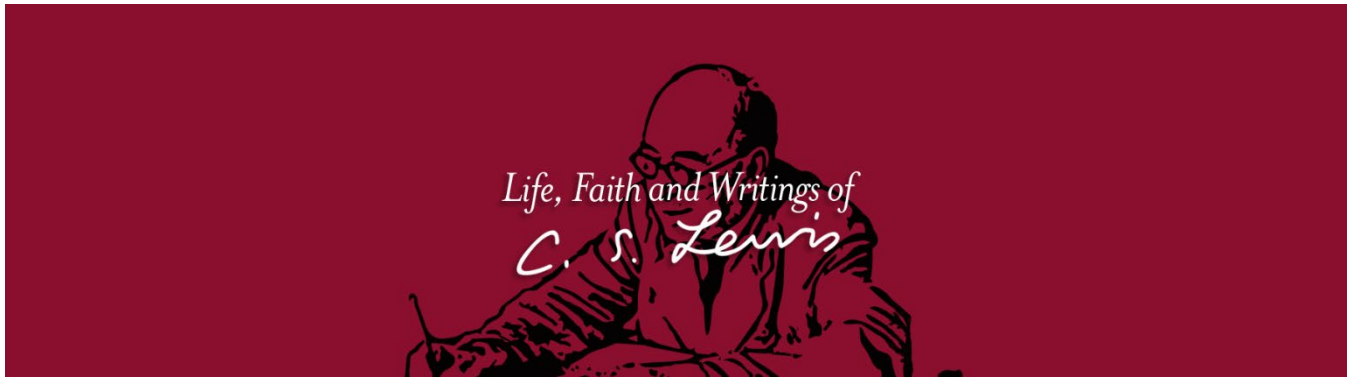


**The Life, Faith, and Writings of C.S. Lewis  
With a View toward Discipleship**

**A C.S. Lewis Institute Fellows Program**

**June 2023 - June 2024**



## Table of Contents

Welcome Letter from the President:	3
Introduction to the Life, Faith and Writings of C.S. Lewis Program:	4
How to Grow Through This Program – The T.O.P. Approach:	5
The Life, Faith and Writings of C.S. Lewis Program Design:	7
Book List for The Life, Faith and Writings of C.S. Lewis:	10
<b>Monthly Discipleship Themes and Assignments:</b>	
June - Learning from the Spiritual Biography of C.S. Lewis:	12
July - Smuggling the Gospel: The Power of Story in Evangelism and Discipleship:	13
August - Learning from Spiritual Pilgrimage of C.S. Lewis:	15
<b>Fall Retreat Checklist:</b>	17
September - The Power of Friendship in the Christian Life:	18
<b>S.M.A.R.T. Intentional Disciple-Making Plan:</b>	19
October - Mere Christianity:	20
November - The Power of Prayer in the Christian Life:	22
December - Spiritual Warfare in the Christian Life:	24
January - Belief in Miracles and the Supernatural:	26
February - Absolute Truth and the Call to Discipleship:	28
March - The Question of Pain and Suffering:	30
April - Final Destinations: Heaven and Hell:	31
May - Mere Evangelism: Insights on Sharing our Faith from C.S. Lewis:	33

## Welcome Letter from the President:

Dear C.S. Lewis Institute Fellows,

I'd like to welcome you to this special Fellows Program on the Life, Faith and Writings of C.S. Lewis! This program has been designed not as an academic course on C.S. Lewis, but rather with a view toward discipleship of heart and mind.

Our mission at the C.S. Lewis Institute is, in the legacy of C.S. Lewis, to develop wholehearted disciples of Jesus Christ who will articulate, defend, share, and live their faith in personal and public life. We are named after Lewis because he was a layperson, not a pastor or theologian, who once he committed his life to Christ, sought to integrate his faith into all aspects of his life. He wasn't perfect, but God used him and continues to use him through his writings to impact millions of people with the Gospel.

Our co-founder James Houston once put it this way, "We're not a fan club of C.S. Lewis, but we'd like to raise up thousands like him." Our aim is to equip thousands of believers from all different church backgrounds to make an impact for the kingdom of God through their vocation and sphere of influence. This is done through word and deed and with a commitment to engaging both the heart and mind.

To take part in this program, you need to have completed the Year One C.S. Lewis Fellows Program, so the design of the course will be familiar to you. The main difference between this program and the Year One program is that you will be primarily reading the writings of C.S. Lewis and won't have the wider range of authors we normally draw upon. As we always do, we encourage you to read with discernment and run everything through the filter of Scripture.

I believe that you will enjoy seeing certain arguments and statements of truth pop up in Lewis's non-fiction and fiction alike. As one of the greatest apologists and writers for the Christian faith in the 20<sup>th</sup> century there are many benefits from studying his work.

One of the things you will be doing as part of this program is reading through the seven books of the Chronicles of Narnia. While the books are assigned during various months throughout the program, you might decide to read the full set during the summer. As children's literature, they are relatively easy reading. If you do read them ahead, I suggest you read them in the order they were originally published: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia*; *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*; *The Silver Chair*; *The Horse and His Boy*; *The Magician's Nephew*; and *The Last Battle*.

I hope and pray that you will grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ through this year of discipleship and fellowship with other believers and find at the end of it that you are even better equipped to live wholeheartedly for our Lord.

May you go "further up and further in" in the days to come!

Your fellow pilgrim,

Joel S. Woodruff, Ed.D.  
President, C.S. Lewis Institute

## **Introduction to the Life, Faith and Writings of C.S. Lewis Program:**

On November 22, 1963, the same day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Clive Staples Lewis entered the presence of the Lord in his home near Oxford, England, a week shy of age 65. Better known as C.S. Lewis, he had gained esteem for his wide array of writings including fictional works like *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Screwtape Letters* and apologetics books like *The Problem of Pain*.

