

Small Group Study Questions

The following questions are broken into five weekly segments, which can be used for small groups, Sunday school, book groups, or general group discussion questions.

While individuals do not have to read *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis in order to understand and enjoy the documentary or group study, leaders may want to encourage reading the book in order to have a greater appreciation of the film and the themes covered in the study. The book can be purchased at most bookstores or ordered online.

Recommendations for Small Groups:

- Do your best to begin and end your group meetings on time.
- In order to build unity and form deeper relationships, we recommend that you begin your meetings with a meal together, or at least some snacks and a time for fellowship.
- Review the enclosed “Tips for Leaders.”
- Each session, distribute a copy of the small group questions to each person.
- While the order for your meeting can be adapted to your group’s needs, it is recommended that you watch the video for each week before responding to the questions.
- If your group is new, you may want to use some of the Ice Breaker games or suggestions that follow.



Ice Breakers: Games and Questions

You can use one of the following as for your small group in order to get to know each other better.

M&M Game

Pass around a dish with lots of M&M's in it. Use both plain and peanut. Ask the guests to take as many as they want, but each person must take at least one. When everyone has finished, say that for each M&M taken, they must share a fact about themselves. A variation is to give each color it's own category:

Red: Family
Blue: Spiritual
Yellow: Personal
Brown: Hobbies
Green: Relationships
Orange: Wild card.

If I were a...

A fun icebreaker game to encourage creativity, best for smaller groups. Ask each person to say what they would be and why if they were . . .

- A piece of fruit
- An historical figure
- A household object
- A cartoon character

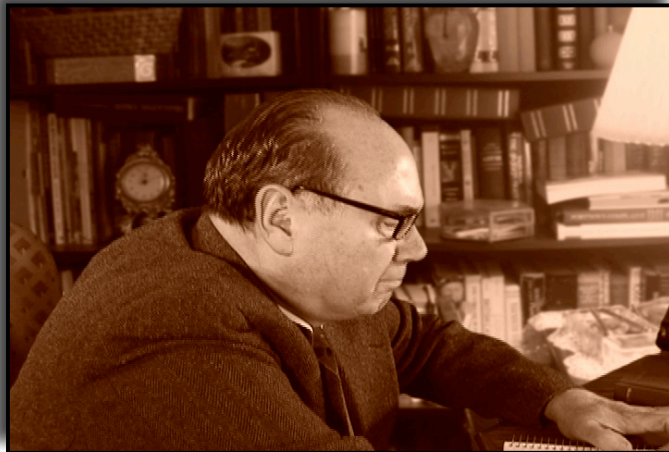
Example: "I would be a pineapple as I am sweet and zingy. I would be a whisk as I like to stir things up. I would be Taz as I rush around like a crazy creature.

Questions:

- Where did you live between the ages of 9 & 12?
- Who was your favorite music group in high school?
- What is the origin of your name (were you named for someone)?
- Tell an unusual fact about yourself.
- If you were going to live on the moon and could take one thing with you, what would you take? (Besides your Bible)
- What is the hardest thing you ever had to do?
- What time period would you have lived in, if you could have lived at any time?
- Who was your best friend when you were younger?

Tips for Small Group Leaders

- Pray for God to help you build a healthy group.
- Ask people in the group to help.
- Don't neglect the ice breakers.
- Be open and willing to share.
- When you ask a question, be patient—someone will eventually respond.
- Don't call on anyone to read aloud (unless you have arranged this with them ahead of time).
- Encourage and allow other group members to lead.
- While members are arriving, you may want to go to the Music section of the DVD in the Extra menu and have it play “Screwtape’s Theme Remix.”
- Pray together as a group and encourage the members to pray for each other during the week.

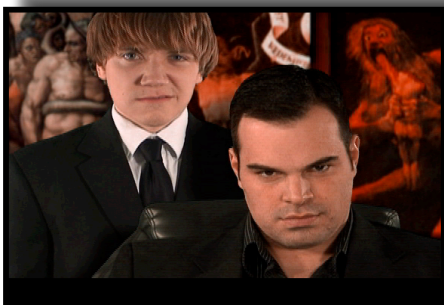


Week One



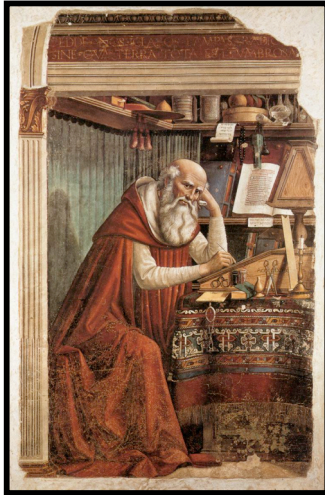
1. What are some other works by C. S. Lewis you know of or may have read? What can you tell us about them?
2. Lewis depicts Hell as a giant corporation and Satan as its CEO. What do you think of Lewis' depiction of Hell?
3. C. S. Lewis had quite an odyssey before coming to Christ. What were some of the things that happened in your life that has led you in your spiritual journey?
4. The documentary states that Screwtape and Wormwood do not seek to overcome their prey by finding “the one perfect moment by which the young man will turn his back on his faith and his God. Rather, . . . *(they)* seek to win over the man gradually through the persistent and systematic corruption of all that he enjoys and believes.” Is this an effective means to overthrow a person's faith? Why or why not? Can you give any examples?
5. Read the following passages of Scripture (you can have more than one reader):

