

Dear Parents,

We wanted to take a moment to communicate our excitement about and reasoning for our coming term four curriculum, “To Arms, Young Narnians.” We are of the opinion that *The Chronicles of Narnia* series presently being produced by Walden Media presents an incredible opportunity to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ in an effective and powerful way to children. We want to take full advantage of this opportunity and use it to point the children in our program back to the Lord Jesus Christ – as was C.S Lewis’ intention when first writing the series.

For any of our community members who may raise concerns about the use of a fantasy story in our church curriculum, please be assured that our emphasis within all of the messages that we deliver will be on using the redemptive analogies found in these movies to communicate biblical truth and Christian living principles.

There are some fantasy movies and books available that have come under fire in recent years for what many have called an anti-Christian, anti-God content and bias (films and books like *Harry Potter* and *The Golden Compass* have been denounced by many church groups in recent years for this reason). In these controversial instances it is up to each household to research and weigh carefully for themselves the appropriateness of such movies for their children. From our observations, the critical point of difference between *The Chronicles of Narnia* series and the aforementioned books and movies is their underlying purpose and intent. *The Chronicles of Narnia* books / movies seek to strengthen the convictions of Christian believers and point non-believers to the reality of Christ’s sacrifice and what it takes to be His follower. For this reason we believe that it is a great triumph for Christendom to have these kinds of mainstream, high quality resources available and we intend to use these opportune resources to help build children in their Christian faith.

We have heard in some other Christian circles that there is concern about the fact that a Witch is presented in the first movie (and book). Please again, be assured that we will be using the White Witch as the satanic metaphor that she is and therefore utterly denouncing her (the devil’s) power and influence. We will be specifically painting her in the light that was intended by C.S. Lewis – evil personified, the enemy of our soul, the tempter of our flesh and the one overcome completely by our Lion King – Jesus Christ!

Please know that our ministry policy is to show G rated movies only in our program in their entirety. As the first *Narnia* movie is rated PG, we will be selected safe scenes (not violent or upsetting) to show to our Pulse age kids to help emphasise our points. We will also be clearly communicating to the children that this movie is rated PG and therefore should not be viewed without parental consent. Our emphasis here will be on respecting their parents’ instructions – it’s OK for them to ask, but NOT OK for them to argue their parents’ decision. We will most definitely be on the side of parents in this matter! Our recommendation on *Prince Caspian*, the second movie that will be in DVD stores shortly, is that it is rated ‘M’ and therefore shouldn’t be watched by them until they are 15, as the censorship recommendations state.

All of Lewis' works can be readily found in any Christian bookshop, and the first of the *Narnia* movies is available from most DVD stores.

If you have any further concerns or questions please contact the Citikidz department.

Kind Regards and blessings for the remainder of '08!

Luke and Amber Harris  
CitiKidz Pastor