Though popular in his day both in the United Kingdom and in the United States, Lewis expected that his name would soon become obscure and little known by the late 20th century. Lewis would be surprised today to learn that his books sell in the thousands annually. Some have been turned into movies and his book, *Mere Christianity*, was named by Christianity Today as the most influential Christian work of the 20th century.

On November 22, 2013, 50 years after the death of C.S. Lewis, a memorial was unveiled in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey honoring Lewis's contribution to British literature as well as his influence within the global Christian world, an honor reserved for the likes of Shakespeare and Dickens.

Today, Lewis continues to be quoted in sermons in all kinds of Christian churches including Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. Many would argue that his ability to combine both reason and imagination in communicating biblical Christianity is unparalleled.

As well, he was able to write effectively through a variety of genres including non-fiction, fiction, science fiction, poetry, academic works and sermons. His friend J.R.R. Tolkien, who took years to write a book, was amazed by Lewis's God-given ability to write nearly a book a year following his conversion to Christianity in his early 30's.

This study program on the life, faith and writings of C.S. Lewis, with a view toward discipleship, takes the participants through a wide range of readings, movies, and other materials not only to become more knowledgeable about the life of C.S. Lewis, but to learn from him as a spiritual mentor and, more importantly, come to know the Lord Jesus Christ more deeply.

When reading the works of Lewis, the participant is encouraged to use discernment and test all things against the trustworthy ground of Scripture. Lewis wasn't perfect and there are views of his with which the C.S. Lewis Institute would disagree. However, in most cases, Lewis is in-line with biblical teaching, and it is clear that he sought to honor the Lord in his writing and speaking.

This study program includes monthly assignments, small group discussion, lectures and practical application, all of which will be based upon a key monthly discipleship theme. This program is similar in format to the Year 1 C.S. Lewis Fellows Program but does not include mentoring.

## **How To Grow Through This Program – The T.O.P. Approach (Time Management, Obedience, Prayer)**

### **Time Management**

If we want to know God more intimately, we must make time for God and give attention to God. He does not give Himself to casual seekers but rather to those who earnestly seek Him in faith, for “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Heb. 11:6).

Therefore, you will want to commit yourself to a full engagement of mind and heart in the pursuit of God and make the time necessary to do so. On the critical issue of time, it is important to recognize that modern life is far too busy, fragmented, and stressful to be healthy for the soul. While God expects us to give a day’s work for a day’s pay, our work is not to be our first priority in life. God insists on being our first priority and expects us to devote time to seeking to know, love, and serve Him. He says, “Be still and know that I am God.” Through weekly worship and daily quietness before Him in prayer, study, and meditation, we can come to know Him better.

Therefore, manage your schedule ruthlessly or it will manage you. Re-order priorities to eliminate things of lesser value. This will almost certainly mean that you need to give up various things in your life to create the time you need for this pursuit. Remember, anything you say “yes” to means that you are saying “no” to something else.

### **Obedience**

God wants us to be truthful before Him in our innermost being (Ps. 51:6). To grow we must open ourselves to Him and remain open, asking Him often to free us from self-deception, to enlighten our ignorance, and to search our hearts and reveal anything we must change or forsake, especially our sins (Ps. 139:23–24).

We will grow only as we respond to whatever truth God shows us, with “the obedience of faith.” Obedience is the fruit of loving Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:15) and a “key that opens all doors” (C.S. Lewis). To be sure, our obedience must flow from love for God and not from servile fear and dread. But we must obey nonetheless, otherwise, if we content ourselves with un-lived truth, we will become increasingly self-deceived (Jas. 1:22–25). If we are living in deliberate disobedience to God’s word in any area of our lives, we will not grow until we have dealt with that sin.

### **Prayer**

As you go through the program, pray often for God the Holy Spirit to teach you. Pray before you read the Bible, books, or articles. Pray before you listen to lectures. Ask God to help you have “ears to hear.” Also pray often that God will work into you (and your group) a genuine love for Him and a desire and determination to do His will from the heart, a courage to face and forsake all that is displeasing to Him, a readiness to embrace all that is good, a prompt, cheerful and trusting obedience, and a passion to see His purposes for your life fulfilled for His glory. If you do this, you can be sure that God will answer you, because you will be praying His will (Matt. 7:7–11) and asking for the good things He wants to give you (1 John. 5:14–15).

*Ask two praying friends to be regular intercessors for you during the program.* Email your praying friends monthly the introductory descriptive paragraph for the month so they will know how to pray in general. Then update them periodically with specific requests and areas of needed growth

## **The Life, Faith, and Writings of C.S. Lewis Program Design**

### **Monthly Themes and Assignments**

To gain the full benefit of this program, it is important to understand the rationale for its design. The program is built around biblical themes which lie at the heart of the Christian life/discipleship and have been addressed in the writings and life of C.S. Lewis.

The program focuses primarily on only one of these building blocks per month in order to immerse you in the truth. Giving attention to one subject for a sustained period of time, without distractions and pondering it from different angles can help you to engage with it much more deeply, with life-changing effects.

The monthly assignments for each theme draw on books, articles, movies, etc., many of which come directly from the writings of C.S. Lewis. However, secondary resources are used as well. View them as a banquet of gourmet spiritual foods. The assignments take into account individuals different learning styles which is another reason why a variety of written, audio, and video formats are used.

For each study theme, there is a list of assignments to be completed. It averages around 250 pages of reading per month, although some reading such as fiction may be read more easily than non-fiction. By completing all of the assignments each month, you will not only benefit yourself, but the others in your small group as you discuss the material.

### **Bible Study First**

Reading, meditating upon and memorizing assigned Scriptures will help to establish the foundation for the monthly theme. The Bible study questions included each month will help you mine the texts for the riches they contain.

