

# NARNIA

YOUTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE



# NARNIA YOUTH GUIDE

Dear Youth Minister,

Once in a generation, there comes a motion picture event that combines all the elements that attract young audiences – a wonderful tale, grand adventure and excitement, breathtaking cinematography, state-of-the-art special effects – with positive moral values and allegories that relate perfectly to our Christian faith.

On December 9, C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* will be released on the big screen nationwide. The movie is a faithful adaptation of a literary masterpiece, produced by Walden Media and Walt Disney Company—but guided carefully by Douglas Gresham, the stepson of C.S. Lewis.

The release of the film presents Catholic youth leaders and educators with the chance to explore this powerful allegory of Christ's redemptive love. To help you accomplish that, Catholic Outreach is pleased to offer the *Narnia Catholic Youth Guide*. Here you'll find the keys to unlocking Narnia's secrets through activity and discussion guides.

We encourage you to share this Youth Guide with other leaders within your church, schools and community. Please also visit [NarniaOutreach.com](http://NarniaOutreach.com) for more information on how you can use the movie to bring youth closer to Christ, book group tickets and receive FREE promotional materials.

Catholic Outreach is grateful to partner with you on this important ministry to youth and to our culture.

Sincerely,

*Catholic Outreach*  
[www.catholicoutreach.com](http://www.catholicoutreach.com)

## Pre-planning for Narnia Series

- Order Materials to be used to promote the film (link to [NarniaOutreach.com](http://NarniaOutreach.com))  
    **"A Guide to Narnia – 100 Questions about The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe"** - Call 800-376-0520 for details or order online at [www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com)  
    **Posters** ([www.NarniaResources.com](http://www.NarniaResources.com))  
    **Resource DVD** ([www.NarniaResources.com](http://www.NarniaResources.com))  
    **E-Zine Graphics**
- Inform your Pastor or DRE coordinator of ways to involve the entire community  
    Parish trip to see the film  
    Discussion series for parents  
    Support the themes of the film through a bible-study (*after movie release*)

## Week 1: Not Just Another Movie: Virtues

Start your series of Narnia Nights with movie clips, discussions, and music from the film. Using the Narnia Resource DVD, you can perk your youths' interest immediately!

*Materials Needed:*      **TV or Projector**  
                                 **DVD Player**  
                                 **Sign-up Sheets**  
                                 **Paper / Pens**  
                                 **Free Promotional Materials from [NarniaResources.com](http://NarniaResources.com)**

*GAME Materials:*      **Decorations to divide the room in half (see games section below)**  
                                 **Eight (8) 8-foot 2x4's**

### *Session Outline:*

- **Invitation Prayer** Led by Youth Minister or Teen Leader (*5 Minutes*)
- **Play Trailer #1 from Resource DVD** of The Chronicles of Narnia to introduce film (*5-10 minutes*)
- **Key Points** to reinforce during the session / when talking about the film:  
    **Inform Core Team / Parent Volunteers of the date of the film** (*Friday, December 9th, 2005*).  
    This film is rated **PG**.  
    The storyline is presented with **youth as the target audience**.  
    This movie was produced by Disney and the creative forces behind *The Lord of the Rings*.
- **Small Group Discussion: Virtues** (*20-30 minutes*)

In your small groups, invite the youth to brainstorm as many virtues as they can – use the discussion to introduce the themes and virtues of Narnia. Explain how the movie charts how four seemingly ordinary children discover heroic virtues within their nature.

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Q1. What is a 'virtue'?

Q2. What makes a good deed or action 'virtuous'?

Q3. When are you virtuous? At home, at school, with friends, when problems arise? Is it easier or more difficult to be virtuous under certain conditions?

Q4. In your day-to-day interactions with friends and family, how can you live out the virtues of honor, trustworthiness, and loyalty?

- **GAME: "Crossing Over to Narnia"** (20 Minutes)

*Introduce the game with a brief discussion about Narnia. Where is Narnia? What does it represent? Refer to questions 3, 4, 18, 20, 21, 25, 29, 42 and 44 of the book "A Guide to Narnia – 100 Questions about The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."*

In this game, the room will need to be divided in half – one side is our world – the other side is the land of Narnia. The object of this game is to make sure your entire team crosses over the gap in the room without falling off the bridge.

