspicions confirmed by our own eyes. Dryads are being murdered and the Talking Trees are being felled and sold to the Calormenes. What happens when King Tirian acts in anger? In Ephesians 4, St. Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus not to let anger get the better of them. "Be angry, but do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger." When is anger a good thing? When does it lead to sin? Tirian says, "too much anger prevents one from thinking clearly." Is Tirian fearless, reckless, or both?

6. What news does Roonwit, the Centaur bring? To whom does he lift his bowl in toast? Aslan is not the slave of the stars, but rather their maker. Don't forget, Aslan is not a tame Lion! But what else must we remember? (He's good!) It was in Lantern Waste that a Son of Adam (Diggory) once planted the Tree of Protection. The last straw which leads to Tirian's wrath and vengeance is when a talking horse is being mistreated by the Calormenes. We remember Strawberry (Fledge) from the Magician's Nephew.

7. Roonwit says, "If Aslan had truly come, the sky would have foretold it." Amos 3:7 tells us "Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. None of the Narnians have firsthand knowledge of Aslan, they only remember the old stories. When Tirian sees a talking tree being beaten by Calormene slave drivers, he lets his anger get the best of him. How does this story parallel that of Moses in Exodus 2:11-12? King Tirian does not listen to the wise counsel of the Centaur. Read Proverbs 14:7. What does a quick-tempered man lack? Read 1 Peter 4:7.

SESSION THREE: "The Ape in Its Glory"

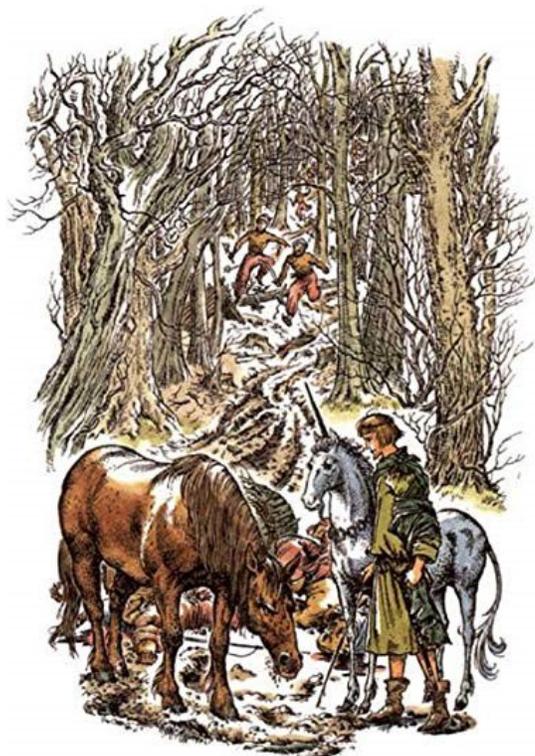
Read Chapter 3 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. *The stars never lie. Aslan is not in Narnia, but rather a "great evil" has arrived. Satan (father of lies) disguises himself as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14). An Ape by the name of Shift manipulates a fragile donkey named Puzzle. The donkey wears the disguise of a lion's skin, pretending to be Aslan.*

In chapter 2, we witnessed true friendship (King Tirian and Jewel), as well as a great rashness. A Centaur (Roonwit) offers both a toast and a word of advice to the King. In Lantern Waste, Dryads are being murdered and the Talking Trees are being felled and sold to the Calormenes. Anger gets the best of Tirian (age 20-25). When he sees two Calormenes brutalizing a talking horse, he takes action. Tirian reacts with a vengeance; he is "too angry to think clearly." Haste makes waste! The King and Jewel kill two unarmed men. Read I Samuel 18:1-4. What two men in the Bible became "one in spirit" and one saved the other's life? Who once planted a TREE OF PROTECTION in Lantern Waste? (Hint: the Professor's name)

2. *The talking horse rescued by Tirian and Jewel, explains his captivity. The talking horse assumes that the felling of trees is Aslan's*

bidding. The deception is spreading. Has Aslan returned to Narnia? King Tirian wants to believe the rumors. Is King Tirian fearless or reckless, or both? The King didn't listen to Roonwit's caution about going to Lantern Waste alone. What is the difference between righteous anger and rash anger? Righteous anger seeks to set wrong things right without producing more sin (see Exodus 2:11-12; and Proverbs 14:16).



After murdering the Calormene slave drivers, Tirian & Jewel flee—just as Moses fled after murdering the Egyptian in Exodus 2:11-12. Tirian & Jewel realize that they have committed murder & decide to give themselves up to Aslan.

3. Jewel said that the news of Aslan's arrival was "too beautiful to believe." How would you feel if you knew that Jesus was coming to be with you? The Narnians all remember that Aslan is NOT TAME. But are they forgetting something? Why is it important for God to be both wild and good?

4. I John 4:1 says, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone into the world. John's words are good advice for those reading THE LAST BATTLE. The Narnians are confused because the new Aslan (imposter) speaks, acts and responds differently than the Aslan they have always known. Read I Peter 5:8—"Be on your guard, Your enemy the devil is a like a roaring lion. He prowls around looking for someone to chew up and swallow." The Narnians need to practice spiritual discernment and so do we.

5. What do the Calormenes want out of their alliance with the Ape? Will they get it? How does the Ape's Aslan sound different from the Aslan the Narnians know? Do you think Aslan wouldn't want the people "crowding around him" as the Ape claims? Read Luke 18:16; Matthew 9:36; 15:10. Why do you think the Ape put on fancy clothes and claimed to be a

man? How do you feel watching the squirrels hand over all their precious nuts to the Ape? Does the Ape's treatment of the squirrels remind you of the Egyptian taskmasters treatment of the Israelites (Exodus 5:1-19)?



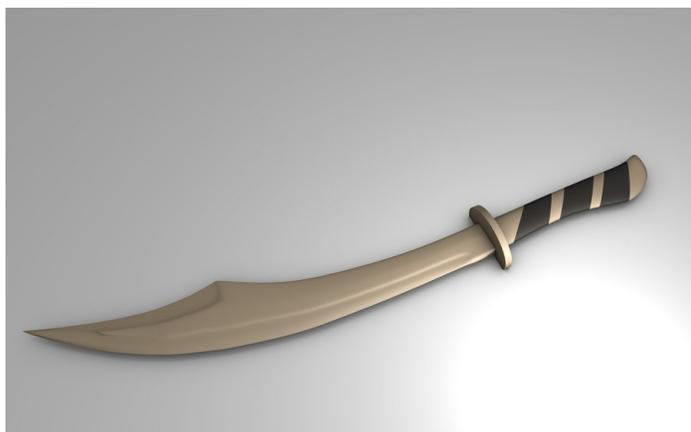
6. The lamb asks, "What have we to do with the Calormenes?" Read II Corinthians 6:14-16. Why are the Narnians so easily deceived? Read II Corinthians 11:4, 13-14.

9. The Ape says that Aslan has changed. Aslan will no longer be merciful and loving and kind. "He's going to lick you into shape this time." Has Aslan really changed? What does the Bible tell us about the nature of God? Read Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; also Romans 3:4, Psalm 145:17, & II Timothy 2:13.

SESSION IV: "What Happened That Night"

Read Chapter 4 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter 3, the Calormenes had naked (unsheathed) scimitars in their hands. Scimitars are weapons—short swords with a curved blade that broadens toward the blade (see below). Tirian and Jewel murder unarmed men, and then flee for their lives. Then realize the error of their ways and give themselves up to the justice of Aslan.



2. The people of Narnia remember that Aslan is NOT A TAME LION, but they keep forgetting that HE IS GOOD! St. John says, "Test the spirits to see if they are of God or of the Devil." King Tiran has a horrible fear; namely "that Aslan has come and is not like the Aslan we have believed in and longed for." Would it bother you if Jesus were not "the same yesterday, today and forever?" If the WORD of God is not trustworthy and true—reliable, what hope do we have?