After you're grounded in what the Bible has to say on the topic, move through the other materials, returning often to Scripture. The Bible, prayer, and books/articles will form a powerful combination for instructing the mind and shaping the soul and will play an important role in the overall process of your spiritual and theological growth.

An important part of the program is taking the time to store God's word in your heart and mind through monthly Bible verse memorization. You are encouraged to use a 3" x 5" spiral card notebook on which you can write out the monthly verses. This small notebook can be carried around with you throughout the day for review, or placed in a strategic location (i.e., next to the toothbrush) so that you can review the verses daily.

## **How to Obtain Required Books and Resources for the Program**

You may obtain the books and materials needed for this program through a variety of sources such as [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

You may purchase used or new books. We urge you to order well in advance to be sure your books are on hand when you need them. Some of the books are available in other formats such as Kindle, E-book, as well as Audio books. We encourage you to use whatever format works best for you. If you prefer to listen to books, then feel free to use the audio book format.

## **How to Access Movies for the Program**

Some of the movies are available at no charge on YouTube. Other films you should be able to rent or stream on Netflix, Amazon Prime, or other streaming services. You may choose to watch the movies together with others in your program, or with your family to connect them with what you're doing.

## **Orientation and Summer Schedule**

This program formally commences at our early June kickoff lecture and orientation meeting. This is followed by summer readings and assignments for June, July, and August.

## **Fall Retreat**

The fall portion of the program kicks off with a weekend retreat that begins on a Friday morning. (You will need to take off from work all day on a Friday to attend.)

The retreat is an enjoyable time of getting to know new friends, having good fellowship, becoming oriented to the program, and receiving sound teaching. You'll also share your spiritual journeys in your small group and discuss the summer assignments.

## **Monthly Meetings**

After the fall retreat, Fellows meet as a group once a month on a Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (typically the first Saturday of the month). These monthly meetings include fellowship time around coffee, a lecture, a Question-and-Answer time and small group time for in-depth discussion and prayer together.

We ask of you a high level of commitment to the program, which includes attendance at all scheduled meetings, unless you must travel for work, have a major family emergency or are sick. Your attendance is not just for your own well-being, but it is also a blessing to the others in your group.

Remember that the monthly assignments should be completed prior to monthly meetings, e.g., the September assignments should be completed before the October meeting (which will typically be on the first Saturday of October).



## **Small Group Discussion and Quads/Triads**

Building spiritual friendships (koinonia) with those in your group is an important part of the process of spiritual growth in the Fellows Program. You will be a part of a small group which will form on the fall retreat. This group will be your primary means of interacting with the monthly themes in an in-depth manner with others. You will have opportunity at the monthly meetings to discuss the materials and find practical ways to apply what you've learned.

You'll also have the opportunity to pray for one another.

One of the highlights of the Fellows program for some are the quads or triads. These are smaller groups that come through a division of your retreat small group into threes and fours. It is in your quad/triad that you'll meet sometime during the month to fellowship, pray for one another and seek the well-being of others.

Many quads/triads will meet for lunch, dinner, or coffee. You may also watch the movies in the program together or attend a C.S. Lewis Institute special event together.

## **Disciple-making Plan**

Throughout the year, you will be developing a written Disciple-making Plan using the S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound) acronym.

Begin now asking God what He may be calling you to do in your family, church, workplace and neighborhood to intentionally make disciples in the next 3 months, 6 months and year. Make a list of concrete steps that you can complete to accomplish your disciple-making goals and plan. Of course, bathe it in prayer and be ready for the Lord to make mid-course corrections as He leads you in making disciples of Jesus Christ for His Kingdom.

## **CSLI Resources to Use in Making Disciples**

- Lead a group through *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis: A Guide to Mere Christianity* for Small Groups and Mentoring Relationships
- Lead a group through a 10-week *CSLI Heart and Mind Discipleship* small group study
- Lead a 10-week *CSLI Conversational Apologetics Course* study
- Lead a C.S. Lewis book discussion group

## Book List for The Life, Faith and Writings of C.S. Lewis

**Books by C.S. Lewis:** There are some collections of the writings of C.S. Lewis that comprise 4-6 books in one volume or set. You may purchase a set, or you may decide you'd like to purchase each book as an individual copy. In some cases, we may only read a portion of the book or read it in parts throughout the program.

*Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*, by C.S. Lewis

*The Chronicles of Narnia*, 7-Volume Set by C.S. Lewis which includes:

*The Magician's Nephew*  
*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*  
*The Horse and His Boy*  
*Prince Caspian*  
*The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*  
*The Silver Chair*  
*The Last Battle*

*The Four Loves*, by C.S. Lewis

*The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, by C.S. Lewis Mere

*Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis

*Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*, by C.S. Lewis

*Reflections on the Psalms*, by C.S. Lewis

*The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis

*God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics*, by C.S. Lewis

*The Abolition of Man*, by C.S. Lewis

*The Problem of Pain*, by C.S. Lewis

*A Grief Observed*, by C.S. Lewis

*The Great Divorce*, by C.S. Lewis

*Perelandra*, by C.S. Lewis

**Books by other authors in the program:** In some cases, you may only read a portion of the book or read it in parts throughout the program.

*A Life Observed: A Spiritual Biography of C.S. Lewis*, by Devin Brown

*Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis's Chronicles*, by Joe Rigney

*Discipleship with C.S. Lewis: A Guide to Mere Christianity for Small Groups and Mentoring Relationships* by Joel Woodruff

*Mere Evangelism: 10 Insights from C.S. Lewis to Help You Share Your Faith*, by Randy Newman

*The Unknown Garden of Another's Heart* by Joe Kohm

## JUNE Assignments

### Theme 1: Learning from the Spiritual Biography of C.S. Lewis

#### A. Memorize and meditate on John 3:16-18

#### B. Bible Study: The Conversion of Nicodemus - Read John 3:1-21; 7:1-52; 19:28-42

- 1) Why do you think Nicodemus met with Jesus?
- 2) Diagram the progression of the discussion between Nicodemus and Jesus in John 3.
- 3) What is Jesus saying about spiritual conversion in John 3?
- 4) What do we learn about Jesus' mission in the world at his first coming in John 3?
- 5) What do you think happened in the heart of Nicodemus - based on all three passages in John which mention Nicodemus?
- 6) In what ways can you relate to Nicodemus?
- 7) Imagine Jesus is speaking to you in the passage in John 3. How would you feel? What has been your response to Jesus' words about being born again?
- 8) How can you share Jesus' message to Nicodemus with others?