Using the two pieces of lumber, lay them out into the 'gap' you've created in the middle of your gathering space. Each team will have two boards to be used in crossing the bridge. Each team of 6 or 8 must cross over the gap without touching the floor. Use teamwork and creativity to cross the gap to Narnia!

**NOTE:** *Use the posters of the film as a dividing line for your room. The winning team takes home the posters!*

- **Large Group Discussion: Are Your Feet Firmly Planted?** (10 minutes)

After the game concludes, gather back as a large group to discuss the highlights of your small-group discussion. Teens are encouraged to share during this time. Ask teens what it took to cross into Narnia. Teamwork, focus, dedication, self-sacrifice? Then recall the scene in the book where the children enter the wardrobe. Point out that to enter Narnia, they were required to have both feet in the wardrobe. What does this signify?

Refer to question 12 in "A Guide to Narnia – 100 Questions about The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."

12) Why couldn't the children experience the magical power of the Wardrobe unless "both feet were in"?

C.S. Lewis probably uses this as a metaphor for being totally committed to a particular path or course of action. In other words, the children cannot experience Narnia by keeping "one foot" in this world—they need to plunge totally into its magic.

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Similarly, as Christians, we are called to follow Jesus with our whole hearts, minds, and souls. If we want to experience His grace in our lives and ultimately enter heaven, we must take up our cross daily and follow Him. Jesus has strong words for those who are “lukewarm” or “half-hearted” in their commitment to Him (see Revelation 3:16). If we want to be holy, we can’t keep “one foot in” the world; we need to keep both feet firmly planted in the Kingdom of God.

- **Group Trip Sign-up / Register for the Narnia Youth E-Zine** (*10 Minutes*)

Introduce the Free Narnia E-zine – and encourage your youth to stay informed about news and events!

- **Closing Prayer** (*5 minutes*)

## Week 2: "In Word / In Action"

How have you chosen to live your values and beliefs? Do your actions reflect the things you say and think? This Narnia Night focuses on righteousness and truth-telling - another option would be to invite both teens and parents to join in the event.

*Materials Needed:*      **TV or Projector**  
                                 **DVD Player**  
                                 **Sign-up Sheets**  
                                 **Paper / Pens**  
                                 **Free Promotional Materials from [NarniaResources.com](http://NarniaResources.com)**

*GAME Materials:*      **8 index cards – each with a different 'skit situation' written on them**

*Session Outline:*

- **Opening Prayer** led by Youth Minister or Teen Leader (*5 Minutes*)
- **GAME:** "Skit Sensations"

*This game is a simple rendition of charades. Some skits will require 2 people. Some will require 4-6 people. Depending on the size of your group, you'll need to adjust this so that everyone in your group is involved in at least 1 skit.*

As in all charades, there are no words. The audience must guess what is happening in the acted skit, but cannot shout out names until the very end of the skit. The actors/actresses should have 5-10 minutes to practice their skit.

When you break out into skit groups, give each group an index card with several ideas for the skit topic. For instance, one index card would read:

**"Act out a scene that depicts a group of people sitting in a crowded movie theatre. Use a line of chairs facing one direction to set the "front row"."**

**"Act out a scene that depicts a frustrating cell phone call that gets disconnected 3 times in a row."**

**"Act out a scene that depicts a football game that is tied with 15 seconds left in the 4th quarter. The quarterback throws a long, Hail Mary pass to win the game."**

- **Large Group Discussion** (*20 minutes*)

Encourage participation from every member of your group.

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- Q1. What were each of the skits depicting?
- Q2. Was it easy to figure out the meanings of each skit?
- Q3. How easy was it to figure out the theme of each skit – even without words?
- Q4. If we added dialogue or subtitles to the skits, would it make your job even easier to figure out the scene topic?

- **Play Trailer #2 from Resource DVD** of The Chronicles of Narnia (5-10 Minutes)

- *If parents are present at this session, invite them to share their first impressions of the movie trailer – and have them promise to take their children to see this amazing film! (10 minutes)*

- **Small Group Discussion (20 Minutes)**

In small groups, use these questions to guide your discussion. Begin each small group session with a short prayer led by the group leader.

- Q1. How do our actions and words differ in how people see us?
- Q2. Do you think your actions and your words match up as ‘the same you’?
- Q3. Have you experienced a time in your life where your actions or words put you in harm’s way – in trouble with parents – in trouble with God?
- Q4. When have your actions and words played a major role in bringing joy, happiness, and peace to others?

