

2. 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		

"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*

"We see at once (when we have been waked) that the important question is not whether an atomic bomb is going to obliterate "civilization". The important question is whether "Nature"—the thing studied by the sciences—is the only thing in existence. Because if you answer yes to the second question, then the first question only amounts to asking whether the inevitable frustration of all human activities may be hurried on by our own action instead of coming at its natural time. That is, of course, a question that concerns us very much. Even on a ship which will certainly sink sooner or later, the news that the boiler might blow up now would not be heard with indifference by anyone. But those who knew that the ship was sinking in any case would not, I think, be quite so desperately excited as those who had forgotten this fact, and were vaguely imagining that it might arrive somewhere."

Chapter Four: The Bell and the Hammer

1. How is the world of Charn different from the Wood Between the Worlds?
2. How are the kings and queens in the hall described?
3. What happens to Diggory upon seeing the bell and reading its inscription?
4. What sort of things is Lewis trying to show us about the nature of things?

Chapter Five: The Deplorable Word

1. How does the Queen describe the palace's rooms and corridors?
2. How does the Queen describe the city of Charn?
3. What is the Queen's name?
4. What sort of issues do you think Lewis is address underneath the deplorable word?

Chapter Six: The Beginning of Uncle Andrew's Troubles

1. What effect does the Wood Between the Worlds have on Jadis?
2. What effect does Jadis have on Uncle Andrew?
3. Where does Uncle Andrew go and what does he do before changing his clothes?
4. Why did Uncle Andrew become a magician?
5. How are Aunt Letty and Uncle Andrew different?