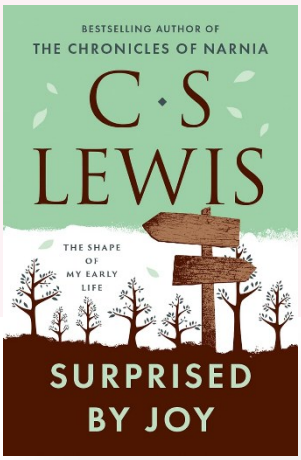
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

SURPRISED BY JOY
BY C. S. LEWIS



"When we set out I did not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo I did."

C. S. LEWIS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Q. What is one of your favourite books, essays or writings from C. S. Lewis? Why is it your favourite?

2 Q. How did Lewis' childhood cultivate creativity and imagination?

3

Q. Lewis lived a story-formed life and was significantly impacted by many books, including those by George Macdonald and tales of Norse Mythology. How did these stories grow and shape his faith over his lifetime?

4

Q. Which stories have been most formative in your own life? Why?

5

Q. Lewis' conversion to Christianity was not a sudden or dramatic moment, but a slow and steady gradual shift. What were some of the integral moments of his conversion?

6

Q. How did C. S. Lewis' thoughts on life, faith and love enlighten you? After reading *Surprised by Joy* were you given something new to think about, or was your mind changed about something?

7

Q. Lewis openly reflects on his struggles with vice, pride, depression, intellectual arrogance, and his resistance towards Christianity. How did these struggles shape his understanding of himself and his journey towards faith?

8

Q. In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Lucy asks, "Is He [Aslan] safe?", to which the animals reply, “Course he isn't safe, but he is good... He is not a tame lion." How might this quote summarise Lewis’ faith and life experience with God?

9

Q. Discuss the very famous C. S. Lewis quote, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

10

Q. *The Problem of Pain, Mere Christianity*, and *Miracles* are Lewis’ great trilogy of apologetic works. Why do you think these books are considered to be classics that every Christian should read? If you haven’t read them, which one will you endevour to pick up next?

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