Read the passage in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe where the four children first here of Aslan, Each child reacts to with a different physical response. Why is that? Ask if you met Aslan, what would your reaction say about your life?

**To help guide this discussion, refer to question 41 in “A Guide to Narnia – 100 Questions about The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.”**

41) All four children have a strong emotional reaction to hearing the name Aslan for the first time. Why is this?

As we’re told in the story, when the children hear Mr. Beaver speak Aslan’s name, “each of [them] felt something jump on the inside.” Each experiences something slightly different: Peter feels brave; Susan, a sensation of a “delicious smell” or “delightful music”; and Lucy has a feeling like the “beginning of the holidays” or summer. On some deep level, they perceive that Aslan (whom they’ve never met nor know anything about at that point) will set things right in Narnia.

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Edmund, though, by putting himself at the service of the White Witch, has sided with evil. Since Aslan is the personification of all that is good and true, Edmund, as a result of his sin, feels uneasy and a little afraid at the mention of Aslan. The conflict shows on his face: he knows he is choosing evil, but he remains determined to serve his own desires.

- **Group Trip Sign-up / Register for the Narnia Youth E-Zine** (*10 Minutes*)

Introduce the Free Narnia E-zine - and encourage your youth to stay informed about news and events!

- **Closing Prayer** (*5 Minutes*)

## Week 3: "Armor & Shield"

With only 2 weeks left until Narnia opens, your teens will be ready to show their creativity and teamwork during this interactive Narnia Night. Fun ice-breaker games and challenges for the final week are just one of the parts to this exciting event.

*Materials Needed:*

- TV or Projector
- DVD Player
- Sign-up Sheets
- Paper / Pens
- Free Promotional Materials from [NarniaResources.com](http://NarniaResources.com)
- Long red paper (butcher paper) to resemble a red carpet premier location
- Lion Costume
- Poster-board for each person in your youth group
- Markers or paint / paint brushes
- CD Player
- CDs

### *Session Outline:*

- **Opening Prayer** led by Youth Minister or Teen Leader (5 Minutes)

- **Aslan Appears!** (10 Minutes)

Invite one of your outgoing teens to dress up as Aslan, the main character in Narnia, to make a celebrity visit to your youth meeting. Use red butcher paper to create a red carpet – complete with paparazzi.

- **Play Trailer #3 from Resource DVD** of The Chronicles of Narnia (5 Minutes)

- **Design Your Shield** (30-45 minutes)

Each person attending tonight's session will have an opportunity to design, paint, and present their shield (or crest). Give the group 30-45 minutes to complete this project. Have music from the DVD playing in the background – show additional footage from the making of the film, etc. At the end of the evening, have the group share their individual shields and explain the elements they've chosen for their design.

*Encourage them to get into this project – it's a great way to share their values and virtues in a creative, visual manner.*

- **Aslan Leaves** – But not without signing autographs!

Aslan will only sign autographs if everyone promises to get their tickets to Narnia!  
The premier is only 2 weeks away!

- **Who is Aslan?**

Aslan is the central figure in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Most people suspect that Aslan represents Jesus? Does he, or doesn't he? And if he does represent the Lord, what clues does C.S. Lewis provide that support this conclusion?

**Refer to questions 84 and 85 in in "A Guide to Narnia – 100 Questions about The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."**

84) What similarities exist between the suffering, death, and resurrection of Aslan and that of Jesus?