Genesis 3:1
Matthew 4:1-11
1 Peter 5:8
Revelation 12:9



What are the various forms used to describe the Devil? Why do you think Satan is described in these ways? When you think of the Devil, which of these images come to your mind first?

Week Two

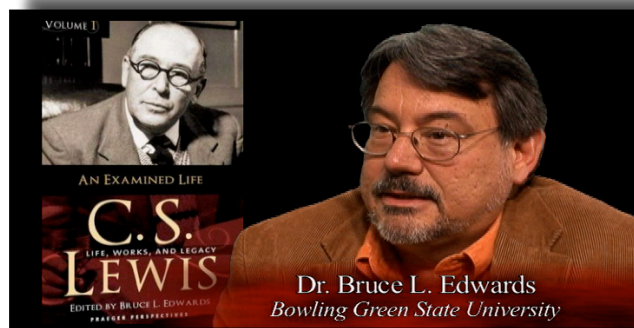


1. The documentary mentions various names by which Satan is known in both Scripture and history. Can you name some of them? What do they mean, and what do they mean to you?
2. The film mentions Job from the Old Testament. What do you know about him? Is there anything in his life to which you can relate?
3. Evil takes various forms. When you think of the word “evil” what comes to your mind? What are some other forms of evil?
4. C. S. Lewis believed that God has no opposite, and that the opposite of Satan is Michael the archangel. Do you agree or disagree with this view? Why?



5. *The Screwtape Letters* reveals the diabolical conversation between two devils. What do you think of Lewis using this method? In your opinion, does this reveal more about how demons think, or more about how Christians act?

*If time permits, go to the Interview section in the Extras and play Dr. Bruce Edwards additional comments. Have the group respond to what he has said.



Week Three

1. The documentary states that, “humankind has been caught in an eternal battle between good and evil.” It then asks, “But how much of our destiny do we have the power to change.” This is a good question. How much control do you think we have in the battle between good and evil?



2. Have someone read Genesis 1:29-31. Why do you think God gave Adam and Eve the choice to obey, and not eat of the forbidden fruit, or to disobey and eat of it? How does the same thing apply in your life? Can you give some examples?



3. Have someone read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. Why do you think God sometimes does not remove our thorns in the flesh?

4. Screwtape recognizes that humans can be tempted in difficult times, but he also knows that humans can use difficult times to deepen their relationship with God. Why do you think both are true?

5. Psalm 22:1 seems to be a verse of despair. Why do you think Christ quoted it?



*If time permits, go to the Interview section in the Extras and play Dr. Scott Calhoun’s additional comments. Have the group respond to what he has said.



Week Four



1. Screwtape states that one of his greatest friends is the local church, filled with ordinary sinners and hypocrites. Do you think this is true? If so, how? What can be done to change this image?

2. The devils seek to destroy the young Christian in *The Screwtape Letters* by making him spiritually lethargic. His

prayers become “parrot-like and self-centered” and “he could just as easily open a good book as spend time studying the Scriptures.” What are some things that can be done to counter the lack of spiritual interest some Christians face?

3. Have someone read James 1:17. What does this verse mean to you? Can you give some examples?

4. The documentary mentions that the patient makes friends with a worldly couple he met at work. Can a Christian have secular friends? What are some positives and negatives to such a friendship?



5. Screwtape tells us that love is neither good nor bad. What do you think of his position? How does this relate to God’s love for us?

*If time permits, go to the Interview section in the Extras and play Father Joseph Goetz’s additional comments. Have the group respond to what he has said.



Week Five



1. Do you think there are just wars? If so, give some examples. If not, why?

2. Have someone read the following verses:

- Ephesians 6:11-12
- 1 Timothy 6:12
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8
- Jude 1:3

Why do you think the Bible uses such imagery?

3. Who do you think is the greater tempter in your life: Satan or yourself? Why?

4. Screwtape states: “The justice of Hell is purely realistic, and concerned only with results. Bring us back food, or be food yourself.” Do you see any relation between “the justice of Hell” and the ethics of today? What should be our real motivator, results or doing what is right?

5. The Bible says that now we see through a glass darkly. What are some things that will become clear later? What are some things you see darkly now?

