

**At the Movies Week of August 17, 2025**  
**Small Group Bible Study:Philippians 2:1-11**  
**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

*If members of your group did not hear Pastor Doug's Sermon, encourage them to do so. You can find the sermons on the Woodside Home Page (typically posted on Mondays).*

### **Discussion Questions**

In the movie, Lucy asks Mr. Beaver if Aslan, the lion, is safe. "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King."

- Is Jesus safe to you? Is there a difference between safe and good? What does this mean to you?

### **Read together Colossians 1:15-17,19**

- Think about the struggles, things you are dealing with right now. If you are comfortable, discuss with the group (remembering that all things discussed in growth group are kept confidential).

In Sunday's Sermon Message, Pastor Doug talked about how we face challenges:

- Keep fighting; Pour all the strength into it. Try to solve the problems on your own
- Glve in, give up and run away.

### **What's your go to? Fight; Give up?**

OR, rely on Jesus: "Jesus provides a third way to deal with problems beyond our strength: surrender to God and trust in His power."

### **Read together 2 Corinthians 12:9-10..**

- **What does that offer mean to you?**
- **Is it easy for you to surrender to God? Why? Why do you think it can be difficult?**
- **How do you tap into the strength of God?**
- **What habits help you stay connected?**

- **Where/how could you strengthen your connection?**
- **Commit to one thing you will do to strengthen your relationship with God.**

**Do you feel like your life has significance/purpose right now?**

In Sunday's Message, Pastor Doug said following the Lion - Jesus is the way to finding meaning and significance. "Jesus is a lion. He will send you on adventures, exciting missions. He will give you the opportunity to make an eternal difference. If your life lacks significance, you are playing it too safe. Take a step and start following Jesus the Lion. Step out of your comfort zone and make an eternal difference."

- **Where do you feel God calling/pushing you out of your comfort zone?**
- **What steps can you take today to follow God's prompting?**

Think about our upcoming Church Has Left the Building on November 2nd

- **What outreach does you/your group feel called to do?**
- **If you're not sure, pray and ask God to reveal to you his plans for you/your group.**

## **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe: Spiritual Themes**

C.S. Lewis's *\*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe\** is more than a children's fantasy—it's a story rich with spiritual truth and Christian symbolism. At its heart, the novel presents the battle between good and evil, the power of sacrificial love, and the hope of redemption.

The character of Aslan, the great lion, clearly represents Christ. His authority, goodness, and majestic presence show the qualities of God's sovereignty. The White Witch, in contrast, symbolizes Satan's power—deceptive, oppressive, and destructive—keeping Narnia trapped in a perpetual “winter without Christmas.” This sharp division reflects the biblical tension between sin and salvation.

The most powerful spiritual theme is seen in Edmund's betrayal and restoration. His selfishness and deceit echo humanity's sinful nature. By law, his treachery makes him a prisoner of the Witch, symbolizing sin's claim over humanity. Yet Aslan intervenes, offering himself in Edmund's place. His death on the Stone Table mirrors Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. When the Stone Table cracks and Aslan rises to life, Lewis illustrates the deeper magic of resurrection—the triumph of life over death and forgiveness over guilt.

Another theme is the calling and empowerment of ordinary people. The four Pevensie children, though flawed and inexperienced, are invited into Narnia's redemption story. Their journey reflects the Christian call to discipleship—ordinary believers joining God's work of restoration.

Ultimately, the novel reminds us of hope. Evil may reign for a season, but Aslan's return brings spring to winter. Just as in Scripture, the promise of Christ's presence assures believers that darkness is never final. Lewis's tale is a vivid allegory of redemption, forgiveness, and the victorious love of God.