

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum Reading Guide
Sundays - 9:15am - Upper Room
January 11 – March 15

Objective:

This forum explores *The Chronicles of Narnia* as works of Christian imagination shaped by:

- Anglican theology
- Medieval moral teaching (especially the Seven Deadly Sins)
- Lewis's conviction that stories form the soul

Rather than strict allegory, Lewis called Narnia a “**supposal**”: *Suppose Christ entered another world—what might that look like?*

Reading Schedule (Publication Order)

Date	Book	Focus
1/11	No reading	Lewis, sin, and the medieval imagination
1/18	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>	Pride & Redemption
2/1	<i>Prince Caspian</i>	Wrath & Right Authority
2/8	<i>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i>	Greed & Transformation
2/15	<i>The Silver Chair</i>	Envy & Perseverance
2/22	<i>The Horse and His Boy</i>	Gluttony & Self-Mastery
3/1	<i>The Magician's Nephew</i>	Pride & Creation
3/8	<i>The Last Battle</i>	Sloth (Acedia) & Hope

How to Read

- Read **prayerfully**, not analytically alone.
- Notice how *desire* shapes characters' choices.
- Pay attention to how Aslan reveals himself differently in each book.
- Consider how sin is shown less as “rule-breaking” and more as **disordered love**.

A Closing Invitation

Ask not only:

“What does this mean?”

but also:

“How is this story inviting me to be changed?”

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 1 Handout – Lewis, Narnia, and the Moral Life
January 11, 2026

Entering Narnia – Story, Sin, and Sanctification

Key Ideas

- Lewis writes to **shape virtue**, not merely convey doctrine.
- Medieval Christianity understood sin as **misdirected love**.
- Stories bypass defenses and speak directly to the imagination.

The Seven Deadly Sins (Medieval Understanding)

- Pride – placing the self above God
- Wrath – uncontrolled or misdirected anger
- Greed – possessiveness and domination
- Envy – sorrow at another's good
- Gluttony – excess and lack of self-rule
- Sloth (Acedia) – spiritual apathy or despair
- Lust – misuse of desire (largely absent from Narnia)

Discussion

1. Why might Lewis choose fantasy rather than realism?
2. How does imagination shape faith?
3. What sins feel most spiritually dangerous today?

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 2 Handout – The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
January 18, 2026

Pride, Betrayal, and Redemption

Associated Deadly Sin: Pride

Themes

- Edmund's resentment and self-importance
- The Witch's counterfeit justice
- Aslan's self-giving love

Medieval Lens

- Pride as the root of all sin (Augustine)
- Atonement as victory and restoration
- Kingship as service, not domination

Scripture Connections

- Philippians 2:5–11
- Romans 5:6–11

Discussion

1. How does pride disguise itself as self-pity?
2. What makes Edmund's repentance believable?
3. How is Aslan's death both just and merciful?

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 3 Handout – Prince Caspian
February 1, 2026

Wrath, Patience, and True Authority

Associated Deadly Sin: Wrath

Themes to Watch

- Impulsive violence vs. obedience
- The slow work of restoration
- Trusting Aslan when he seems absent

Medieval Lens

- Just War theory
- Chivalric restraint
- Wrath as zeal without love

Scripture Connections

- James 1:19–20
- Romans 12:17–21

Discussion

1. When is anger righteous—and when is it destructive?
2. What does patience cost the characters?
3. How does Lewis critique revenge?

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 4 Handout – The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
February 8, 2026

Greed, Desire, and Transformation

Associated Deadly Sin: Greed (Avarice)

Themes

- Eustace's transformation
- Longing for possession
- The journey east as spiritual pilgrimage

Medieval Lens

- Pilgrimage as sanctification
- Dragons as images of moral corruption
- Conversion as painful grace

Scripture Connections

- Luke 12:15
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion

1. What does Eustace love more than people?
2. Why can't he undragon himself?
3. What does true change require?

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 5 Handout – The Silver Chair
February 15, 2026

Envy, Forgetfulness, and Faithfulness

Associated Deadly Sin: Envy

Themes

- Resentment of joy
- The danger of forgetting Aslan's signs
- Endurance when truth feels unreal

Medieval Lens

- Envy as sorrow at another's good
- The underworld as spiritual confusion
- Memory as a moral act

Scripture Connections

- Hebrews 12:1–3
- Psalm 42

Discussion

1. How does envy distort reality?
2. Why are the signs easy to forget?
3. What sustains faith in discouragement?

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 6 Handout – The Horse and His Boy
February 22, 2026

Gluttony, Freedom, and Providence

Associated Deadly Sin: Gluttony (broadly understood)

Themes

- Appetite and excess
- Identity and belonging
- God's hidden guidance

Medieval Lens

- Gluttony as lack of self-rule
- Exile and homecoming stories
- Divine providence revealed in hindsight

Scripture Connections

- Romans 8:28
- Matthew 4:1–4

Discussion

1. How does excess limit freedom?
2. When do the characters recognize Aslan's care?
3. What does true satisfaction look like?

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 7 Handout – The Magician’s Nephew
March 1, 2026

Pride, Creation, and Responsibility

Associated Deadly Sin: Pride

Themes

- Forbidden curiosity
- Creation as gift
- The cost of disobedience

Medieval Lens

- Creation through divine order and harmony
- Pride as desire to control knowledge
- Moral responsibility for power

Scripture Connections

- Genesis 1–3
- Colossians 1:15–17

Discussion

1. When does curiosity become pride?
2. How does Lewis portray creation as sacred?
3. What responsibilities come with knowledge?

Into the Wardrobe: Clergy Forum
Week 8 Handout – The Last battle
March 8, 2026

Sloth (Acedia), Hope, and the End of All Things

Associated Deadly Sin: Sloth (Acedia)

Themes

- Spiritual apathy and false religion
- Perseverance under deception
- Judgment as truth revealed

Medieval Lens

- Acedia as despair and refusal of joy
- Apocalyptic hope
- The beatific vision (“Further up and further in”)

Scripture Connections

- Revelation 21–22
- 1 Corinthians 15

Discussion

1. How is sloth different from laziness?
2. Why is false belief spiritually dangerous?
3. What kind of hope does Lewis offer?