

STUDY GUIDE
for the
Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis



Book 6
The Magician's Nephew
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1

The Magicians Nephew pp. 1- 65

1. About how long had Narnia existed in earth years? (p.1)
2. Describe each of the characters, based on your first impression of them.

Digory Kirke –

Polly Plummer –

Uncle Andrew Ketterly –

3. Who exactly is Digory Kirke? (p.36)

What were some of the hints given to you in the first book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*? (See The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe pp. 45-47; 185-186)

4. How do the children end up in Uncle Andrew's study?
5. How did Uncle Andrew happen to be able to make the rings? (pp. 16-20)
6. What was Uncle Andrew's plan for the children?
7. Describe how the rings actually worked. How did Uncle Andrew think they worked? (p.39)

8. Do you think it is possible that there is a and in-between place like the passageway between the houses and the woods, 'places which lead to somewhere, but are really no place in themselves?' (p. 34)

9. Describe the land of Charn, which the children jump into? What had happened there? (p. 43)

10. What was on the pillar by the bell? (p.50)

What does this tell us about how Satan sometimes tempts us to do his will?

11. After striking the bell, the book reads that he was very sorry for doing it afterward, and so were a good many other people? (p. 51) Why?

How might other people be affected by our actions and sins? Give an example.

12. There are two main lessons being learned by the people in this book.

A. Everybody is governed by some sort of rules. No one is above God's Word, or any law.

"Men like me who possess hidden wisdom, are freed from common rules just as we are cut off from common pleasures. Ours, my boy, is a high and lonely destiny."

Said by the professor. p. 18

"You must learn, child, that what would be wrong for you or for any of the common people is not wrong in a great queen such as I. The weight of the world is on our shoulders. We must be freed from all rules. Ours is a high and lonely destiny."

Said by the queen of Charn, pp. 61, 62

Why are rules so important? Are there any people beyond the authority of roles?

What should be done to people who break rules? Why do all of us break rules at times?

B. You can get into big trouble doing things you really don't understand, especially when dealing with magic!

"I had to get to know some devilish queer people, and go through some very disagreeable experiences. That was what turned my head grey. One doesn't become a magician for nothing."

Said by the professor p. 20

"We can't get out of it now. We shall always be wondering what would have happened if we had struck the bell. I'm not going home to be driven mad I always thinking of that. No fear!"

Said by Digory p. 50

What does this tell us about dabbling with Satanism, and things in general that we don't understand?

What does this teach us about taking chances? Is there a time when we should take chances? How do you know?

13. Digory and Polly had to get into Narnia by and in-between world. Why didn't Lucy and the others go through this world, but instead went directly from our world into Narnia?

2 The Magicians Nephew pp. 66-128

1. What were the two themes to be learned from the last section's discussion?
 - A.
 - B.
2. Why was the witch (queen) having such a hard time breathing in the wood and why was she losing her power? (p. 67)
3. When the queen met Uncle Andrew, Polly thought that there was a sort of likeness between them. (p.69) Why did she think that?
4. In these pages we now learn another lesson. It is that we tend to forget how bad things really were, once we get away from them for a while. How do we see this happening with the Queen (p.72), and with Uncle Andrew (p. 76)?

The Queen –

Uncle Andrew –

5. Once the queen had gotten into their world, and had Uncle Andrew doing all her work, she no longer took notice of Digory or Polly. Polly's thinking was that those kind of people "are not interested in things or people unless they can use them". (p.72) Do you know someone who is like that, who only cares about people so they can use them? Why are some people like that?

6. Why was the lady with the grapes so important to Digory? (p.85)
7. Who ended up in the wood after the big street fight in London, and then later found themselves in a new dark world? (There are six.)
8. Why did the creation of this new world affect each of the travelers in a different way? Why did the witch or Uncle Andrew not join in the singing of a hymn in that dark land? (p.97)
9. How was Narnia created? Why did the stars simply pop out all at once? (pp. 99-107) How is the creation of this land similar to how God created our world?
10. Where did they enter this new land of Narnia?
11. What happened to the iron bar that the witch had thrown at Aslan? (pp.108-110)
12. Uncle Andrew showed himself a real coward at times. What was the excuse he used all the time? (pp.102, 109) Have you heard this excuse before? How do some non-Christians use it to keep from accepting Christ?
13. It didn't take Uncle Andrew long to forget about his complaining. He quickly got over it and was very excited. (p.111) What came over him to make you feel so young?

14. Who were the animals that wandered away? (p.115) What did they symbolize?

15. "What you see in hear depends a good deal on where you are standing and on what sort of person you are." (p.125) Explain this statement. Is it true? To whom did it refer?

16. Our section ends with Uncle Andrew trying to believe only what he wanted to believe. (p.126) Finally he had convinced himself that what was false was actually real, and what was real was foolish. How do non-believers sometimes do this?

3 The Magician's Nephew pp.129 - end

1. What do the animals think of Uncle Andrew? (p.132) What is a “neevil”?
2. Describe the bulldog. What was he so sensitive about? (pp.131-133) What is your sore spot in regards to yourself that you don't like to hear talked about?
3. How did the evil come to Narnia? (p.135) Whom did Digory try to place the blame on? Who did Aslan say was to blame? Is it fair?
4. Who gets blamed in our world's creation? Adam? Eve? Or the Serpent? Who did God place the blame on?
5. What was Aslan referring to when he said, “As Adam's race has done the harm, so Adam's race shall help to heal it.”? (p.136) Why did he send only Digory?

