

Chronicle of Narnia Book Club

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

THE BOOK

This book is the first book published by C.S. Lewis in the Narnia series but is the 2nd in the chronology of Narnia. It is probably the most recognized of the seven books (made into a 2005 movie).

THE BIG PICTURE

Satan and evil are present, powerful, and pervasive. But God is still on the throne. What the enemy seeks to steal, kill and destroy can be reversed by the power of Jesus. When we are slaves to sin and controlled by Satan, Jesus comes to set us free. But our freedom costs His life. Our cleansing means that He takes the punishment we deserved. And when Jesus rises from the dead, He makes all things new and right.

THE STORY IN SUMMARY & SPIRITUAL LESSONS ALONG THE WAY

Four curious siblings are taken to the English countryside estate of a professor (named Digory Kirke) as part of WWII evacuations of children from London. They find a beautiful wooden wardrobe that was carved from the wood of a magical tree that grew from an apple brought back from Narnia by Digory to heal his sick mother in *The Magician's Nephew*. Lucy is the first to climb into that magic wardrobe and be swept into the magical country of Narnia where it is now always winter but never Christmas! This occurs perhaps 100 Narnia years after *the Magician and His Nephew* (about 40 years in Earth time). She meets a fawn named Tumnus.

DISCUSSION: How would you describe Mr. Tumnus? Was he ultimately good or evil?

Lucy returns after several hours of adventure to realize that no time has passed in the real world (and no one believes her). Edmund makes fun of her stories, but secretly seems to believe her.

DISCUSSION: Can you connect with Lucy being discounted, not listened to?

Edmund secretly did believe what Lucy said and so he went into the wardrobe next. He had a very different adventure as he encounters the White Witch, the very same witch from the previous book! The tree that protected all the creatures of Narnia from the Witch has long since died and the Witch rules the land with her magic powers and a wand that can turn anyone into stone! The witch is riding on her sledge through the land of Narnia, always on the lookout for any human children because prophecy says that 4 children will come to Narnia and end her rule and her life. She enchants Edmund with magical Turkish delight, and tempts him to betray his siblings by offering to make him her heir. Edmund falls for the witch's enchantment and deception.

1. The power of temptation and the sinister seduction of sin (Turkish Delight) is greater than we often realize or recognize.

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5)

DISCUSSION: What did you notice about Edmund's desire for and consumption of the Turkish Delight?

Edmund returns to our world to retrieve his brother and sisters and bring them to the Witch (so that he can have more of the Turkish Delight). He tells them nothing of his encounter with the Witch, The others are angry with Edmund for lying about believing Lucy, and Edmund's anger toward them grows. Now they all go into Narnia together and follow Lucy to find the helpful Mr. Tumnus. But the Witch has captured Tumnus already. Then, they meet the Beavers!

DISCUSSION: How would you describe the Beavers?

As the children and Beavers realize that the Witch is hunting for them, they realize they need to run, escape... but Edmund has snuck off to rejoin the Witch (and get more Turkish Delight), She now will not let him go and her former sweet and generous response has turned to cruelty and evil. As the children travel, they realize that the winter is beginning to thaw because Aslan is in Narnia and his presence is ending the Witch's Winter.

2. Jesus melts the cold and death of Winter's sin and brings eternal Spring when He draws near.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

DISCUSSION: What does this melting and thawing look like in our lives?

3. Beware who you trust and with whom you travel.

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20)

DISCUSSION: Tell about a person God has placed in your life who has been a wise and strong presence walking at your side over time.

The children finally meet Aslan who is in the land to end the winter but also to redeem/rescue the now-enslaved Edmund. Peter is tasked with preparing to lead the creatures of Narnia in battle against the witch Aslan meets with the Witch who states her authority over Edmund as a traitor, but Aslan offers himself to die in Edmund's place. He is killed on the Great Stone Table as atonement for Edmund's sin. Aslan is slain with heartless brutality and it seems the story is over. The witch has won. Aslan is dead. Evil prevails. The story is over...or so it seems! Aslan does not stay dead. The stone table is broken. Evil is conquered. Aslan is alive and bigger, brighter, and fiercer than ever! Those who have been immobilized by her power are set free!

He defeats the witch spiritually on the Stone Table and then they all defeat her forces in battle and sets all things right.

4. Spiritual battles are real and we need to be ready to fight.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand... (Ephesians 6:10-18)

DISCUSSION: How do our own experiences follow this same path - the spiritual victory followed by a battle to assert complete victory over the enemy?

5. The power of God, the goodness of Jesus, and the universe-shattering glory of the resurrection destroy sin, hell, the grip of Satan, and make all things right.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil... (Hebrews 2:14)

DISCUSSION: What do we see here about the relationship between Aslan, the Witch and the Emperor over the sea?

The children, sons of Adam and daughters of Eve, become kings and queens of Narnia and grow up into adults. Until one day they are swept back into their own world...children once again.

BRINGING IT HOME

Jesus, the Messiah, is the answer to so many of the questions we are asking!

- What (or who) can set me free from the enticement and lure of sin?
- Where is the source of light, life, and warmth that my soul longs for in the cold and broken world?
- How can I stand strong against the spiritual battles (both small and large) that I face as I walk through life?
- Is there hope for today and for eternity?

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. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)