3. Interestingly enough, the focal point of the deception is a STABLE. Once again we see a

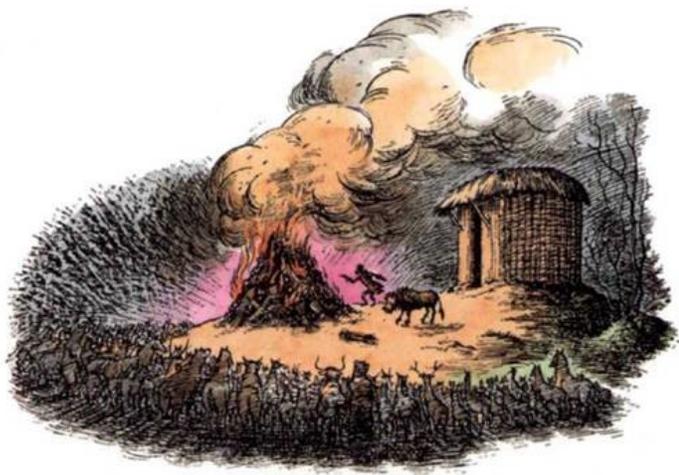
self-serving Ape taking advantage of the squirrels. Shift is NUTS! The people of Narnia beg to see Aslan, to have a face to face conversation with Aslan. What is Shift's response? Times have changed. Apparently, Aslan is tired of being SOFT. He plans on licking his people into shape. "He'll teach you to think he's a tame lion." Why does the Ape claim to be a Man rather than a monkey? Has Aslan sold the beasts of Narnia into slavery? How does Shift define FREEDOM? He is half right. Freedom is not doing what one wants or pleases. But neither is it doing what the Ape demands. What is real freedom?

4. Read Chapter 4. A breakthrough comes when a wooly lamb speaks. "We belong to Aslan. The Calormenes belong to Tash." The Ape spits on the Lamb. Jesus was spit upon also. Shift proclaims another lie. He says that Tash is just another name for Aslan. Do all religions worship the same God (with different names)? A ginger cat sides with the Ape. But King Tirian won't stand for the deception: "Ape, you lie!" Tash feeds on the blood of his subjects. Aslan offers his blood for the salvation of others.



5. Tirian is smacked in the mouth and tied to a tree. Hours pass. His only concern is the fate of Jewel. Who brings the King supper (mice, moles and a

rabbit)? Wine, oat-cakes, cheese and water are served. The little critters have seen Aslan, or so they believe. The fake Aslan (Puzzle the Donkey) makes an appearance. The beasts plead for mercy: “Aslan, Aslan, Aslan, speak to us, comfort us, be angry with us no more.” From a distance Tirian also sees the lion. At first he thinks it is Aslan, but then “testing the spirits,” he remembers the nonsense about Tash and Aslan being the same and he knew that the whole thing had to be a cheat.



In the darkness, Tirian remembers the history of Narnia. In every story, in every evil, Aslan always provided a way of escape; mysterious children had appeared from the land beyond the world’s end, making all things right. King Tirian remembers and so he cries out: “Aslan, Aslan, Aslan, come and help us Now!” Tirian is willing to die. His only concern is with the fate of Narnia. Tirian cries out for the Friends (Children) of Narnia to come and help. What gift does Tirian receive? How is the dream/ vision both a blessing and a curse? What hope is there in seeing the seven strangers, one of whom is the High King Peter?

6. Read Jeremiah 9:5-6. What does the Prophet Jeremiah say about living in the midst of deception? The creatures of Narnia gather around the Stable and are deceived by Shift and Puzzle’s masquerade. In Matthew 24:23-27, Jesus warns the church about false prophets and deception. Read Psalm 27:9 and 85:4, 7. How do these psalms echo the Talking Beasts distressing cry: “Aslan speak to us. Comfort us. Be angry with us no more”? What did the psalmist do during the dark moments of his life? Read Psalm 77. Have you, like the little beasts, ever wondered why God is angry with you?



7. Tirian appears to the seven friends of Narnia as ghost or vision. Compare this scene to Acts 16:9-10—Paul’s vision of the Man of Macedonia. Isaiah 46:9 says, “Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God & there is no other.” How does remembering the history of Narnia and Aslan’s goodness give hope and encouragement to King Tirian? Considering that Tirian has never seen Aslan, his remembering is an act of faith. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still have believed”—John 20:29.

SESSION V: "How Help Came to the King" WIS C

Finish reading Chapters 4 and 5, or fail to b
and Discuss the following Questions to the o

1. At the end of Chapter 3, we watched King Tirian biting his tongue as the Ape told one lie after another. The last straw came when Shift said that the Calormene god Tash was one and the same as Aslan. "Ape," Tirian cried with a great voice, "you lie. You lie damnably. You lie like a Calormene. You lie like an ape." King Tirian knew that a terrible god like Tash (who fed on the blood of his people) could not be the same as Aslan (who offered his blood to save all Narnia). Tirian is struck in the mouth, kicked in the feet and tied to a tree. Little creatures provide supper for King Tirian. What a contrast we see: The ape only cares about himself. Tirian is concerned not about himself, but only about the welfare of Jewel and the little creatures who offer him sustenance.

2. In Chapter Four, Tirian is fed and then from a distance observes what appears to be a lion up near a bonfire and a stable. The deception is convincing, but then Tirian remembers. The whole thing is a cheat. Of course Tash and Aslan are not one and the same. In the darkness, Tirian remembers the history of Narnia. In every evil, Aslan always provided a way of escape. Tirian cries for Aslan's help. Suddenly the King receives a vision of strangers. Who are these strangers? Why is it that Tirian can hear the children, but they cannot hear him?



3. In Chapter 5, Tirian awakens from his dream and almost at once two children appear out of nowhere. Who are these two children? How much time has elapsed since Tirian first saw the seven children seated at a table in his vision/dream? Remember, the clock runs differently in Narnia than in our time. Tirian thought only ten minutes had passed, but actually a week had passed in the lives of the two children. The children untie Tirian and make their escape. The sight of the two children made all of the old Narnia stories seem more real. The boy has packed a lunch. How many sandwiches (egg, cheese, paste) does Tirian devour?

4. The children finally reveal their names (Eustace Scrubb & Jill Pole). They have been in Narnia in the past, when Rilian was King. Time has passed for Rilian has been dead for more than 200 years. Now we understand the vision/dream of King Tirian, for Aunt Polly (Polly Plummer) and Digory (The Professor) had assembled all of the Narnia friends for a meal (reminiscing and readiness to aid Narnia should the summons come). How did

Eustace and Jill get into Narnia? Did they end up using the Magic Rings? What do you think was the meaning of the frightful jerk and noise that the children experienced on the train? Aslan got Eustace and Jill into Narnia in his own way.

5. Tirian, Eustace and Jill travel to one of the three Square Garrison Towers in Narnia. As a matter of first order business what disguise do Tirian and the children put on? (Hint: Calormene mail and a stone bottle). What do they find for weapons and food? What do you think the mysterious paste was on two of the king's sandwiches?

In case you're wondering, a FIRKIN is about nine gallons of wine. Were you surprised to see that Tirian had a key to the well-stocked (albeit musty smelling) tower?



6. Jill loves a disguise, but of course others in the story are already pretending to be someone else. Who? After all the dangers and hardships from their last visit to Narnia (in the Silver Chair) why do you think Eustace and Jill are eager to come back?

7. Bible Readings: Read Psalm 145:18-19. What certainty does God's Word give us? The 7 friends respond immediately to the vision of Tirian, just as the apostles responded to the vision of the Man of Macedonia. See Acts 16:10. What words of advice do Ephesians 5:15-17 and Galatians 6:10 offer us? Tirian now acts with caution and forethought. REad Proverbs 27:12, Proverbs 14:15, and I Peter 4:7. Tirian finds refuge in a fortified tower. Where do the righteous find refuge? Read Psalm 46 (Luther wrote his hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" based on this psalm).



FAST FACT: The story of a donkey in a lion skin first appears in an ancient Roman fable by Avianus.

Quote: Then she added to Tirian, "I'm sorry We've been so long. We came the moment we could."—Jill

What do you think Jill means?

SESSION VI: "A Good Night's Work"

Read Chapter 6, and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter five, King Tirian sees a vision of seven children. As he awakens from his dream, two children from the vision appear: Eustace Scrubb and Jill Pole. Both children had visited Narnia previously during the reign of King Rilian (200 years earlier). Narnia time runs different from time in our world. In fact, its been nearly a week since the children appeared in the vision. Eustace and Jill don't get into Narnia by means of the magic rings. Instead Aslan gets them into Narnia in his own way. Tirian, Eustace and Jill find refuge in a square garrison tower. They disguise themselves in Calormene armor (mail) and use lotion from a stone bottle to darken their skin. They disguise themselves for goodly purposes, unlike the Ape and the Donkey, who disguise themselves for evil purposes.