#### C. Readings/Videos:

Read: Article: *C.S. Lewis: A Profile of His Life*, by Lyle Dorsett, 6 pp.

[C.S. Lewis - A Profile of His Life - C.S. Lewis Institute \(cslewisinstitute.org\)](http://cslewisinstitute.org)

Read: Book: *A Life Observed: A Spiritual Biography of C.S. Lewis*, by Devin Brown (Prologue and Chapters 1-2), (Begin with this book which chronicles Lewis's childhood. You'll continue Lewis's spiritual journey in his own words in the next book), 75 pp.

Read: Book: *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*, by C.S. Lewis (Read only Chapters 9, 11, 12,13,14,15 which cover his spiritual journey from teen through adult years in his own words), 90 pp.

Watch: *C.S. Lewis: The Most Reluctant Convert*, with actor Max McLean, 73 minutes

<https://cslewismovie.com/>

#### D. Application: Bring these assignments to the Fall Retreat

1. Write in 1-3 pages what have you learned from **reflecting** on Lewis's conversion.
2. Write **your spiritual autobiography** in 1-3 pages. If you have copy from Year 1 Fellows, review.
3. Write a **thank you letter** to those whom God used to lead you to faith in Jesus Christ.
4. Make a list of 3 non-Christian friends and **begin praying** daily for their salvation. Pray as well that God would give you opportunities to have Gospel conversations with them over the next few months.

## JULY Assignments

### Theme 2: Smuggling the Gospel: The Power of Story in Evangelism and Discipleship

A. Memorize and meditate on Matthew 13:34-35

B. Bible Study on 2 Samuel 12:1-25

Read 2 Samuel 11 to get the context of what takes place in 2 Samuel 12.

- 1) Why do you think the prophet Nathan tells David a story first before confronting David directly with his sin?
- 2) How does David respond to the story and why do you think he responded as he did?
- 3) How do you think David would have responded to Nathan if Nathan had confronted him directly without telling the story? Why?
- 4) What were the elements of the story that made it so powerful?
- 5) What are elements of the real-life story of David in 2 Samuel 11 and 12 that make it such a powerful story?
- 6) What personal applications can we glean for ourselves from 2 Samuel 12?

C. Readings/Videos:

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis the Evangelist*, by Philip Ryken, 8 pp.

<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-the-evangelist/>

Read Article: *The Importance of Imagination for C.S. Lewis and For Us*, by Art Lindsley, 3 pp.

<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-importance-of-imagination-for-c-s-lewis-and-for-us/>

Read Article: *The Surprising Imagination of C.S. Lewis*, by Mark Neal, 4 pp.

<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-surprising-imagination-of-c-s-lewis/>

Read Article: *On Three Ways of Writing for Children*, an essay by C.S. Lewis, 5 pp.

[Catholic Culture Library](#).

Read Article: *Sometimes Fairy Stories May Say Best What Is To Be Said*, an essay by C.S. Lewis that appeared in the NY Times, November 18, 1956, 2 pp.

[Sometimes Fairy Stories](#).

Read Article: *Sub-creation or Smuggled Theology: Tolkien contra Lewis on Christian Fantasy*,

by David Downing, 6 pp. <https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/sub-creation-or-smuggled-theology/>

Read Article: *On Stories*, an essay by C.S. Lewis, 6 pp.

[On Stories by C.S. Lewis](#).

Watch: *The Narnia Code* A BBC video based on Michael Ward's book, *Planet Narnia*, 1 hour:

[The Narnia Code](#).

Read: Book: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* from *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis, 189 pp.

Read: Book: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis's Chronicles*, by Joe Rigney (Introduction; Chapters 1-3), 38 pp.

**D. Application: Bring these assignments to the Fall Retreat**

- 1) Write in 1-3 pages what you have learned about the power of story and the imagination in communicating truth?
- 2) Make a list of 3 stories from your life could you use in evangelism and discipleship conversations?
- 3) Make a list of 5-10 fiction books, movies or songs could you share with others to awaken them to truth?
- 4) Continue to pray for the salvation of the 3 non-Christians on your list. Find ways to share stories with them of God's goodness and grace.

## AUGUST Assignments

### Theme 3: Learning from the Spiritual Pilgrimage of C.S. Lewis

#### A. Memorize and meditate on 1 Timothy 4:7b-8

#### B. Bible Study: Training for Godliness - Read 1 Timothy 4:1-16

- 1) What does Paul warn Timothy and us about?
- 2) What is the difference between physical training and spiritual training?
- 3) Make a list of the command verbs in vv. 7-16. Describe these command verbs.
- 4) What is required for the disciple of Jesus Christ to act on these command verbs?
- 5) What kind of effort are you willing to exert to be godly?
- 6) What is the end result if you obey these commands in the passage and allow God to train you to be a godly person?
- 7) What is God asking you to change in your life so that you can better train for godliness?

#### C. Reading/Videos:

Watch: Study Course: *Learning from the Spiritual Pilgrimage of C.S. Lewis* with Lyle Dorsett. Sign up for free course access and login via the CSLI website.

