

Finding God in the Land of Narnia Book Discussion Guide

Introduction

What factors influenced C. S. Lewis to change from an atheist to a Christian believer? Describe his faith journey and how God eventually used him for Kingdom work.

How did Lewis's experience compare/contrast with your own faith journey?

How do you explain the resistance many Christians feel toward trusting their imaginations? Have you noticed this resistance in yourself or others?

Aslan's Song

How does the truth that God spoke (or sang) our world into existence contradict some modern scientific theories about creation?

Using your imagination, describe what you think the beginning of the world might have been like.

Evil Has Entered

Compare the account of Polly and Digory with the biblical story of Adam and Eve. How did evil enter Narnia, and how did it enter our own world?

Explain what Lewis meant when he called our world "enemy-occupied territory."
Describe the war being fought.

All Get What They Want

Sometimes even good things have evil consequences if we are not meant to have them. Share some examples of plucking and eating a fruit at the wrong time.

Explain how submitting to God's will helps us avoid misery and death, even (or perhaps especially) when it seems contrary to our human impulses.

Chinks and Chasms

What is a "surprise encounter" with heaven like? Have you ever experienced such an encounter?

What is the world that awaits us just beyond the reach of our senses? Have you ever considered that this other world is quite near, not far away?

Turkish Delight

The author explains that some things are just plain ugly, and sometimes ugliness is hidden in a pretty package. Turkish Delight is an example of the latter. Can you think of some things that qualify as Turkish Delight in our culture?

What is your personal Turkish Delight? Share some strategies that have helped you keep that pretty package closed.

Not Safe But Good

What are some aspects of God's nature that are "unsafe" to us?

Discuss why we truly have nothing to fear but God.

Father Christmas

Describe what life would be like in a world where there was always drudgery, without any holidays or breaks. What does this image have to do with Christ's birth?

Think back over your own life and spiritual journey. Were there times when something good came out of sorrow?

Deep and Deeper Magic

Discuss how the story of Aslan mirrors the story of God's love for his people.

What do you think the author means when he says, "The universe is founded on God's redeeming love"?

Eve

Describe the characteristics that set us, as humans, apart from the rest of creation.

What is the great responsibility that goes along with being human? What happens when we shirk this responsibility?

Irresistibly Drawn

Discuss how God has snatched you out of everyday existence into the kingdom of heaven.

Who initiated the relationship—you or God? Explain.

Old Narnians

Discuss what the modern church has in common with military outposts in time of war.

Are there situations in which you find it especially challenging to stand up for your faith? What can we learn from Christians who have gone before us about dealing with ridicule and persecution?

Strange Help

Have you ever been disappointed with God?

Have there been times when God has helped you but the help didn't come in the form you expected?

Divine Revelry

Why do you think Christians became labeled with the cultural stereotype of being dour and humorless?

Does the stereotype contrast with the way the Christian life ought to be lived? Why or why not?

Consider two or three ways you can express your joy in Christ this week.

A Change of Clothes

In what ways does the world try to convince us that we can fix all our problems (with a suitable purchase, of course)?

What does it mean to let God “change our clothes”?

The Sign of the Albatross

Have you ever found yourself lost in dark and dire circumstances? Did you cry out to the Lord for help? If so, what happened? If not, what did you do instead?

In what ways is living the Christian life like following a beam of light through the darkness?

Perilous Table

Why do we sometimes mistrust the bounty that the Lord provides?

What are the benefits for the believer of sharing in the act of communion? How can such a simple act sustain us?

Heart's Desire

What is the prize that believers are born to seek?

What are some practical things we can do to keep ourselves focused on the goal?

Only Ask

What is real power, and where does it come from? Compare this kind of power with what our culture calls power.

When it comes to plugging into God's power, what is the difference between a magical worldview and a biblical worldview?

Lion's Breath

Discuss how Aslan's breath reflects the Spirit of God.

Have you ever had a clear experience of the Spirit of God at work in your life?

Foot in the Fire

Discuss how pain can be a positive thing, at least sometimes.

What are some real-life equivalents to the sweet green incense that the Emerald Witch uses to fog the travelers' minds? How can we resist succumbing to these influences?

Bungled But Blessed

What keeps our human mistakes and blunders from totally ruining our lives? What saves us from causing our own destruction?

How can there be no accidents when God is in control?

“Narnia and the North!”

Can you relate to a chronic desire for “a nameless, indefinable object”? If so, what does this desire feel like?

What do Christians mean when we say that this world is not our home?

Most Unfortunate

Looking back over your life, can you see how some of the most unfortunate incidents might have spurred you in a new direction that you wouldn't have taken otherwise? Were there any clouds with silver linings? If so, explain.

Why is it likely that a life of total comfort and ease might not be good for us?

The Good We Could Do

Comment on the statement, “Just because we *can* do something doesn't mean we *should*.” Where do we get our understanding of what we should and shouldn't do?

Can you think of some situations in which doing what we think is right could be wrong?

Seeing It

What keeps people from seeing what is right in front of them?

Have you ever been paralyzed by indecision? Discuss how a refusal to decide is, in itself, a decision.

Further Up and Further In

In what ways is C. S. Lewis's concept of heaven similar to your understanding? In what ways is it different? Explain.

Have you ever imagined heaven as a place similar to earth, only perfect? How does this view compare with the Hollywood version of heaven?

Why do earthly pleasures tantalize but never truly satisfy us?

Have you gained any new insights on the spiritual life from reading this book?