2. Tirian has been busy giving Jill some practice in archery, and teaching Eustace how to use his shield and sword. What is different about using a Narnian sword versus using a Calormene sword (scimitar)? Tired, they all get some sleep. Tirian notices that the children, after only a few hours are already looking stronger, bigger and more grown up. What accounts for this? Hint: Narnian air. What is Tirian's main objective? Why does he execute his plan of action under the cover of night?

3. Tirian rises from sleep at 9pm. He awakens Eustace and Jill. They head for the hill with the Stable for the rescue of Jewel, the Unicorn. Notice that they depart from the square garrison tower in the NAME OF ASLAN. Why is this important? In whose name do we live and move & find our being? As they travel by night, who and what is their guidance system? Narnia is far too quiet. Why? Because gloom and fear are reigning over Narnia. Read Isaiah 8:22 & Jer. 7:34.

4. At the Stable, an inattentive sentry is keeping watch. King Tirian captures him and finds the location of Jewel (behind the Stable). After rescuing the Unicorn, Tirian ties up the Calormene guard. Why does Tirian apologize to the sentry? What promise does he make before he leaves?



5. After a good night's work, the party heads for home. What problem do they encounter? Why is Jill missing? What mission has she been on? What has Jill captured? Inside the Stable, Jill found an old donkey with a bundle of lion-skin tied to its back. Will exposing the false Aslan convince others of the Ape's

treachery? Jill defends and protects Puzzle. Puzzle uses his ignorance as an excuse for his sin. What excuses do we give for our sins and our sinning? The Donkey says, "I only did what the Ape told me to do." Life is a matter of listening and obeying. But who will we listen to and obey?

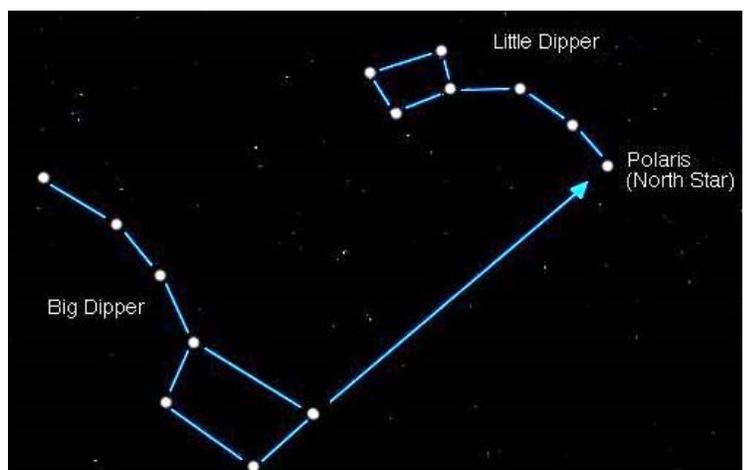
6. Chapter 6 ends with Tirian making a huge discovery about himself. Why does the King say, "By the Lion, I am growing slow-witted." Instead of avoiding the 30 Dwarfs, who are prisoners of 4 armed Calormene soldiers, what does Tirian plan to do? When someone exposes the TRUTH to us, do we see & believe or simply harden our hearts? How does the Bible say that believers should react to deceitful schemes? Read Ephesians 5:8-12.

7. Read Ephesians 4:14. "So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."

8. Do you think Tirian was justified in wanting to execute Puzzle on the spot? Jesus intercedes for us. Jill intercedes for Puzzle. Blaming someone else for our fall is never wise. See Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. We are all individually responsible for our actions. See James 1:13-15 and Romans 3:10-11, 23.

9. In this chapter, Jill could be titled, "You Go Girl." Jill is the best and bravest pathfinder, but she has some trouble with following the orders of her King. Eustace thinks she should be knighted, but Tirian says that she could be whipped for disobeying orders. Do you think Tirian was smiling or frowning? One thing is for sure, C.S. Lewis made the females in his Chronicles strong women.

10. How do you think the Ape might explain his disappearing god (false Aslan)? Why do you think that the Narnia North Star is called the SPEARHEAD? Tirian says that he has trained himself to wake himself up when he wants to, without the help of an alarm. Are you able to do that? Jill has developed her woodcraft through being a Girl Guide in our world. Do you know what a Girl Guide is? Guides were (and are) taught lots of practical skills. 'How the Girl Guides Won the War' by Janie Hampton is well worth a read on this subject.



SESSION VII: “Mainly About Dwarfs”

Read Chapter 7, and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter six, King Tirian, along with Jill Pole and Eustace Scrubb, travel by night (9pm) to Stable Hill. Everything is done in the name of Aslan. Jill is an excellent guide, well-abled to navigate the group by aid of the stars. The Spearhead is the North Star in Narnia. Jewel, the Unicorn, gets rescued and Tirian shows an act of kindness upon the Calormene sentry. Why does Tirian apologize to the sentry? After a good night's work, the rescue party heads for home, only to discover that one member of their group is missing. Who is missing? What does a disobedient Jill capture? Though Tirian wishes to execute Puzzle, Jill intervenes and intercedes. Puzzle is without excuse. He is as guilty as sin. Only grace can save Puzzle and each of us. What does King Tirian decide to do about the dwarfs? Can we assume that learning the TRUTH will bring enlightenment to those who are deceived? Read Ephesians 4:14.

2. *Final Thoughts:* C.S. Lewis makes the females in his Chronicles strong women. Do you think Jill should be knighted or whipped for her disobedience? How do you think the Ape might explain his disappearing god (false Aslan)? Why do you think that the Narnia North Star is called the SPEARHEAD? Tirian says that he has trained himself to wake himself up when he wants to, without the help of an alarm. Are you able to do that?

3. Read Chapter 7. Tirian approaches the dwarfs who are being led by four Calormene guards to work in the salt pits. The guards see Tirian and assume that he is a Tarkaan or a great lord. What does Tirian ask the captive dwarfs? Would Aslan ever sell his people into slavery? Tirian exposes the lie and reveals the truth about the fake Aslan. Notice that Puzzle is still trying to scape-goat his complicity: “It wasn’t my fault. I’m not clever.”

4. With swords drawn, the Calormene soldiers ask Tirian for the password. Tirian reveals his password: “The light is dawning, the Lie is broken.” Eustace and Tirian kill their respective enemies. The dwarfs take care of the other two Calormen soldiers. Tirian announces that the dwarfs are free. But what happens? The Black Dwarf (Griffle) says that he’s sick and tired of Aslan. Another dwarf says, “It’s all a trick, a blooming trick.” The dwarfs have been taken in once and they don’t intend to be taken in again.

5. The DECEPTION has caused the dwarfs to doubt the TRUTH. How sad indeed! The dwarfs begin to sing a jeering song: “He’s not a tame lion.” The dwarfs don’t want any more kings and no more Aslan. What happens if they do indeed get their wish. What is the danger of false teachings in the church?



There is a phrase: “Once a fool, shame on me. Twice a fool, shame on you. Three times, nobody’s fool.” — The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’—Psalm 14:1.

6. The group heads back to the tower for some much needed rest. Good news! One of the dwarfs (Poggin) joins them and says, “I’m on your side. I’m on Aslan’s side.” How have small tokens (like Poggin) restored hope in your life? In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus rescued 10 men, but only one came back to say thanks.

7. In the morning, after breakfast, Poggin gives an update to the group regarding the enemy. What “cunning tale” has been told regarding the escape of King Tirian? It was the cat Ginger who told it.

8. Who is apparently in control/charge of the deception? It is either Ginger or the Calormene Captain, whose name is Rishda Tarkaan. Poggin overheard the cat and the Captain talking. “Aslan is no more than Tash.” Which means that enlighten ones know that

there is no such person as either. All gods are fakes. The cat and the Captain have both grown weary of the Ape, who has taken to drinking. Shift used Puzzle, but now Rishda is using Ginger.

9. Read Romans 13:11-13. The light is dawning, the lie I broken.” The dwarfs demand proof of Aslan’s existence. What does II Peter 2:3 and 10-13 tell us about deceivers like Ginger? Read I John 2:22—Who is the liar?

10. Freeing the dwarfs from the salt-mines was easy, but freeing them from doubts about the real Aslan appears impossible. “He’s not a tame lion” was used by Shift to deceive the Narnians. “I’m for me,” says the dwarfs. “The Dwarfs are for the Dwarfs.” What kind of problems might this kind of thinking cause?

