

Discussion Questions for *Shadowlands*

Some of the major characters to watch for: C.S. Lewis (“Jack”), Joy Gresham, Warnie Lewis, Professor Christopher Riley, Douglas Gresham

1. C.S. Lewis is considered one of the most influential Christian leaders of the 20th century and his influence continues just as powerfully today. But alongside of his brilliance, the film portrays his significant fear.
 - a. What does the film suggest might be the root of this fear?
 - b. What are the various manifestations in his life?
 - c. So what? How, if at all, does this affect him?
 - d. How does he eventually overcome it and what do you think would be the natural result (the film does not show the results)?
2. Joy Gresham’s candor is striking and often hilarious.
 - a. Identify some examples of her candor.
 - b. What do you think of her candor / bluntness / honesty—her habit of saying exactly what she thinks, despite what others might think of her?
 - c. Contrast this communication style with Jack’s measured, diplomatic, play-it-safe approach to interacting with people. Might there be a leadership lesson here? That is, is either of these approaches preferable for a leader?
3. There is an intriguing lesson in the movie regarding contentment. In fact, this part of the story is so important that it’s represented in the film’s title. What’s the lesson and where do we see it taught?