[Study Courses - C.S. Lewis Institute \(cslewisinstitute.org\)](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/study-courses/cs-lewis-life-and-works/cs-lewis-works-study-courses/learning-from-the-spiritual-pilgrimage-of-c-s-lewis/>

Work through the Study Guide, written by J. Edward Glancy, which includes:

- 6 Video Lectures by Lyle Dorsett (Each video is about 1 hour in length)
- Readings from 6 “Reflections” – linked in the study guide
- Reflection Questions: Take time to ponder these questions and write out your thoughts as appropriate.

Read Article: C.S. Lewis’s Humble and Thoughtful Gift of Letter Writing, by Joel Woodruff, 3 pp.  
[C.S. Lewis's Humble and Thoughtful Gift of Letter Writing - C.S. Lewis Institute \(cslewisinstitute.org\)](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org)

Read: *Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia*, by C.S. Lewis, 220 pp.

Read: Book: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis’s Chronicles*, by Joe Rigney (Chapters 4-5), 11 pp.

#### D. Application: Bring these assignments to the Fall Retreat

- 1) Write in 1-3 pages what you have learned from reflecting on the concept of spiritual pilgrimage through Lewis’s life?

- 2) Write a thank you letter to those who have played a role in your spiritual formation.
- 3) Continue to pray for the salvation of the 3 non-Christian friends on your prayer list.
- 4) Ask the Lord to show you someone or perhaps a couple of people in your life that He is calling you to disciple in new ways. Once you've identified possible people to walk with spiritually, (family members, friends, colleagues) contact them and have a discussion with them about the possibility of entering into a discipleship relationship.



## **Fall Retreat Checklist**

### **Bring the Following Assignments:**

Bible Study Responses from June, July & August  
Application Assignments from June, July & August

### **Be prepared to:**

Repeat memory verses with small group  
Share your Spiritual Biography and Journey with small group  
Discuss the Bible Studies and Summer reading/assignments with small group

### **Bring to retreat:**

3" x 5" spiral notebook of memory verses  
Bible  
Summer reading books—this helps in discussion  
Casual clothes for the weekend appropriate for fall weather  
Hiking Boots if you want to hike during free time  
Toiletries

### **Carpooling recommended:**

Prior to the retreat, a list of small groups will be sent out to all Fellows along with contact information. We encourage you to reach out to those in your small group and carpool together. The windshield time on the way to the retreat center is a great way to get to know one another.

### **Poetry Reading on the Retreat:**

We will read a selection of C.S. Lewis's poetry on the retreat and reflect upon his poems.

## SEPTEMBER Assignments

### Theme 4: The Power of Friendship in the Christian Life

A. Memorize and meditate on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

B. Bible Study: What is love? - Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

- 1) What is the result of performing spiritual deeds without love?
- 2) Have you witnessed spiritual actions done without love? What was the result?
- 3) Write out the words that Paul uses to describe what love is. Reflect on those words.
- 4) Write out the words that Paul uses to describe what love is not. Reflect on those words.
- 5) How do faith, hope and love fit together? Why is love the greatest?

C. Reading/Videos:

Watch: Joe Loconte, “Hope in the Midst of the Storm: The Friendship of Lewis & Tolkien”, 29 min.  
[“Hope in the Midst of the Storm”](#).

Read: *The Unknown Garden of Another’s Heart: The Surprising Friendship between C.S. Lewis and Arthur Greeves*, by Joseph A. Kohm Jr., 114 pp.

Read Book: *The Four Loves* (Chapter IV: Friendship), by C.S. Lewis, 22 pp.

Read Sermon: *The Inner Ring*, an oration found in *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses* by C.S. Lewis, 10 pp.

Read Sermon: *Membership*, an address found in *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses* by C.S. Lewis, 12 pp.

Read: Book: *The Horse and His Boy* by C.S. Lewis, 215 pp.

Read: Book: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis’s Chronicles* by Joe Rigney (Introduction; Chapters 10-12), 19 pp.

**D. Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting**

- 1) Write in 1-3 pages how friendship is pictured in *The Horse and His Boy*? What lessons on friendship stand out in this fictional work?
- 2) Write in 1-3 pages what you have learned about love and friendship from the assignments.
- 3) In what ways would you like to grow in becoming a better friend to others? Write down some practical steps to becoming a better friend and ways that you might promote friendship in your circles?
- 4) Write down the names of friends from different eras of your life (childhood, high school, college, work life, etc.). Prayerfully consider reaching out to one or more of them to reconnect and reboot that friendship.
- 4) Continue to pray for your non-Christian friends and for those you are discipling.
- 5) Begin work on your intentional **Disciple-making Plan**. It will be turned in at end of program.

**S.M.A.R.T. Intentional Disciple-Making Plan Instructions**

Some of you may have done this in the Year 1 Fellows Program. Begin praying about and developing a written Disciple-making Plan using the, S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound) process. This is an opportunity to apply what you have gained in the program to your life and ministry and share it with others.

Begin now asking God what He may be calling you to do in your family, church, workplace and neighborhood to intentionally make disciples in the next 3 months, 6 months and year. Make a list of concrete steps that you can complete to accomplish your disciple-making goals and plan. Of course, bathe it in prayer and be ready for the Lord to make mid-course corrections as He leads you in making disciples of Jesus Christ for His Kingdom.

A simple way to do this is to use the S.M.A.R.T. acronym for each aspect of your plan. For example:

S – Plan to read the Gospel of John as a Family

M – Will read 1 chapter/evening following dinner

A – Will do this 5 out of 7 days per week

R- This will help our family become more familiar with Jesus and His teaching and hopefully help us get to know Him more deeply.

T- There are 21 chapters in John, so we will aim to complete this in 4 weeks time.

S- I will use the study *Discipleship with CS Lewis* as a way to help disciple my friend at work

M- We will discuss one chapter per week, each doing the assignments on our own before meeting.

A – We'll meet for lunch on Tuesdays in the conference room from 12 – 1:00 pm.

