

## 4. The Silver Chair Discussion Group

WK	Days	Reading Assignment	Chapter Titles
Wk 4	March 26	Chs 9, 10, 11	9. How They Discovered Something Worth Knowing 10. Travels without the Sun 11. In the Dark Castle
Wk 5	April 2	Chs 12, 13	12. The Queen of Underland 13. Underland without the Queen
Wk 6	April 9	Chs 14, 15, 16	14. The Bottom of the World 15. The Disappearance of Jill 16. The Healing of Harms

“At *Luna* we cross in our descent the great frontier which I have so often had to mention; from aether to air, from ‘heaven’ to ‘nature’, from the realm of the gods (or angels) to that of daemons, from the realm of necessity to that of contingency, from the incorruptible to the corruptible.

C.S. Lewis, *The Discarded Image*

“Our commonest expedient is to call it beauty and behave as if that had settled the matter. Wordsworth’s expedient was to identify it with certain moments in his own past. But all this is a cheat. If Wordsworth had gone back to those moments in the past, he would not have found the thing itself, but only the reminder of it; what he remembered would turn out to be itself a remembering. The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself, they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited. Do you think I am trying to weave a spell? Perhaps I am; but remember your fairy tales. Spells are used for breaking enchantments as well as for inducing them. And you and I have need of the strongest spell that can be found to wake us from the evil enchantment of worldliness which has been laid upon us for nearly a hundred years.”

C. S. Lewis, “The Weight of Glory”

“When I am awake I can, in some degree, account for and study my dream. The dragon that pursued me last night can be fitted into my waking world. I know that there are such things as dreams; I know that I had eaten an indigestible dinner; I know that a man of my reading might be expected to dream of dragons. But while in the nightmare I could not have fitted in my waking experience. The waking world is judged more real because it can thus contain the dreaming world; the dreaming world is judged less real because it cannot contain the waking one. For the same reason I am certain that in passing from the scientific points of view to the theological, I have passed from dream to waking. Christian theology can fit in science, art, morality, and the sub-Christian religions. The scientific point of view cannot fit in any of these things, not even science itself. I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

C. S. Lewis, “Is Theology Poetry?”

“Ah,” he groaned. “Enchantments, enchantments ... the heavy, tangled, cold, clammy web of evil magic. Buried alive. Dragged down under the earth, down into the sooty blackness ... how many years is it? ...

Have I lived ten years, or a thousand years, in the pit? Maggotmen all around me. Oh, have mercy. Let me out, let me go back. Let me feel the wind and see the sky ... There used to be a little pool. When you looked down into it you could see all the trees growing upside-down in the water, all green, and below them, deep, very deep, the blue sky.”

C. S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*

## Questions for Chapters 9, 10, 11

1. What happens in chapters 9, 10, and 11?
2. What drink does the Porter give to Puddleglum?
3. What does dwelling with giants do to one?
4. What is happening? In what direction are the children now traveling? How does this help us understand the greater themes in the story?
5. Who is the giant sleeping in Underland?
6. How is the Prince first described? How might this description help us understand what Lewis doing?
7. How does the Prince experience or speak about the Overworld and the Underworld? How and where is it ironic?
8. What is the kind of story we are reading? Where is Aslan?