C.S. Lewis: *“A man can no more diminish God’s glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word ‘darkness’ on the walls of his cell.”*

SESSION VIII: “What News the Eagle Brought”

Read Chapter 8, and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter seven, the dwarfs are rescued from Calormene slavery. The lie of the false Aslan is exposed. Having been duped once, the dwarfs refuse to be deceived again. The dwarfs are only for the dwarfs. They choose to harden their hearts and trust no one! Maybe this is why Jesus said that it would be better for someone who causes a little one who believes in Him to stumble, to have a millstone tied around their neck and they be thrown into the deepest sea. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, is to cause someone to lose faith in Jesus. How does deception cause us to doubt the TRUTH? What is the danger of false teaching in today’s churches? **“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God!’”—Psalm 14:1.**

2. The Donkey, Puzzle, is still refusing to accept responsibility for the role he played in the deception of the Narnians. The Ape is as guilty as sin, but so is the Donkey and so are we. There is one dwarf who sees the TRUTH and sides with Aslan. His name is Poggin. We recall that in the story of the healing of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-17) only one leper gave thanks to Jesus. Only one leper got saved. After a breakfast of rabbit, pigeon and biscuits, Poggin gives the Tirian & the others

an update on the enemy. We learn that the cat Ginger and the Calormene Captain Rishda are now in control. The Ape (Shift) has taken to drinking. Ginger and Rishda both confess their atheism: “Aslan is no more than Tash.” Enlightened ones supposedly know that there is really NO GOD.

3. **.S. Lewis:** “A man can no more diminish God’s glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word ‘darkness’ on the walls of his cell.”

4. Chapter 7 ends with the group in utter dismay. Tirian and the others behold a strange creature, the shape of a man with the head of a bird and four arms. Who or what is this creature? Is there a real Tash? Is Tash a god like Aslan, or is Tash the devil? The Ape summoned Tash, and Tash has come. Play with fire and you’ll get burned! It appears that Puzzle is experiencing a bit of repentance: “I really have been a very bad donkey.” How do Eustace & Jill each respond to the donkey’s confession?



5. Tirian, Eustace and Jill remove their Calormene disguise and rearmed themselves in true Narnian style—straight swords and three-cornered shields. In **Ephesians 6**, what do we learn about being shod with the armor of God? The group decides to travel and meet up with Roonwit the Centaur. They lock the tower and depart at 2pm. As they travel, they reminisce about the better days of Narnia. They mention the name of the first king of Narnia (Frank). Do you recall the name of the Cabbie’s horse and his wife? (Strawberry/ Fledge and Helen). Jill longs for an endless Narnia, but Jewel speaks the truth: “All worlds draw to an end; except Aslan’s own country.” What is Aslan’s own country?



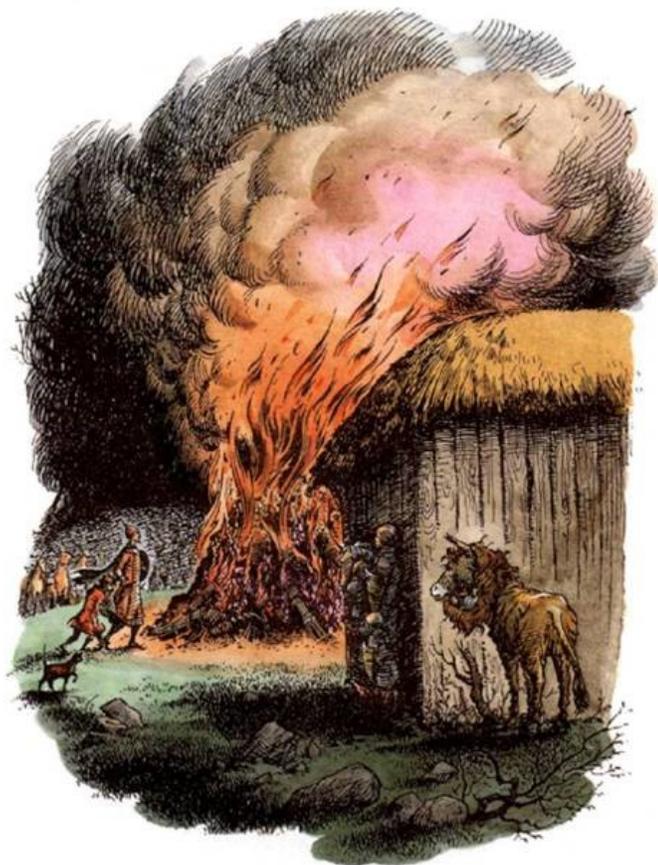
sea has been captured by twenty Calormene ships. Dead Narnians are everywhere. Others have fled the city. Roonwit the Centaur is dead with a Calormene arrow in his side. What were Roonwit’s final words? What does Roonwit mean when he says, “A noble death is a treasure which no one is too poor to buy?” **Read Matthew 24:9-13, Psalm 116:15, Revelation 2:10 and James 1:12.** Roonwit speaks for Christian Martyrs in all ages. “Everyone is going to die. Will it be for the love of Jesus or will it be for nothing?” Note: Jewel would have been executed in the morning had he not been rescued in the night. King Tirian comes to a sorrowful conclusion: So Narnia is no more.



6. A Talking Bird appears in the sky. Is it Farsight the Eagle? When the bird lands, what are the first words that it speaks? Is this creature friend or foe? Does the eagle come bearing good news or bad news? Things get worse than worser. The **foul-smelling Tash** is loosed in Narnia. Cair Paravel, the palace by

7. Read II Timothy 3:1. “There will be terrible times in the last days.” Read I John 4:4 and Acts 19:13-15. Believers have no fear of demons, but unbelievers had better beware! What do II Timothy 3:12-13, Revelation 13:15, and Luke 21:17-19 tell us about life in the last days? What does the Bible tell us will happen to our world (II Peter 3:10 & Revelation 21:1-5)?

4. The waiting is the hardest part. The group waits for the cover of night to come and the fight that must be fought (II Timothy 4:6-8). Suddenly the gong sounds. Tirian assumes that the end is near. He asks Jewel for a kiss and then offers a final confession. What is it that we wish to do when we know that our remaining time on earth is short. Consider what Jesus did on the night of His betrayal (John 13-17). The gong ceases & the bonfire is beginning to blaze up. The Narnian creatures are assembling. Rishda Tarkaan (the Calormen Captain), Ginger the Cat, & the Ape join the assembly. Everything seems to be like a theater. How so? Prodded by Rishda, the Ape addresses the assembly. Shift says that Tashlan is very angry. Why is Tash angry?



5. The moment when Shift announces to the Narnians that a donkey has dressed as ‘Tashlan’, thereby discrediting Tirian and his friends, endangering Puzzle, escaping justice, and dashing the reader’s hopes, is one of the saddest, most gut-wrenching in the entire Narnia stories. It makes one feel annoyed. Shift is a despicable villain: he’s amoral. He’s a traitor. He’s outsmarted & outmaneuvered the rightful king and his allies, which goes against all expectations of how the story should progress. Tirian’s plans have been undercut. Now what? Poggin says, “I’ll be sworn that this new lie is of Ginger’s making.”

6. Final Questions: What do you think will happen if the children die in Narnia? Will they die in England also? The Ape reveals a half-truth. Why is a half-truth often more dangerous than an outright lie? Rishda and Shift are not the first to mix in a little truth with an outright lie (see Genesis 3:1-6). Read **Jeremiah 14:14**—what are the false prophets doing? St. Paul said that people would be duped by lies, having itching ears and wandering off into myths (II Timothy 4:3-5). Facing death, Jewel has no regrets about the life he has lived. If death was imminent for us, would we have any regrets? What do you think will happen next in our story? What do you want to happen next? Read Second Corinthians 4:8-17. So we do not lose heart!

SESSION X: “Who Will Go Into the Stable?”

Read Chapter 10 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. Word Power—Chapter 9: “Got the wind up” means, “becoming frightened”. “Bath-chair” is simply another word for “wheelchair”. The danger is real, but Jill would rather lose her life for Aslan, than simply grow old. Are we giving our whole lives for Christ, or simply waiting around for old age? **Read Psalm 116:15** — “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.” What promise does Revelation 2:10 give to faithful witnesses (martyrs)?
2. In Chapter 9, we watched as Tirian and the others waited for nightfall & the opportunity to expose the lie (the fake Aslan). How did Shift (mouthpiece of Rishda Tarkaan, the Calormene Captain) undercut Tirian’s plans? Why is a half-truth more dangerous than an outright lie? Why is it so hard for people to accept the TRUTH? Eustace whispers, “That’s taken the wind out of our sails.” Tirian adds, “The ground is taken from under our feet.” “Curst, curst cleverness!” said Poggin. “I’ll be sworn that this new lie is of Ginger’s making.” Don’t lose heart (II Corinthians 4:8-17). All is not lost. God has not abdicated His throne! God (Aslan) is in control. God wins. Evil loses. Jesus is proof positive!
3. Jill offers grace to Puzzle by cutting the lion’s skin off his back. Shift speaks again and

warns the Narnians that Aslan/Tash is angry. The Dwarfs shout out that “Its all a lie”. They want proof that Tashlan is really in the Stable. “Seeing is believing,” they say. Tash won’t come out, but one at a time a Narnian can enter; if he dares! This portion of the story reminds me of the Day of Atonement, where only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies.

