

Step into the Wardrobe

By Christin Ditchfield



torturous and agonizing death at the hands of the Witch, Aslan sets Narnia and Edmund free. For there is an even “Deeper Magic” – a greater law – at work:

“When a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor’s stead, the

Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward.”

With Aslan’s sacrifice on the Stone Table, the power of sin and death is broken.

Aslan’s resurrection marks the beginning of the Golden Age of Narnia – a time of unprecedented joy, peace, and prosperity.

The Bible tells us that “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law” (Galatians 3:13) and that God “has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14)

In addition to the themes of salvation, redemption, restoration and/or reconciliation, the story also includes illustrations of the wickedness and deceitfulness of the enemy of our souls (John 8:44). It reveals the power of sin – and its consequences (James 1:14-15). It challenges us to maintain a holy fear of and reverence for God, who is both “good and terrible” at the same time (Deuteronomy 7:21, Psalm 99:3).

These are just a few of the spiritual truths you can explore with your teens as they begin their own adventures with *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe!* ♦

Christin Ditchfield is the author of A Family Guide To The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe (Crossway Books 2005).

Last December, Walden Media and Disney Studios released the first ever full-length feature film production of *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* in theaters nationwide. The movie is based on the classic novel — a fantastic, imaginative retelling of the gospel story by C.S. Lewis, one of the greatest Christian apologists of the 20th century. So when it comes to using cultural phenomena to connect with kids and help them grow in their faith, it just doesn’t get any better than this!

You might want to consider reading *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* aloud to your Sunday School class or small group Bible study ahead of time. (Yes, teens still enjoy being read to!) Or listen along to an audio version of the story. Plan a “Narnia Night” – pick up a copy of the movie on DVD to watch together. Encourage teens to bring their unsaved friends. Afterward, share a pizza. Play the soundtrack from the movie. Plan some Narnia-themed trivia games. Make sure you include time to talk about the story together.

Ask teens which characters they identify with. How do the characters’ struggles mirror the challenges we face in our world today? Were there elements of the story that sounded familiar? Particular characters or scenes? Did they recognize what C.S. Lewis called “the story within the story”?

The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe is full of Biblical parallels and principles. Here are some key points from the story and the Scriptures you can use to bring them to light:

All of Narnia awaits deliverance from the dominion of the White Witch. The land itself longs to be free from captivity: “Creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed... in hope that [it]...will be liberated

from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” (Romans 8:19-21)

Edmund falls under the spell of the White Witch. When he succumbs to his own pride, selfishness, and greed, he becomes a traitor. And according to the Deep Magic (or law) on which Narnia was founded, Edmund must pay the penalty with his life. “The wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23) “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.” (Hebrews 9:22 ESV)

The only hope for Narnia and for Edmund is Aslan. It is only Aslan – the one who created Narnia-- who can now deliver it from the power of the White Witch. “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” (1 John 3:8) And it is Aslan who will lay down his own life for Edmund, taking Edmund’s punishment and dying in his place. “God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8) Ultimately, in dying a

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