The similarities are striking. *They include the following:*

- Both willingly lay down their lives to save others. In Aslan's sacrifice, Edmund is spared and Narnia restored; in Jesus' sacrifice, the whole world is saved from sin and death, and the kingdom of heaven is opened to those who accept Him as savior.
- Though both know their deaths are necessary, they are sad and afraid. Much like Jesus' agony in the garden, Aslan on his way to his death is in much agony and pain in the forest and asks his friends to stay with him.
- In their sufferings, both Aslan and Jesus are treated cruelly and unmercifully by their torturers, but neither ever complain, protest, or resist; they willingly accept whatever happens to them.
- Aslan, like Jesus, is careful to make sure that the blow falls on him alone and that his friends are not swept up in the frenzy of his killers and harmed. And, like Jesus, it is women who remain most faithful to Aslan in his darkest hour and beyond.
- Susan and Lucy watch Aslan's sufferings helplessly, knowing that there is nothing they can do. Similarly, Jesus' mother, Mary, and Mary Magdalene watch Christ die on Calvary and know they too can do nothing and that it has to be done.
- Aslan is mocked and ridiculed during his torment, and even endures having a muzzle put on him. This mirrors Jesus' crowning with thorns and the mockery He endured.
- Once the crowd of tormenters departs, the girls approach Aslan's body, take off the muzzle, and wipe away his blood. Here we see a parallel with Jesus being taken down from the Cross, and those who love Him removing the crown of thorns and cleansing His body of the blood.
- Eventually the sky turns gold as the sun rises. Then the girls hear a loud noise as the Stone Table splits in two. This is reminiscent of the curtain in the Temple being torn in two at the death of Jesus. When the girls go back to the table where Aslan had been lying, he is not there (like Christ not being in the tomb when the stone is removed).
- Susan and Lucy believe Aslan is a ghost until he asks them to touch his mane and they feel the warmth of his breath. This is similar to Jesus' disciples not believing it was Him until they saw and felt His wounds.

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85) So is Aslan an allegorical representation of Jesus?

Yes and no. As Narnia scholar Andrew Rislen has stated, “Aslan both is and is not Jesus.” According to C.S. Lewis himself, Aslan takes the role of a Christlike figure, though he is not an allegorical portrayal of Christ: “If Aslan represented the immaterial Deity, he would be an allegorical figure. In reality, however, he is an invention giving an imaginary answer to the question, ‘What might Christ become like if there really were a world like Narnia and He chose to be nate and die and rise again in that world as He actually has done in ours?’ This is not allegory at all.”

- **Group Trip Sign-up / Register for the Narnia Youth E-Zine** (10 Minutes)

Introduce the Free Narnia E-zine – and encourage your youth to stay informed about news and events!

- **Closing Prayer** (5 minutes)

Week 4: “In Great Anticipation: Narnia Opens December 9th”

There’s just one week until the movie opens, and you’ve got your group tickets to the opening night! During this final Narnia Night, guide your teens through a spiritual meditation by challenging them to greater commitments to Christ and one another.

*Materials Needed:*

- TV or Projector
- DVD Player
- Sign-up Sheets
- Paper / Pens
- Free Promotional Materials from [NarniaResources.com](http://NarniaResources.com)
- CD Player
- CDs
- Guided Meditation (provided)

*Session Outline:*

- **Opening Prayer** led by Youth Minister or Teen Leader (5 Minutes)
- **What will it take?** (Opening Talk for Youth Minister) (15 Minutes)

Key Points to share with your youth...

+ What have you learned over the past 3 weeks? We’ve talked a lot about virtue, action, and values. The shields you made last week were a public display of your personality, your beliefs, and your interests. So what will it take for you to display that to your friends? – Family? – Neighbors? – Strangers?

+We’ve seen clips of a very special movie. This isn’t just any fantasy film about lions and tigers and bears. This isn’t a fantasy film that prides itself on special effects and huge explosions. There’s something bigger to this movie that will leave a lasting impression on your heart – and a mission laid before your feet.

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+ What will it take? This movie will take about 160 minutes of your time from you. You'll be sitting for almost 2.5 hours. If you get there early, it could take longer! It will take some of your hard-earned money. This film will take its toll on your emotions and your feelings.

*It will also take you by surprise.*

It will GIVE you an awareness of God's compassion, God's love, and God's redemptive power to change your life.

It will GIVE you a new outlook on your walk with God.

It will GIVE you an anticipation, an energy, and an excitement about your faith and your prayer life!

- **Small Group Discussions** (20 Minutes)

Use these questions to guide your discussions...

Q1. Have you experienced a spiritual change over the past few weeks by attending these sessions?

Q2. How has your outlook on your relationship with Christ changed?

Q3. Do you have any challenges you're still facing?

Q4. Do you realize how much you are loved?

- **Large Group Open Mic**

Allow teens to share openly about the anticipation of the film's release, the feelings they have about their relationship with God, or any other related topic.

- **Final Group Trip Sign-up** (10 Minutes)

Assign Carpools or meeting times for bus pickup.

- **Closing Prayer** (5 minutes)