4. Tirian and the rest of his party are listening to the Ape taunt the Dwarfs and Creatures of Narnia. Jill wonders what is inside the Stable. Tirian says that perhaps it is two Calormene soldiers with drawn swords, or Tash himself. “There’s no knowing,” Tirian says to Jill, and then adds, **“But courage, child: we are all between the paws of the true Aslan.”** What does it mean to be between the paws of the true Aslan?” Is it similar to Jesus’ words that the hairs of our heads are all numbered”? Read Matthew 10:30 and Luke 12:7. Read also, Deuteronomy 33:27. In Romans 8 we read that “absolutely nothing” can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. The Ape says that Tashlan is in the Stable. Is anyone brave enough to go in? Ginger the cat coolly volunteers to go into the Stable. But of course, it is all part of the plot & the deception. Ginger enters the Stable and comes screeching back out (Caterwaul). What strange turn of events takes place?

What do you think Ginger saw inside the Stable? No longer a talking cat, Ginger is mute. Shift and Rishda seem as surprised as the rest. Has their plot backfired? The Beasts of Narnia beg Lord Shift to stand between them and Tashlan. The scene is reminiscent of Exodus 19:18 and 20:18-19 where the Israelites beg Moses to be their “go-between” with God. Ginger disappeared up the tree and no one ever saw him again. The Bible tells a story about a wicked man named Elymas who tried to deceive people and turn them away from God (Acts 13:9-11). What happened to Elymas?



6. A Calormene officer by the name of Emeth calls out to Rishda (“My Father”). What does the name Emeth mean? Emeth (faithful one) says that he is a servant of Tash and wishes to enter the Stable. Why does Rishda refuse

his entrance? Emeth refuses to back down. He asks an all-important question: “Are Tash and Aslan one and the same, or not. If not, then the Ape has been lying to us.” The Dwarfs make an appeal also on behalf of Emeth. What do you make of the Dwarfs calling the Calormene Captain “Darkie”? Is this meant to be racist? Emeth enters and immediately a dead Calormene soldier is thrown. Rishda tells the Beasts that Emeth got what he asked for. But Surprise! The dead soldier is not Emeth. What complement does Jewel offer about Emeth.

7. Seven figures (Tirian and his gang) leap out from hiding to protect the Boar. Tirian and his comrades decide that the time has come to **TAKE THEIR STAND**. Tirian says that he stands in Aslan’s name to prove that Tash is a foul fiend, the Ape is a traitor, and the Calormenes are worthy of death. In a way, Tirian challenges the Beasts of Narnia to make a choice, much as Joshua did with the Israelites (Joshua 24:14-15). The Dwarfs are right to be skeptical of Rishda’s claims, but their assertion that “seeing is believing” couldn’t be more wrong. Jesus said to a doubting Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen & yet believe.” St. Paul adds, “We live by faith, not by sight”—II Cor. 5:7. Why is it that we need not fear coming into the presence of God (I John 4:18)? What do you think is really inside the Stable? Would you go in?

SESSION XI: “The Pace Quickens”

Read Chapter 11 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter 10, Jill offered grace to Puzzle by cutting the lion’s skin off his back. King Tiran is prepared to expose the lie that Shift, & Rishda Tarkaan, & Ginger have fabricated. But before they can reveal the TRUTH, the evil ones have doubled down and revealed their own version of the truth. Aslan/Tash are extremely angry because a lowly donkey has masqueraded as a lion, pretending to be Aslan. The two main questions governing Chapter 10 are: What’s inside the Stable and Who will go inside?” The dwarf’s want proof (seeing is believing), but who will have the courage to go inside and see for themselves? The catch is this: only one person may enter at a time. The reader assumes, with Jill, that inside the Stable are Calormene soldiers with drawn swords. But TRUTH be told, there is much more awaiting the one who dares to enter the Stable. What unexpected turn of events happens when Ginger goes inside?

2. Make a deal with the devil (Tashlan) and don’t be surprised when he turns on you and devours you! Ginger discovers that Aslan (God) and Tash (Satan) both really do exist. What do we learn about the character and faith of the young Calormene officer whose name is Emeth (faithful one)? A soldier ends up dead. But is it Emeth? Tirian and his loyal comrades, seize the moment and take their

stand. There comes a time when each of us must choose: Truth or lie? Jesus or Satan? Courage or fear? Faithfulness or disloyalty?

3. Read Chapter 11. Romans 1:18 says, “the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the Truth!” The lines have been drawn and the last battle of Narnia has begun. The END TIMES have arrived! The Day of the LORD is at hand. How does Jesus describe the Last Days? **Read Matthew 24:7-13**. King Tirian and the others are fighting a battle they know that they cannot win. What advice does St. Peter give us about fighting the good fight when the situation seems hopeless? **Read II Peter 3:11-14**. Rishda has called on gods that he does not believe in—and it seems that they have come. What does the Bible say will happen to men like him? Read II Thessalonians 1:8-9 & I Timothy 1:20.

4. The pace quickens. Eustace’s heart is racing. What does he hope and pray for? If you were in a fight for your life, would you hope to be brave, or would you pray for victory? The fight begins. The Ape is one of the first to be thrown into the Stable. Tirian throws Shift into the Stable. What will be his fate? After the first wave of attacks, the Narnians still have hope. But the dwarfs shoot down all the talking horses and the Calormene reinforcements arrive.



5. Terrible violence overtakes the story, and death for Aslan's followers seems certain. Is the Great Lion still in control. Even children must know important truths: life is violent, God is stronger than any fear, and for Christ-followers even death is not tragic. St. Paul reminds of this truth: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). We are walking THROUGH the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23). The word "through" is important. Death is not our destination. Jesus is our constant companion. Emmanuel is WITH US.

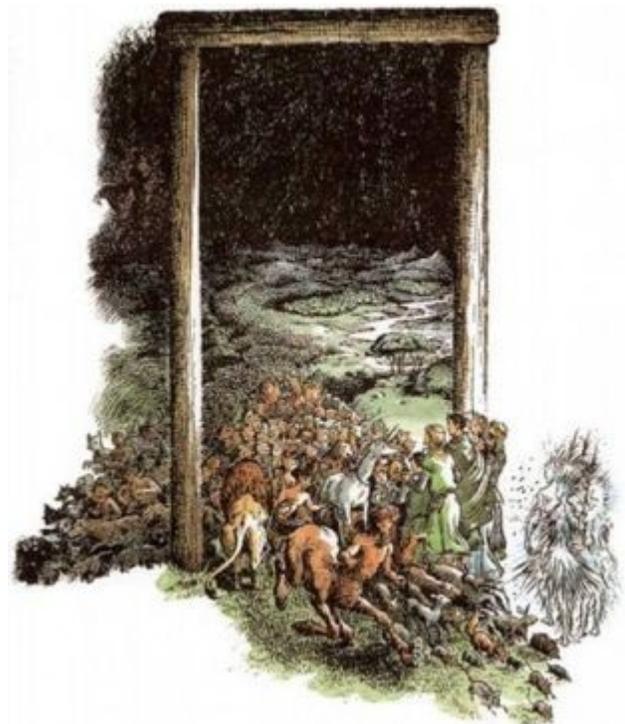
6. How do you feel when you read about people killing each other in war? Why do you think we have wars in this world? Eustace wants to be brave when facing frightening circumstances. What will it mean for us to be brave? Does bravery mean the absence of fear? How does Tirian think a true warrior ought to behave? How can knowing about heaven change the way we feel about death? When might war be necessary or just? C.S. Lewis fought in WWI. He was wounded in three places by an explosion that killed the

sergeant standing next to him. His injuries—one in his writing hand—bothered him for the rest of his life.



