

02 Narnia - The Magician's Nephew 2 (handout)

Genesis 1 & 2

Type [bit/ly.nlncmu](https://bit.ly/nlncmu) into the address bar of any browser for a series overview and session notes.

A. Getting started – Tim

Characters

- Digory Kirke. Digory is a young boy who befriends Polly Plummer.
- Polly Plummer. Polly is a young girl who lives in a London row house.
- Uncle Andrew Ketterley. Uncle Andrew is Digory's creepy, secretive uncle.
- Queen Jadis / The Witch who was the Queen who killed the world of Charn.
- The Lion / Aslan, the God/Jesus figure in the book.
- Strawberry / Fledge, Frank's horse that pulls the cab.
- The Cabby / Becomes "King" Frank and his wife, "Queen" Helen.

B. The creation of animals and humans - Tim

Genesis 1.24-31 (NRSV)

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, **the sixth day**.

Genesis 2.18-20 (NRSV)

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

Clip & questions: Narnia > Magician's Nephew > "Narnia Awake" (0-5:34; 6:23-7:41)¹

- Compare the order of the Genesis creation story with the Narnia version.
- Compare the processes of the creation of humankind across Gen 1, 2, and Narnia.
- What do you think Aslan means by, "I give you yourselves."?
- Aslan also says, "I give you Narnia" and "treat the dumb (means can't speak, different from stupid) beasts gently and cherish them." Can we connect this with Genesis?
- What does this imply for how we manage our food chain? – *I think so, and we are failing.*
- Gen 1.29 and 2.16 instruct humankind to eat vegetarian. When did humans begin eating meat?

C. Undo the wrong

Jeremiah 14.17 (NLT)

[God gives this assignment to Jeremiah to carry to the people.]

Now, Jeremiah, say this to them: "Night and day my eyes overflow with tears. I cannot stop weeping, for my virgin daughter - my precious people - has been struck down and lies mortally wounded."

Clip: Narnia > Magician's Nephew > "Undo the Wrong" (7:06-9:41).

Questions

- In addition to the Jeremiah passage, can you think of more scriptures where God exhibits this kind of emotion?
- How can Lewis' writing about Aslan's grief and tears minister to us? –
- Where do you think the last part of this clip leads?
- In addition to the Hebrews passage we just read, can you think of other scriptures describing partnering with God?

¹ Audio clips are from Focus on the Family's radio theatre version of The Chronicles of Narnia.

E. Benediction & closing prayer – Ryan

How Majestic Is Your Name (from Ps 8)

By: Michael W. Smith

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

Oh Lord, we praise your name,

Oh Lord, we magnify your name.

Prince of peace, Mighty God,

Oh Lord, God Almighty.

Amen

02 Narnia - The Magician's Nephew 2 (Teaching notes)

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Clip & questions: Narnia > Magician's Nephew > "Narnia Awake" (0-5:34; 6:23-7:41)²

- Compare the order of the Genesis creation story with the Narnia version.
 - *Genesis 1 has the order: plants > animals > humankind.*
 - *Genesis 2 has the order: humankind > plants > animals.*
 - *Lewis' follows the Genesis 1 sequence and adapts the Genesis 2.19 process, "... out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air."*
- Compare the processes of the creation of humankind across Gen 1, 2, and Narnia.
 - *Genesis 1 says God spoke humankind into existence.*
 - *Genesis 2.7 says, "the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."*
 - *Aslan chooses some talking beasts and breathes life into humankind.*
- What do you think Aslan means by, "I give you yourselves."? – *Self awareness. Freedom to choose what we do with our time and talents, whether we'll give of ourselves to others or God. I give you yourselves and this includes my image which is stamped on you.*
- Aslan also says, "I give you Narnia" and "treat the dumb beasts gently and cherish them." Can we connect this with Genesis?
 - *Gen 1.26 says God gave us dominion over the animals. Gordon Wenham (Word Bible Commentary) writes that this is not license for unbridled exploitation and subjugation of nature. We are to treat nature as God would treat nature.*
 - *Gen 2.15-16 says, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden."*
- What does this imply for how we manage our food chain? – *I think so, and we are failing.*
- Gen 1.29 and 2.16 instruct humankind to eat vegetarian. When did humans begin eating meat?
 - *Immediately after The Fall, God covered Adam and Eve with animal skins (Gen 3.21), indicating that an animal had to die to cover Adam/Eve's sin. Eating meat may have started here, though that is not explicit. A few chapters later and subsequent to Noah's stewardship of the animals during the flood, God permitted eating animals (Genesis 9.1-5).*

Other related resources on this: [Gospel of Noah](#) sermon notes, especially the last point, footnote 4, and the references box at the end. Also these notes from the MeetUp class on [What the Bible Says about Stewardship](#).
- What about when Aslan says, "I give you myself"? – *Humans are free to choose whether they will live in this relationship with the Lion.*
- So how do you feel about Lewis' adaptation of Genesis 1 & 2 for children? – *It's children's literature, not scripture.*

² Audio clips are from Focus on the Family's radio theatre version of The Chronicles of Narnia.

C. Undo the wrong

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Now, Jeremiah, say this to them: "Night and day my eyes overflow with tears. I cannot stop weeping, for my virgin daughter - my precious people - has been struck down and lies mortally wounded."

Clip: Narnia > Magician's Nephew > "Undo the Wrong" (7:06-9:41).

Questions

- In addition to the Jeremiah passage, can you think of more scriptures where God exhibits this kind of emotion?
 - *John 11.35 On his last trip to Jerusalem before the crucifixion, Jesus wept for Lazarus.*
 - *Luke 19.41 On Palm Sunday Jesus wept for Jerusalem.*
 - *Hebrews 5.7, While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.*
- How can Lewis' writing about Aslan's grief and tears minister to us? –
- Where do you think the last part of this clip leads? – *Digory enters a partnership with Aslan.*
- In addition to the Hebrews passage we just read, can you think of other scriptures describing partnering with God?
 - *John 6, the boy who partnered with Jesus to feed the 5,000.*
 - *John 15:4-5, Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.*
 - *2 Cor 6.1, "As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it.*

E. Benediction & closing prayer – Ryan

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By: Michael W. Smith

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Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

Oh Lord, we praise your name,

Oh Lord, we magnify your name.

Prince of peace, Mighty God,

Oh Lord, God Almighty.

Amen