R- This will help me introduce the essentials of what it means to believe and follow Jesus Christ to my friend who has expressed interest in Christianity.

T- We'll do this for 6 weeks and then if he would like to continue, we'll plan for the next six weeks.

## OCTOBER Assignments

### Theme 5: Mere Christianity

- A. **Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 and meditate on 1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
- B. **Bible Study:** The Bible studies for this Theme are built into the book, *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis* by Joel Woodruff listed below.
- C. **Reading/Videos:**

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis the Truth-Seeker: How God Formed A Great Christian Apologist*, by Joel Woodruff, 4 pp. <https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-the-truth-seeker-how-god-formed-a-great-christian-apologist/>

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis's Obstacles to Faith*, by Art Lindsley, 3 pp. <https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewiss-obstacles-to-faith/>

Read Article: *A Biography of Mere Christianity*, by George Marsden, 4 pp. <https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/a-biography-of-mere-christianity/>

Read Article: *Mere Evangelism: Using C.S. Lewis's Classic Book to Win Outsiders to Christ*, by Randy Newman, 2 pp. <https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/mere-evangelism-using-c-s-lewiss-classic-book-to-win-outsiders-for-christ/>

Read and Study: Book: *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis (Preface, Book 2: Christian Beliefs, Book 3: Christian Behaviour) 90 pp., in conjunction with the following study guide:

Book: *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis: A Guide to Mere Christianity for Small Groups and Mentoring Relationships* by Joel Woodruff. The study guide includes a reading from a chapter of *Mere Christianity* and a corresponding Bible Study and questions. Use the study guide along with reading *Mere Christianity* as follows:

- (a) Read the preface of *Mere Christianity* and the Introduction and How to Best Use Study sections of the study guide;
- (b) Complete Part 1 of the study guide, Christian Beliefs (which corresponds to Book 2 of *Mere Christianity*), including reading the specified chapters of *Mere Christianity*, doing the Bible studies and answering the questions;
- (c) Read the specified Bible verses and Concluding Observations for Part 2 of the study guide, Christian Behavior, as you read the specified chapters of *Mere Christianity* (you do not need to do the Bible studies or answer the questions).

It is recommended that you do at least one chapter of *Mere Christianity* every two days or 4 chapters per week.

The *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis* study has been used with seekers, new and old believers. It is a great way to reach out to non-Christian friends or neighbors. It has been used by the Lord to bring some to saving faith in Christ.

**D. Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting**

- 1) Invite 1-3 Christian or non-Christian friends, family members or seekers to do a 6-week study of *Mere Christianity*, Book 2 “What Christians Believe” using *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis* Part 1. If after the 6 weeks, the participants would like to continue, there is a 9 week study on “Christian Behavior” and a 5 week study on “An Introduction to Christian Theology and Discipleship” also included in *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis*.
- 2) Create a running list of questions in a notebook that you have about the Christian worldview or other worldviews. As you find reasonable answers in the months ahead, record those answers. Discuss both your questions and reasonable answers with your small group.
- 3) Write in 1-3 pages what struck you in your study of *Mere Christianity* as it applied to your own spiritual formation and discipleship?
- 4) Continue to pray for your non-Christian friends and for those you are discipling.

## NOVEMBER Assignments

### Theme 6: The Power of Prayer in the Christian Life

**A) Memorize and meditate on Psalm 100:1-5:** Consider making up your own melody to memorize this Psalm.

**B) Bible Study: David's Prayer – 1 Chronicles 17:16-27**

1) David was described in 1 Kings 9:4 as one who walked with integrity of heart with God. Obviously from his life we know that he wasn't perfect and sinned greatly, yet he allowed God access to his heart. How does this prayer reveal David's heart and approach to God?

2) How does David describe God in prayer?

3) What can we tell about David's relationship with God through this prayer?

4) What can we learn about prayer from this prayer of David's?

**C) Reading/Videos**

Read Article: *The Prayer Life of C.S. Lewis* by James Houston (Co-founder of CSLI), 10 pp.:  
<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-prayer-life-of-c-s-lewis-2/>

Read Articles: "Work and Prayer,"; "Miserable Offenders," from *God in the Dock*, by C.S. Lewis, 10 pp.

Read Article: "A Slip of the Tongue," from *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, by C.S. Lewis, 8 pp.

Watch *Lecture One: Letters to Malcolm: The Struggle to Understand Prayer* with Marjorie Lamp Mead, 27 minutes.

Sign up for free course access and login via the CSLI website.

[Study Courses - C.S. Lewis Institute \(cslewisinstitute.org\)](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org)

[https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Letters\\_to\\_Malcolm\\_1](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Letters_to_Malcolm_1)

Read: Book: *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*, by C.S. Lewis (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17-18, 21), 79 pp.

Use the *CSLI Study Guide to Letters to Malcolm* to help you reflect upon your reading. You do *not* need to write out answers to the questions. [Study Guide – Letters to Malcom](#).

Read a chapter in *Letters to Malcolm* and then use the study guide questions to help you reflect upon the reading and your own prayer life. You don't need to write down answers to the questions, although you may wish to if it helps your own comprehension and reflection. You may also want to write down specific insights that you've gained or noticed and keep them in a journal.

Read: Book: *Reflections on the Psalms*, by C.S. Lewis (Introduction, Chapters 5,6,7,8,9), 55 pp.

**D) Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting**

1) Write in 1-3 pages what you've learned about prayer from the life and writings of C.S. Lewis? What changes would you like to make to your prayer life after this month's reflections?

2) Continue to pray for your non-Christian friends and those you are discipling.