7. Scriptures on "Fighting the Good Fight": I Timothy 6:12-16; Ephesians 6:10-18; and Hebrews 12:1-3. Terrible times will not be the end of our story. What will be the end of our story? Read Revelation 7:14-17. Surviving the Great Tribulation.

8.. **WORD POWER:** Bethink means "Remember". Miscreant means "an evildoer" or "a villain".



SESSION XII: “ Through the Stable Door”

Read Chapter 12 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter 11, the final battle begins. Eustace only wants to be brave to the end. Those who fight in the name of Aslan know that things will not end well in this life. But they fight the good fight, knowing that grace awaits them beyond the grave. The Dwarfs, sadly, are “only for the Dwarfs”. With hearts that are hardened, they fling their arrows at the Talking Horses and at the Calormenes. In the end, the Ape, the Dwarfs and the soldiers of Aslan are all thrown into the Stable. AND THE DOOR IS SHUT. Death awaits us all, and then the judgment. Even the Captain of the Calormenes, Rishda Tarkaan, must face the Judge of the Living and the Dead.

2. Rishda dedicates all who are thrown into the Stable as offerings to Tash. Ironically, Rishda doesn't even believe in the existence of Tash, but TRUTH will soon be revealed and Rishda cannot escape the destiny that awaits him. He has sown bad seed and he will reap the harvest of his deeds. King Tirian says that the door of the Stable is a “grim door” more like a MOUTH. Death will eventually swallow (devour) us all. Jill wishes that something could be done to stop death from consuming us. Jewel, the Unicorn speaks the TRUTH: “It may be for us the door to Aslan's country and we shall sup at his table tonight.”

3. The last battle of the last king has begun. Tirian's only thought was “to sell his life as dearly as he could.” Tirian is inched closer and closer to the Stable door. The door is opened and Tirian decides that if he is to meet his Maker, then so shall Rishda. Grabbing Rishda's belt and jumping back into the Stable, Tirian shouts, “Come in and meet Tash yourself.” There will be Hell to pay for those who side with the Devil (Tash). Tirian expects that the inside of the Stable will be pitch black, but instead of darkness, he finds a strong, blinding LIGHT. Jesus said, “I Am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”—John 8:12.



4. Tash holds Rishda Tarkaan in his hands. A bishop of the church recently said, “There is no hell. And if hell exists, then it is empty.” Rishda denied the existence of Heaven and Hell, and God and Satan. Tash is real and he is entitled to his lawful prey. Rishda will spend all eternity with Tash. But Tash (Satan) is bound by the Sovereignty of God. A voice

speaks: “Begone Monster & take your lawful prey to your own place: In the name of Aslan and Aslan’s great Father, The Emperor-over-sea.” Who’s voice was it that spoke? When King Tirian turns his head to see who spoke what does he see? Who are the seven Kings and Queens that stand before him? What do we learn about their clothing? The Bible tells us that we will be changed, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.”

5. St. Paul writes, “I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, & the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”—I Corinthians 15:50-57.

6. Tirian addresses High King Peter with these words, “You are welcome to me.” What is Tirian actually saying? (I am at your service?) Tirian also asks an important question. He has read the Chronicles (the Bible?) and he notices that one of the Queens is missing. Where is Queen Susan? What does it mean that Susan is no longer a “friend of Narnia”? Has Susan lost her faith, and if so, has she also lost her hope in the afterlife (Aslan’s Country & Aslan’s Table)? It appears that Susan is worshiping something other than Aslan. Does Tirian’s recognition of Susan’s absence suggest that in heaven we will also be aware of those who are missing?

7. For believers, death is merely the doorway to heaven (John 14:1-4; I John 3:1-3). Jesus says to the repentant thief, “Today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43). The Bible often pictures heaven as a banquet or a feast (Psalm 23; Matthew 22:2-14; Luke 14:16-24, & Prodigal Son story; & Revelation 19:9). Tash (the Big Stink) can have Rishda, but he must keep his hands off of Tirian. In John 8:44, Jesus referred to blasphemers (ones who speak irreverently about God or sacred things; curses) as children of the devil. Followers of Jesus (Aslan) are sons of the Day and sons of the Light. They do not belong to the Night or the Darkness (I Thessalonians 5:5).

SESSION XIII: “How the Dwarfs Refused to be Taken In”

Read Chapter 13 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter 12, Tirian, Eustace and Jill find themselves inside the Stable. They have passed through the Door (John 10—Jesus) & have entered not into eternal darkness, but rather into Eternal Light and Life. Jesus said that those who save their lives will lose their lives. But those who lose their lives for Christ’s sake and the Gospel will save their lives. Jesus also said that those who are ashamed of Him in this sinful and adulterous generation, of those will the Son of Man also be shamed when He comes in the glory of His Kingdom. Eventually each one must pass through the door. Some will inherit eternal life, and others will spend eternity in Hell. The Dwarfs think that they can avoid choosing sides, but no one can sit on the fence. We are either for or against Jesus!



2. After eating the magical fruit, the friends tell how they arrived on this side of the Stable Door. They try to help the Dwarfs, but the Dwarfs are blinded by their own unbelief

and hardness of hearts. Even Aslan can’t break through their foolish cunning. Will heaven perhaps be hell for unbelievers? Aslan explains the Dwarfs predicament: “They will not let us help them. Their prison is only in their minds, yet they are in that prison; and so afraid of being taken in that they cannot be taken out.” Jesus also wept over the city of Jerusalem and its unbelief (Luke 13:34).

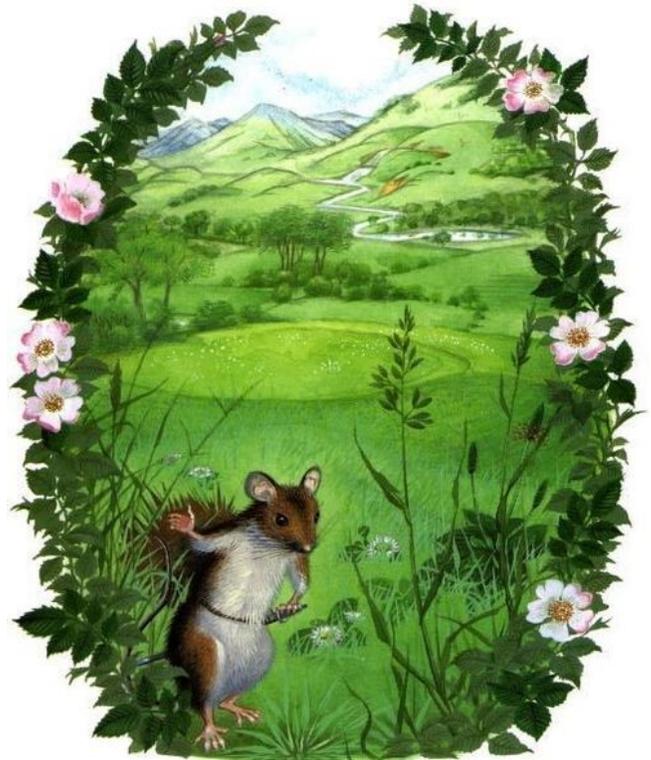
3. The Dwarfs sitting in a circle of self-imposed darkness is an unforgettable picture of the power of unbelief. During Jesus’ time on earth, many refused to believe that He was God’s Son. Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah to explain their sad plight (Matthew 13:15). Does it bother you that some people reject Jesus and freely choose darkness rather than the Light? Do you feel sorry for the Dwarfs? Does it take more faith to be a believer or an unbeliever? “Don’t try to be so smart that you risk being stupid.”

4. Aslan’s Country is full of luscious fruit trees. Can we expect the same in heaven? Read Revelation 22:2. Aslan greets and commends Tirian: ‘Well done, last of the kings of Narnia who stood firm at the darkest hour.’ These words are reminiscent of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:21. Jesus told his disciples that those who stand firm to the end will be saved (Mark 13:13).

5. Peter says that he has a feeling that they've entered a country where "everything is allowed." What does Peter mean? Will heaven be like that? What do you think Lucy meant by a Stable in our world, holding something bigger than the whole world? Read Luke 2:10-12.

6. King Tirian refers to Aslan as "his heart's desire", though he is seeing Aslan with his own eyes for the first time. We too see through a mirror dimly, but one day we will see face to face. Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Seeing is not believing. Believing is seeing!

