

## 4. 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		

...In the third region  
 VENUS voyages...but my voice falters:  
 Rude rime-making wrongs her beauty,  
 Whose breasts and brow, and her breath's sweetness  
 Bewitch the worlds. Wide-spread reign  
 Of her secret sceptre, in the sea's caverns,  
 In grass growing, and grain bursting,  
 Flower unfolding, and flesh longing,  
 And shower falling sharp in April.  
 The metal copper in the mine reddens  
 With muffled brightness, like muted gold,  
 By her fingers form'd....

From "The Planets" by C.S. Lewis

"We are to shine as the sun, we are to be given the Morning Star. I think I begin to see what it means. In one way, of course, God has given us the Morning Star already: you can go and enjoy the gift on many fine mornings if you get up early enough. What more, you may ask, do we want? Ah, but we want so much more— something the books on aesthetics take little notice of. But the poets and the mythologies know all about it. We do not want merely to see beauty, though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it. That is why we have peopled air and earth and water with gods and goddesses and nymphs and elves—that, though we cannot, yet these projections can, enjoy in themselves that beauty grace, and power of which Nature is the image. That is why the poets tell us such lovely falsehoods. They talk as if the west wind could really sweep into a human soul; but it can't. They tell us that "beauty born of murmuring sound" will pass into a human face; but it won't. Or not yet. For if we take the imagery of

Scripture seriously, if we believe that God will one day *give* us the Morning Star and cause us to *put on* the splendour of the sun, then we may surmise that both the ancient myths and the modern poetry, so false as history, may be very near the truth as prophecy. At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get *in*.”

C.S. Lewis, “The Weight of Glory”

### **Chapter Ten: The First Joke and Other Matters**

1. As the animals become ‘awake,’ how do they respond? What sorts of things identify that they are not like the other animals?
2. What does Aslan command the animals? Does this parallel anything in other books?
3. Why do you think laughter and joking are a part of the sphere of Venus?
4. How does “Lonn’on” differ from Narnia?
5. What effect does Narnia have on Uncle Andrew? What does Uncle Andrew do to himself?

### **Chapter Eleven: Digory and His Uncle are Both in Trouble**

1. What do the animals do to help Uncle Andrew?
2. What does Digory ask Aslan?
3. What does Aslan ask Digory? What does Digory come to learn through Aslan’s questioning?
4. What does Aslan say about how the evil which has entered into Narnia?
5. Who joins the Cabbie in Narnia? What does it mean to be a king?

### **Chapter Twelve: Strawberry’s Adventure**

1. Does Digory strike a good bargain with the Lion? What does he see in the Lion?
2. What does Aslan do for Digory? What does Aslan show Digory?
3. What does Aslan do to Strawberry? What does his new name mean?
4. Where do Fledge and the children go? for what are they looking?

# Dante's Cosmos