## DECEMBER Assignments

### Theme 7: Spiritual Warfare in the Christian Life

A) **Memorize and meditate on Ephesians 6:10-12**

B) **Bible Study: The Armor of God - Read Ephesians 6:10-20**

- 1) How can we be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might?
- 2) Why do we put on the armor of God?
- 3) What are the schemes of the devil?
- 4) What does it mean that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood?
- 5) What are the pieces of armor we're commanded to put on?
- 6) Practically speaking, how can we put on the armor of God?
- 7) What equips us to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel?

C) **Reading/Videos**

Watch: *The Screwtape Letters: Background with Jerry Root*, 33 min. Sign up for free course access and login via the CSLI website.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/study-courses/>

[https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/The\\_Screwtape\\_Letters\\_1](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/The_Screwtape_Letters_1)

Read and/or listen: *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis, 160 pp. (It's suggested that you read or listen to one letter a day for 31 days as a daily devotional reflection).

Optional audio version by John Cleese (Monty Python actor): [The Screwtape Letters Narrated by John Cleese](#).

Use the CSLI Study Guide on the *The Screwtape Letters*: [The Screwtape Letters Study Guide](#).

Read or listen to a Chapter in *The Screwtape Letters* and then use the study guide questions to help you reflect upon the chapter and your own spiritual life. You don't need to write down answers to the questions unless it helps your own comprehension and reflection. You may want to write down specific insights that you've gained or noticed and keep them in a journal.

Read Book: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis, 230 pp.

Read: Book: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis's Chronicles* by Joe Rigney (Chapters 6 and 7), 12 pp.



**D) Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting**

1) Make it a daily habit to put on the armor of God by praying the armor of God upon you each morning. Pray throughout the day, reminding yourself that you are in a battle that has been won by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

2) Write in 1-3 pages what you've learned about Spiritual Warfare and how you'd like to apply it in your own life.

3) Continue to pray for the non-Christian friends on your list and those you're discipling. By doing so, you're doing battle on their behalf.

4) Continue working on your intentional Disciple-making Plan by using the, S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound) process. This is an opportunity to apply what you have gained in the program to your life and ministry and share it with others.

Ask God what He may be calling you to do in your family, church, workplace, and neighborhood to intentionally make disciples in the next 3 months, 6 months and year. Make a list of concrete steps that you can complete to accomplish your disciple-making goals and plan. Of course, bathe it in prayer and be ready for the Lord to make mid-course corrections as He leads you in making disciples of Jesus Christ for His Kingdom.

## JANUARY Assignments

### Theme 8: Belief in Miracles and the Supernatural

A) **Memorize and meditate on Colossians 1:16-17**

B) **Bible Study:**

The Bible study questions are in the book, *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis*, by Joel Woodruff and are a part of the study below.

C) **Reading/Videos**

Read: *C.S. Lewis and How Christians Should Think About Science* by Joe Kohm, 2 pp.

<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-and-how-christians-should-think-about-science/>

Read and Study: Book: *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis (Book 1: Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe), 24 pp. using the following study guide:

Book: *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis: A Guide to Mere Christianity for Small Groups and Mentoring Relationships*, by Joel Woodruff (Appendix 2)

Complete Appendix 2 of the study guide (which corresponds to Book 1 of *Mere Christianity*), including reading the specified chapters of *Mere Christianity*, doing the Bible studies and answering the questions.

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis on Miracles: Why They Are Possible and Significant* by Bill Smith, 8 pp.

<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-miracles-why-they-are-possible-and-significant/>

Read Articles: “Miracles”; “Religion and Science”; “The Grand Miracle”; and “Christian Apologetics” in *God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics* by C.S. Lewis, 27 pp.

Watch: “The Question of God: C.S. Lewis & Sigmund Freud” Lecture by Dr. Armand Nicholi, 1 hour, [The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud - YouTube](#)

Read book: *The Magician’s Nephew*, by C.S. Lewis, 202 pp.

Read: Book: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis’s Chronicles* by Joe Rigney (Chapters 13-14), 21 pp.

D) **Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting**

1) Keep your running list of questions people have about God, faith, and Christianity in your notebook. Make a list of reasons why belief in God and the supernatural is reasonable.

2) Write in 1-3 pages what God has shown you about Miracles and the Supernatural.

3) Ask God to give you the eyes to see the world from His perspective and to be able to communicate that to others.

4) Continue to pray for the non-Christian friends on your list and those you're discipling. By doing so, you're doing battle on their behalf.

## FEBRUARY Assignments

### Theme 9: Absolute Truth and the Call to Discipleship

**A. Memorize and meditate on: John 8:31-32**

**B. Bible Study:**

Write your own Bible Study questions for a study of Romans 12:1-21.

**C. Reading/Videos:**

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis on Authentic Discipleship*, by Christopher Mitchell, 4 pp.  
<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-authentic-discipleship/>

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis on Holy Scripture*, by Phil Ryken, 4 pp.  
<https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-holy-scripture/>

Read Book: *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis (Book 4: Beyond Personality or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity), 55 pp.

Read Book: *The Abolition of Man*, by C.S. Lewis, 70 pp. and use CSLI Study Guide on *The Abolition of Man*.

Watch: Lecture by Michael Ward on The Abolition of Man, 1 hour  
[Faith & Reason | On Lewis' The Abolition of Man: Philosophy or Theology? | Dr. Michael Ward - Bing video](#)

Watch Movie: *The Silver Chair*, 1990 BBC Re-mastered version (2 hours, 34 min): [The Silver Chair - Remastered.](#)

Read: Book: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis's Chronicles* by Joe Rigney (Introduction; Chapters 8-9), 17 pp.

**D. Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting**

- 1) Write in 1-3 pages how God challenged you through this study on truth and discipleship? What changes, if any, will you make in your life to seek truth and become a more obedient disciple of Jesus?
- 2) Write in 1 page some ways can you see relativism at work in the current educational, political, religious world today? What are some practical ways to promote the idea of absolute truth?
- 3) Continue to pray for the non-Christian friends on your list and those you're discipling.
- 4) Continue working on your intentional Disciple-making Plan by using the, S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound) process. This is an opportunity to apply what you have gained in the program to your life and ministry and share it with others.