7. What did the fruit in Aslan's Country taste like? It's indescribable. Better than one can even imagine. When you get to Aslan's Country you'll want to taste it for yourself. Notice how Edmund describes the train accident and death. It didn't hurt. Not so much scared, as excited. Previous pains removed. Diggory and Polly added, "We stopped feeling old." Time also takes on a new dimension. Though one can walk around the Stable door, one can also peek through a crack in the door and see Lantern Waste, where the final battle was fought. The Stable seen from within and the Stable seen from without are two different places. It's inside is bigger than its outside.



8. Do you find it interesting that even in Aslan's Country (heaven), Eustace keeps interrupting Lucy as she tells her story? Not surprisingly, Lucy is the one with compassion, who wants mercy shown for the Dwarfs. Eustace & Tirian are not so forgiving. Diggle says, "In this pitch-black, poky, smelly little hole of a Stable." In heaven, the Dwarfs can see only pitch darkness. Lucy holds wild violets to the face of Diggle, but he can only smell manure. Aslan shows up and Lucy begs Him to help the Dwarfs. Aslan says, "I will show you both what I can do and what I cannot do." Aslan roars, but they don't recognize His voice (John 10). Aslan provides a glorious feast, but all they can taste is hay and an old turnip, and water from a trough. How sad. Though heaven is being offered, they know only a Hell of their own making. Aslan says, "It's time, Time, TIME, **TIME!**"

SESSION XIV: “Night Falls on Narnia”

Read Chapter 14 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter 13, many mysteries are revealed. There is much joy, but there is also sadness. In spite of God’s best efforts, some people refuse to be saved. “The Dwarfs are for the Dwarfs.” Chapter 13 ends with Aslan’s roar. “Now it’s time.” **Three times Aslan ROARS “TIME”**. The Stable Door flies open. In the Bible two kinds of time are mentioned. There is CHRONOS time (which is chronological and measured by clocks and calendars), and there is KAIROS time (which is opportune moments of great grace). The Day of the LORD has been prophesied and promised. In the fullness of TIME, the END arrives. Heaven and earth will pass away, but God’s WORD remains forever. (Matthew 24:35).

2. Narnia’s end is as spectacular as its birth, but sadder. The friends of Narnia witness the stars falling, the world flooding, and the sun dying. **Father Time** gets a new name. “Behold, I make all things new,” says the LORD. In baptism, God makes each of us a new creation, & gives us His name. Baptism is a christening (*named and put into useful service*). Notice that when all the creatures of Narnia are SUMMONED, some pass into the darkness and others through Aslan’s Door. John 10 reminds us that Jesus is the only door into the Father’s Sheepfold.

3. The **Last Judgment** isn’t some awful calamity that comes from outside, but a mutual acknowledgment of what is already in each creature’s heart. “Do they know Aslan, and want to be with him or not?” One look into the Lion’s face will tell. Those who swerve to the left and those who pass through the Door are different. How so? Read Matthew 25:31-33, 46. Jesus is the King, the Judge of the living and the dead. There will be a separation of sheep and goats.

4. What do you think Father Time’s new name will be, now that time (Chronos) in Narnia is over? Aslan calls the High King Peter to close the Stable Door. Peter locks it with a Golden Key. Read Matthew 16:18-19. To whom did Jesus give the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven? On this Rock I will build my church. St. Peter says, “The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare” (I Peter 3:10). IN Revelation 1:18, Jesus says that he has the keys to death and Hades.

5. The Last Trumpet is sounded at Aslan’s command (see I Corinthians 15:52). Read the Prophet Joel 3:15, and Mark 13:25. The Day of the Lord—the End of our world—will come with signs. What are some of these signs? Narnia’s sun and moon turn red as they die (Joel 2:31; Revelation 6:12).

SESSION XV: "Further Up and Further In"

Read Chapter 15 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. In Chapter 14, residents of Aslan's Country look through an open doorway and witness the end of Narnia. A great giant by the name of Father Time awakens & gets a new name. "While he lay sleeping, his name was Time. Now that he is awake, he will have a new one" (Chronos no more!). Time will be different in heaven. The giant blows the horn and all one sees is a spreading blackness. The stars fall and Aslan calls them home. We noticed that no one escapes the Day of the Lord and the Last Judgment. One look into the Lion's face reveals one's fate; an eternity of heaven (sheep) or forever hell (goats). The Stable Door is closed at Aslan's command. Now what? "Further in and higher up!" The chapter ended with a surprise: "A Calormene sitting under a Chestnut tree." It was Emeth. He was in Aslan's Country!

2. Chapter 15 begins with Emeth's testimony. Emeth recounts his story and confesses that having served Tash, he deserved to die. But Aslan pronounced absolution: "Son, thou art welcome." Mistakenly, Emeth assumes that Tash and Aslan are one and the same. Aslan replies with a GROWL, making the earth shake. Then the "Glorious One" said, "It is false!" Aslan and Tash are not one. They are opposites! Aslan breathes on Emeth, making

him stand. "We will meet again. But now you must go further up and further in." Aslan breathed on Emeth taking away his fear. What does Jesus' breathing do to his disciples on Easter evening (John 20:21-22)?



3. Are you surprised that Emeth ended up in heaven (the new/real Narnia)? Acts 10:34-35, records Peter's words to a God-fearing Gentile named Cornelius. "God accepts people from every nation who fear Him and do what is right." Does that mean that Jesus is no longer necessary for salvation? Of course not. Acts 4:12 says it plainly: "There is salvation in no other name than the name of Jesus." Of course Jesus is necessary. In His own words, Jesus proclaims the TRUTH: "I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by me" — John 14. What then does Peter mean when he says that those who fear God and do what is right are acceptable to Him? The name Emeth, in Hebrew, means "faithful or true". Emeth suggests that anyone who truly seeks

the truth is actually seeking Jesus who is the TRUTH. **Notice how Emeth describes Aslan:** Speed like a great Ostrich; size like an Elephant; hair like pure gold; and eyes like gold that is liquid in the furnace. Compare Emeth's description of Aslan with John's description of Jesus in Revelation 1:14-17. Without realizing it, Emeth has been seeking and serving Aslan his whole life. Read Psalm 27:8 and Psalm 119:10.

4. Jeremiah 29:13 offers this promise: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Are you glad that Emeth makes it into the new/real Narnia? What does Jesus say about seeking in Mt. 7:7?



Puzzle has the jitters. He is worried about meeting Aslan face-to-face. What do you think Aslan will say to Puzzle? Two stories in the Book of Acts speak about seeking and finding. Acts 8:26-39 (Ethiopian Eunuch, an African Government

Official). Acts 10 (Cornelius, a Roman Military Commander).

5. Emeth says, "I have been wandering to find Him and my happiness is so great that it even weakens me like a wound." **C.S. Lewis once said**, "If we really think that home is elsewhere and that this life is a 'wandering to

find home,' why should we not look forward to the arrival?" What does it mean to go further up & further in? Lord Digory explains that the old Narnia was only a shadow or a copy of the real Narnia. One can't explain it. But those who get there will know that they have come home at last. "This is my real country. I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it until now." Read Colossians 2:17 ("These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.").



SESSION XVI: "Farewell to Shadowlands"

Read Chapter 16 and Discuss the following Questions:

1. "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). The friends of Aslan race faster & faster as they go further up & further in. But no one gets hot or tired or out of breath. The mouse **Reepicheep** is the first to welcome them into the garden. A trumpet sounds and the golden gate opens. Reepicheep says, "Welcome in the Lion's

name. Come further up and further in.” We too can look forward to meeting the great heroes of the faith described in Hebrews 11. King Tirian is surprised when he receives a bearded kiss from King Erlan (his own father who preceded him in death). Notice the appearance of King Erlan. Fledge is there to meet Digory and Polly. Heaven is like a Big Family Reunion. The Welcoming Team is huge, including Mr. Tumnus and the Beavers; King Frank and Queen Helen.

2. Lucy stands next to her dear friend Mr. Tumnus (the faun), and peering over the wall of the Garden, Lucy says, “I see now. This Garden is like the Stable. It is far bigger inside than it was outside.” “Of course,” says the faun. “The further up and the further in you go, the bigger everything gets. The inside is bigger than the outside.” AND SO IT SHALL BE IN HEAVEN. Time and space shall be immeasurable. Lucy looks hard at the Garden and sees that it is not a Garden at all, but a whole world. With the eyes of faith, we are able to see the real Narnia inside of the Shadow Narnia.

