

### 3. The Magician's Nephew Discussion Group

Week	Date	Reading Assignment	Chapters Discussed
Wk 1	Nov 5	Chs 1, 2, 3	1. The Wrong Door 2. Digory and His Uncle 3. The Wood Between the Worlds
Wk 2	Nov 12	Chs 4, 5, 6	4. The Bell and the Hammer 5. The Deplorable Word 6. The Beginning of Uncle Andrew's Troubles
	Nov 19	No Meeting	
Wk 3	Nov 26	Chs 7, 8, 9	7. What Happened at the Front Door 8. The Fight at the Lamp-post 9. The Founding of Narnia
Wk 4	Dec 3	Chs 10, 11, 12	10. The First Joke and Other Matters 11. Digory and His Uncle Are Both in Trouble 12. Strawberry's Adventure
Wk 5	Dec 10	Chs 13, 14, 15	13. An Unexpected Meeting 14. The Planting of the Tree 15. The End of This Story and the Beginning of All the Others
Wk 6	Dec 17		

#### C.S. Lewis: A Sonnet

From 'Beer and Beowulf' to the seven heavens,  
 Whose music you conduct from sphere to sphere,  
 You are our portal to those hidden havens  
 Whence we return to bless our being here.  
 Scribe of the Kingdom, keeper of the door  
 Which opens on to all we might have lost,  
 Ward of a word-hoard in the deep hearts core  
 Telling the tale of Love from first to last.  
 Generous, capacious, open, free,  
 Your wardrobe-mind has furnished us with worlds  
 Through which to travel, whence we learn to see  
 Along the beam, and hear at last the heralds,  
 Sounding their summons, through the stars that sing,  
 Whose call at sunrise brings us to our King.

Malcolm Guite

"It is but her jealousy that speaks," he said, "jealousy self-kindled, foiled and fruitless; for here I am, her master now whom she, would not have for her husband! while my beautiful Eve yet lives, hoping immortally! Her hated daughter lives also, but beyond her evil ken, one day to be what she counts her destruction—for even Lilith shall be saved by her childbearing. Meanwhile she exults that my human wife plunged herself and me in despair, and has borne me a countless race of miserables; but my Eve repented, and is now beautiful as never was woman or angel, while her groaning, travailing world is the nursery of our Father's children. I too have repented, and am blessed.—Thou, Lilith, hast not yet repented; but thou must.—Tell me, is the great Shadow beautiful? Knowest thou how long thou wilt thyself remain beautiful?—Answer me, if thou knowest."

Then at last I understood that Mr. Raven was indeed Adam, the old and the new man; and that his wife, ministering in the house of the dead, was Eve, the mother of us all, the lady of the New Jerusalem.

The leopardess reared; the flickering and fleeing of her spots began; the princess at length stood radiant in her perfect shape.

“I AM beautiful—and immortal!” she said—and she looked the goddess she would be.

George MacDonald, *Lilith*

“That’s what I don’t understand, Mr. Beaver,” said Peter, “I mean isn’t the Witch herself human?”

“She’d like us to believe it,” said Mr. Beaver, “and it’s on that that she bases her claim to be Queen. But she’s no Daughter of Eve. She comes of your father Adam’s”—(here Mr. Beaver bowed) “your father Adam’s first wife, her they called Lilith. And she was one of the Jinn. That’s what she comes from on one side. And on the other she comes of the giants. No, no, there isn’t a drop of real human blood in the Witch.”

“That’s why she’s bad all through, Mr. Beaver,” said Mrs. Beaver.

“True enough, Mrs. Beaver,” replied he, “there may be two views about humans (meaning no offense to the present company). But there’s no two views about things that look like humans and aren’t.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

“With my mother’s death all settled happiness, all that was tranquil and reliable, disappeared from my life. There was to be much fun, many pleasures, many stabs of Joy; but no more of the old security. It was sea and islands now; the great continent had sunk like Atlantis.”

C. S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*

### **Chapter Seven: What Happened at the Front Door**

1. What happens next?
2. What does Digory learn from the conversation he overhears which Aunt Letty has with a visitor?
3. How does he think about the implications of being able to heal his mother?
4. How are all the women described? Aunt Letty, Mother Mabel, Jadis, Polly?

### **Chapter Eight: The Fight at the Lamp-post**

1. What happens at the Lamp-post?
2. What is the effect of the Wood Between the Worlds on each?
3. When they arrive in the world in which “nothing had ever grown there since the beginning of time,” how does the Cabby respond? What does he lead them in doing?
4. What happens next?
5. How do the children and the Cabby respond to what happens? How do Jadis and Uncle Andrew respond?

### **Chapter Nine: The Founding of Narnia**

1. How does the new world compare to Charn?
2. What grows in Jadis? What grows in the Cabby? in the children? in Uncle Andrew?
3. What does the Lion do next? What happens to some of the animals?
4. How does the chapter end?
5. What planet is being made into a story?