What did Aslan mean when he told Digory that he would see to it that the worst fell upon himself? (p.136)

6. What did Aslan mean when he said to the cabbie, “I have known you long, do you know me? (p.136) What happens to the cabbie?

7. Digory was going to tell Aslan that he would get the apple only if Aslan would heal his mother. But then he said to himself, "The lion is not the sort of person you make deals with." (p.141) How do people today try to make deals with God?

8. What is in the western part of this world? (p.143)

9. Digory forgot to ask Aslan about food on their trip. What do you think Fledge meant when he said, "I think Aslan is the sort that I like to be asked?" (p.150) Have you ever expected things from God, without really asking for them? Give a few examples.

10. The words at the gate to the orchard read... (p.157)

"Come in by the gold gates or not at all,
Take of my fruit for others or forbear.
For those who steal or those who climb my wall
Shall find their hearts desire and find despair."

What is meant by those words?

11. The witch flew over them at night and arrived at the wooden garden before the others. (p.160) When the others arrived, the witch was waiting for them. How was the witch's temptation similar to the serpent's temptation in the bible? (Gen. 3)

12. What was the real reason that the witch wanted Digory to go back with the apple and heal his mother? (p.163)

13. Aslan said about the witch eating the apple, "She has won her heart's desire; she has unwearing strength and endless days like a goddess. But length of days with an evil heart is only length of misery and already she begins to know it. All get what they want: they do not always like it." (p. 174) What did Aslan mean by this last statement?

14. What nickname did they give to Uncle Andrew? (p.170) Why?

15. If the tree was protection for hundreds of years, how then do you think the witch came to cast a spell of winter over all Narnia?

16. The magic rings were only cheap imitations of what Aslan's power could do. (p.177) Why is that important for us to remember today?

17. As Aslan talked with Digory and Polly about Charn and how that world had gotten so wicked and died off, Polly states that our world is not quite that bad. Aslan agreed, and said, "not yet, not yet". But he added, "someone may come up with a 'deplorable word' and a mean tyrant may come along and use it to destroy all living things'.

What is meant by a "deplorable word"?

How bad off is our world getting?

18. How does the wardrobe come about?

19. On page 179 Digory said, "I believe the whole adventure has taken no time at all.' Does this sound familiar? (Check out *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, p.46.)

Leader's Guide

The questions in this guide are not meant to limit your group discussion, but rather to bring out new thoughts, as well as open a door of new questions for your group. Below are possible suggested answers for some of the more difficult questions in this study guide.

Lesson 1 The Magician's Nephew pp.1 - 67

Question 3: Digory Kirke is Professor Kirke from the first book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. He gives it away in some ways in some things he says, such as, "Once a king in Narnia, always a king in Narnia" (p.186) also he said, "don't mention your travels to anyone else unless you find that they've had adventures of the same sort themselves". The children ask, "How will we know?" "Oh, you'll know all right", said the professor. Odd things, they say - even their looks will let the secret out. Keep your eyes open." (p.186)

Question 7: Uncle Andrew thought the yellow ring took you into another world, and the green ring brought you back. Actually, the yellow ring drew you to are in-between place, and the green ring drew you away from it, into another world.

Question 13: If Digory and Polly needed the dust to get into the in-between world, there must be something that drew Lucy and the others into Narnia. The wardrobe drew Lucy and the others, while Eustace went through the picture frame.

Lesson 2 The Magician's Nephew pp. 66-128

Question 2: There was no wickedness in the in-between world for her wickedness to draw upon. In Charn there was much evil, and her powers worked very well in our world. In Narnia, Aslan gave her free will to use your power, as with Satan, but his power is much greater. In the in-between world, it appears that everyone is much the same in regards to strengthen knowledge.

Question 3: It was the look all wicked magicians have, called the "Mark". Their evil shows up in their physical features. The queen had remarked that Digory did not have the mark. It comes from focusing one's attention on evil for too long.

Question 7: Digory, Polly, Uncle Andrew, the Witch, Strawberry the horse, and the cabbie.

Question 9: Aslan was singing this world into existence, just as he spoke ours into existence. By all the stars popping out at once, this shows Aslan's great power. Remember stars in this world are living beings. Then they all begin to sing as well.

Question 10: They are on the west side of Narnia looking eastward. Southward were mountains, northward were lower hills, and to the east was a valley, with a swift river flowing through it. They are not at the far western edge yet though.

Lesson 3 The Magician's Nephew pp.129 – end

Question 2: The bulldog is very sensitive about his smashed in nose and his lack of intelligence.

Question 5: A man brought sin into our world, so a man had to die as punishment for the sin. That is why Jesus Christ had to come as a man, and die as a man. In this case, Aslan was testing Digory to see if he would be faithful this time, or disobey. Another lesson we can learn from this is that we must always try to undo the trouble that we cause for others. In this case the trouble could that be undone, but it could be put off for number of years. Aslan looked ahead to when he would die for the others.

Question 15: Apparently the tree must have died, or had been blown over in a storm, but the tree which had been planted in London, from the core of the apple.

Question 18: The apple core planted by Digory grew to a large tree. The apples on it did not give eternal life in our world, but tasted sweeter than any other apple tree. It blew over in a bad storm. Instead of burning it up, Digory cut it up into boards and built the wardrobe. This is what drew Lucy, Edmund, Peter, and Susan into Narnia. It is possible that Digory also built a picture frame as well, which took Lucy, Edmund, and Eustace into Narnia.