3. King Frank’s horn sounds, announcing that all must go up! And as they all walked in procession, the Light ahead was growing stronger. Suddenly Aslan appears. The first person Aslan called to him was Puzzle. Aslan whispers twice into the ears of Puzzle. What do you suppose the Lion said? Puzzle’s ears go down and then they go up. Then Aslan

speaks to the rest of the group. “You do not yet look so happy as I mean you to be.” Then Aslan tells them that they have died in a real railway accident, and that the Shadowlands are forever behind. “Don’t look sad Lucy! You won’t be sent back. You have died and been raised to new life. The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning.”

4. The reader may ask, “Did Aslan cause the train crash? Why did our Narnia friends have to die?” Death raises many questions. Death is a necessary and inescapable part of life. But for believers, death is an entryway into eternal life. Read [Revelation 22:3,5](#). Why do you suppose that the children are not upset to discover that they have died? Is heaven going to be what you imagine it to be, or will it be even better. Read I Corinthians 2:9. Heaven is beyond our comprehension. Are you looking forward to getting to heaven? Who do you hope to see? Who or what won’t we see in heaven? [Read Revelation 21:3-4](#). What does [Hebrews 12:1-2](#) tell us about running the race that is set before us?

5. “Now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.” We know the REST of the STORY. Our present life is just the cover & title page. What are you most looking forward to doing in heaven?

**Learner Assessment: Confirmation
Review—2018**

THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW

I. Multiple Choice

- A. C.S. Lewis' full name is
1. Charles Steven Lewis
 2. Clive Staples Lewis
 3. Cindy Susan Lewis
 4. Cain Samson Lewis
- B. What other famous person died the same day that C. S. Lewis died (Nov. 22, 1963)
1. Abraham Lincoln
 2. Mother Teresa
 3. John F. Kennedy
 4. Babe Ruth
- C. Who is still living on Baker Street in London when our story first begins?
1. King Arthur
 2. Obi-Wan Kenobi
 3. Sherlock Holmes
- D. C.S. Lewis' original title for "The Magician's Nephew" ...
1. Book #6
 2. Polly & Digory
 3. The Prequel
 4. The Silver Apple
- E. The Rings only work if...
1. They are touching skin
 2. You say, "Hocus-Pocus"
 3. You say, "Abra-Cadabra"
- F. Who gave Uncle Andrew the secret box?
1. His sister Letty
 2. Sherlock Holmes
 3. His Godmother, Mrs. LeFay
- G. What character is Digory in "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"?
1. Professor Kirke
 2. Peter
 3. Edmund
 4. Mr. Tumnus
- H. Why did Digory ring the bell with the hammer?
1. Because Polly was too afraid to do it herself.
 2. Because he wanted to see what would happen.
 3. Because he hoped to wake the room of statues.
 4. Because Aslan told him to.

- I. Who started singing a hymn in the darkness of the new world of Narnia?
 1. Digory
 2. The Cabby
 3. Strawberry
 4. Uncle Andrew
- J. Why did Queen Jadis speak the “deplorable word”?
 1. Her sister wouldn’t yield her the throne.
 2. She didn’t think it would really work.
 3. She believed it would give her eternal life.
 4. Aslan told her to do it.

II. True or False

1. There is only one door that leads to Eternal Life and Jesus is THE DOOR. T or F
2. C.S. Lewis died one week short of his 65th birthday. T or F
3. Digory Kirke and Polly Plummer are both 18 years old when our story begins. T or F
4. Uncle Andrew and Aunt Letty are husband and wife. T or F
5. God tempts those whom He loves. T or F
6. The Deplorable Word is “the Atomic Bomb”. T or F
7. When C. S. Lewis was nine years old his mother got cancer and died. T or F
8. The Bible tells us that it’s okay not to forgive someone who has hurt you.
Just watch sunsets instead! T or F
9. The Cabby can’t pronounce the letter “H”. T or F
10. Digory listens to the Witch Jadis and eats a Silver Apple in the Garden. T or F

III. Multiple Choice

- A. What happened to Polly when she came home with wet shoes?
 1. She was sent to bed without any dinner.
 2. She was grounded for 2 weeks.
 3. She had to apologize to Digory’s aunt for getting her carpet wet.
 4. She had dinner without the good parts and was sent to bed for 2 hours.
- B. Uncle Andrew prepares himself for a night out on the town with Jadis by...
 1. Drinking two glasses of orange juice.
 2. Putting on his best frockcoat, some cologne and his eye-glass.
 3. Borrowing 50 pounds from his sister Letty.
 4. Getting his hansom out of the garage.
- C. The Wood Between the Worlds is
 1. A calm quiet place, full of life; a rich place, as rich as plumcake.
 2. A dreamy place where people fall asleep and soon forget everything (amnesia).
 3. A connecting hub (like an airport or an attic tunnel connecting Row Houses) with dozens of pools only inches deep.
 4. All of the Above.

- D. Rules don't apply to Uncle Andrew because...
1. He possesses special wisdom. He is a scholar; the Magician!
 2. He's not a carpenter.
 3. Rules are the work of the Devil.
 4. Rules are only for girls.
- E. Who becomes the first King and Queen of Narnia?
1. Edmund and Lucy.
 2. A Cabby named Frank and his wife Nellie/Helen.
 3. Digory and Polly.
 4. Uncle Andrew and Jadis.
- F. Aslan commissions Frank and Helen to...
1. Rule, name, and protect the creatures.
 2. Farm Narnia and grow food.
 3. Not to have favorites and to teach their children to rule wisely.
 4. Lead the charge when defending Narnia in battle.
 5. All of the above.
- G. Message written on the pillar in the land of Charn next to the golden bell and hammer:
1. "No trespassing"
 2. Poetry: "Make your choice, adventurous Stranger, Strike the bell and bide the danger, Or wonder till it drives you mad, What would have followed if you had."
 3. "Click the heels of your shoes and say, 'There is no place like home'".
 4. "When you wish upon a star, Makes no difference who you are; Anything your heart desires, Will come to you."
- H. Polly's disappearance from Uncle Andrew's Study is...
1. Carefully planned and orchestrated by Uncle Andrew.
 2. An accident. No one is to blame.
 3. Digory's fault, because he persuaded Polly to touch the yellow ring.
- I. One of the first things Polly notices when she lands in Uncle Andrew's forbidden study is...
1. Three mice playing by a roaring fire.
 2. Guinea pigs with rings around their feet.
 3. Aunt Letty sleeping in a high-backed armchair.
 4. A bright red wooden tray with rings in pairs, one yellow and one green.
- J. Uncle Andrew doesn't test his theory with himself as the guinea pig because...
1. The rings are too small for his fingers.
 2. He is a coward.
 3. He is color-blind.
 4. Digory and Polly won't let him.

IV. True or False

1. Digory is crying because his father is in India, his mother is dying, and he has to live with his Uncle Andrew who is mad. T or F
2. Polly struck the golden bell to get even with Digory. T or F
3. The Voice of a Lion, singing a song, brings Narnia into existence. T or F
4. The lighted Lamp-Post in Narnia (Lantern Waste) was originally a weapon in the hands of Jadis. T or F
5. Aslan tells the talking beasts that “jokes as well as justice come in with speech.” T or F
6. It was Digory’s idea to mark the pool in the Wood that takes one to London. T or F
7. The Jackdow made the first joke in Narnia. T or F
8. Digory confesses to Aslan that he is responsible for bringing evil into Narnia. T or F
9. When Digory asks Aslan for something to cure his mother, the Lion cries. T or F
10. Uncle Andrew threw an iron bar from the London Lamp-Post at the Lion. T or F

V. Matching

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------|--|
| _____ | Atlantis | A. Horse-drawn carriage |
| _____ | Genesis 3:15 | B. A story that precedes an earlier work |
| _____ | Silver Apple | C. Andrew’s sister; Digory’s sick mother |
| _____ | Jadis | D. Bird in the Crow Family |
| _____ | <i>Sal volatile</i> | E. A flying, talking horse; aka Strawberry |
| _____ | Prequel | F. Messiah will crush the head of Satan |
| _____ | Mabel | G. The source of the DUST (rings) |
| _____ | Jackdow | H. A dem fine woman. A superb creature |
| _____ | Fledge | I. Smelling salts |
| _____ | Hansom | J. Garden fruit, healing and protection |

VI. Final Questions:

- A. What is your most favorite part of the story of “The Magician’s Nephew”?
- B. Where does the Wardrobe come from? What final warning and command does Aslan give to Digory?
- C. How is this story similar to the story of Creation and Fall found in Genesis 1-3 and the Book of Revelation?

