

Youth Culture Lesson
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Troubled Waters

Voyage of the Dawn Treader Recalls Christian Faith

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What Happened:

In the new film *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, three British children are sucked out of their world and literally fall into a strange, watery world.

The story focuses on Edmund and Lucy, two major characters from the first two films, and their cousin, Eustace Scrubb. The movie doesn't follow C.S. Lewis' classic book to the letter, but it keeps its spirit—from its wit to its sense of adventure to its underlying Christian message.

When Lewis wrote *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, he wanted the trek to resemble a Christian's voyage through faith. The lands the characters visit are filled with trials and temptations, often resembling some of Christendom's seven deadly sins.

In the film, Lucy struggles with vanity. Edmund battles jealousy and an inferiority complex. Eustace comes across as a greedy, cowardly, insufferable snob—or, at least he does until he goes through some serious growing pains.

Lewis' underlying message: Being a Christian doesn't mean you'll always sail through smooth waters. We face plenty of adventures along the way—and not all of them are terribly fun. It's too tough to sail alone. Thankfully, we don't.

At the end of the journey, our characters come face to face with Aslan, Narnia's great and ever-watchful lion—one who, though unseen, was a constant presence on their voyage. At the end of the voyage, Lucy mourns the fact that she probably won't see Aslan again. However, Aslan gently tells her he's in her normal world, too. "But there I have another name," he says. "This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know be better there."

Talk About It:

Is it hard to be a Christian sometimes? What makes it hard? What are the biggest challenges you face when it comes to living your faith? When have you felt God helping you along the way?

When Eustace first climbs aboard the Dawn Treader, he comes across as a spoiled, selfish jerk. He changes a great deal during the trip and becomes a much braver, better boy by

the end. It's not an easy transformation—one made possible only through the help of Aslan. Is it hard to change in real life, too? To try to fix your faults and become a better person? Have you ever tried to change yourself? Do you think you really can change without help?

The bravest character aboard the Dawn Treader is Reepicheep, a talking mouse. He shows us that heroes don't always look the way we expect. Do you know an unlikely hero in your own life? What makes him or her a hero to you?

What the Bible Says:

“Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to You while You may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance” (Ps. 32:6-7).

“Blessed is the man You discipline, O Lord, the man You teach from Your law” (Ps. 94:12).

“If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength” (Ps. 24:10).

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30).