Ask God what He may be calling you to do in your family, church, workplace and neighborhood to intentionally make disciples in the next 3 months, 6 months and year. Make a list of concrete steps that you can complete to accomplish your disciple-making goals and plan. Of course, bathe it in prayer and be ready for the Lord to make mid-course corrections as He leads you in making disciples of Jesus Christ for His Kingdom.

## MARCH Assignments

### Theme 10: The Question of Suffering

#### A. Memorize and meditate on: Romans 5:3-4

#### B. Bible Study on Romans 5:1-21

- 1) Why should we rejoice in our sufferings?
- 2) What role does hope play in the midst of suffering and pain?
- 3) How can a person be reconciled to God?
- 4) How did sin, suffering and death enter the world?
- 5) What is the remedy for sin, suffering and death?
- 6) How does grace trump sin?

#### C. Reading/Videos:

Read: *C.S. Lewis on the Problem of Pain*, by Jana Harmon, 3 pp. <https://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-the-problem-of-pain/>

Read: Book: *The Problem of Pain*, by C.S. Lewis (Preface, Chapters 1-7), 105 pp.

Read: Book: *A Life Observed: A Spiritual Biography of C.S. Lewis*, by Devin Brown (Chapter 6), 29 pp.

Read: Book: *A Grief Observed*, by C.S. Lewis, 60 pp.

Watch: *Shadowlands*: BBC version with Joss Ackland (not American version with Anthony Hopkins) [Shadowlands Movie](#). 1 hour 35 min.

#### D. Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting

- 1) Write in 1-3 pages some of the ways in which pain and suffering can be understood from a Christian perspective? How does personal suffering impact the way we deal with the question of pain and suffering?
- 2) In 1 page how would you contrast the Christian understanding of God's answer to the question of suffering and pain with other worldviews to someone else?
- 3) Continue to pray for the non-Christian friends on your list and those you're discipling. By doing so, you're doing battle on their behalf.

## APRIL Assignments

### Theme 11: Final Destinations: Heaven and Hell

#### A. Memorize and meditate on: Matthew 25:31-33

#### B. Bible Study on Matthew 25:31-46

- 1) Who is the “Son of Man?”
- 2) Who will be gathered before Jesus at the judgment?
- 3) What are the six actions Jesus will use as the basis of judgment. What kinds of actions are these?
- 4) What does this passage say about Christian responsibility?
- 5) Who are the “least of these”?
- 6) How does Jesus describe eternal punishment?
- 7) Why is it important for Jesus to warn his disciples about the possibility of eternal punishment or eternal life?

#### C. Reading/Videos:

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis’s Concern for the Future of Humanity*, by James Houston, 3 pp. [Senior Fellow: C.S. Lewis's Concern for the Future of Humanity - C.S. Lewis Institute \(cslewisinstitute.org\)](#)

Read Article: *The Generous Life and Heart of C.S. Lewis*, by Joel Woodruff, 4 pp. [The Generous Heart and Life of C.S. Lewis - C.S. Lewis Institute \(cslewisinstitute.org\)](#)

Read Article: *C.S. Lewis on Heaven and Hell* by Stephen Eyre, 8 pp. <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-heaven-and-hell/>

Read Sermon: “The Weight of Glory,” by C.S. Lewis found in *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, 10 pp.

Read Book: *The Problem of Pain*, by C.S. Lewis (Ch. 8: Hell & Ch.10: Heaven), 20 pp.

Watch: *Exploring C.S. Lewis’s The Great Divorce*, with David Downing, 1 hour. [Exploring C.S. Lewis's The Great Divorce - YouTube](#)

Read: Book: *The Great Divorce*, by C.S. Lewis, 125 pp.

Read: *The Last Battle* by C.S. Lewis, 210 pp.

Read: Book: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis’s Chronicles* by Joe Rigney (Chapters 15-16), 19 pp.

**D. Application: Bring these assignments to monthly meeting**

- 1) Write in 1-3 pages what God has shown you about heaven and hell. How does reflecting on these readings impact the way you live your daily life and treat other people? In what new ways can you share the good news of heaven and eternal life with others?
- 2) 2) Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share the Gospel during this month. Pray for those who don't know Christ and those you are discipling.



## MAY Assignments

### Theme 12: Mere Evangelism: Sharing the Gospel C.S. Lewis Style

**A. Memorize and meditate on: 1 Peter 3:15**

**B. Bible Study on 1 Peter 3:8-22**

Write out your own Bible study questions for 1 Peter 3:8-22.

**C. Reading/Videos:**

Read: Book: *Perelandra*, by C.S. Lewis, 153 pp. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Book in Lewis's *Space Trilogy*

Watch: "Unfallen Worlds: Malacandra and Perelandra," with Jerry Root, 1 hour

["Unfallen Worlds: Malacandra and Perelandra" - Jerry Root - YouTube](#)

Read: Book: *Mere Evangelism: 10 Insights from C.S. Lewis to Help You Share Your Faith*, by Randy Newman, 145 pp.

**D. Application: Bring to the final monthly meeting**

1) **Finalize your intentional Disciple-making Plan** by using the, S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound) process. This is an opportunity to apply what you have gained in the program to your life and ministry and share it with others.

Begin now asking God what He may be calling you to do in your family, church, workplace and neighborhood to intentionally make disciples in the next 3 months, 6 months and year. Make a list of concrete steps that you can complete to accomplish your disciple-making goals and plan. Of course, bathe it in prayer and be ready for the Lord to make mid-course corrections as He leads you in making disciples of Jesus Christ for His Kingdom.

2) Share your Disciple-making Plan with your Small Group and then encourage one another in the days to come by asking one another about how their plan is being implemented.