

***The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien and the Christian Worldview**

Directions: Use these activities to explore *The Hobbit* from a Christian perspective. You don't have to do every activity, these are merely suggestions. When doing the questions "What does the Bible say about ..." I would suggest using a Bible concordance or dictionary with citations.

Chapter One: "An Unexpected Party"

1. As soon as Bilbo asks for help, he receives it. From the Christian perspective, what does this remind you of?
2. The literary tool known as imagery is used to bring certain pictures or images to mind. It plays a prominent role in *The Hobbit*. Foreshadowing, where hints and clues are given that suggest future events in the story, is another literary tool that JRR Tolkien uses often. As you read through *The Hobbit* jot down examples of imagery and foreshadowing that remind you of stories in the Bible.
3. Compare the hobbit Bilbo Baggins with the prophet Jonah, the prophet Jeremiah, and Moses from the Bible. What did they have in common?¹
4. What does the Bible say about:
 - a) necromancy
 - b) divination
 - c) familiar spirits
 - d) soothsayers
5. A recurring theme in the Bible is how God chooses unlikely people to do His bidding. How is this similar to Gandalf's choice of Bilbo?
6. The dwarves consider themselves in exile. Why? What people in the Bible were also exiled in the Bible due to conquest?

Chapter Two: "Roast Mutton"

1. Discuss how God's people take the ill-gotten treasure the wicked stored up in the following scriptures:
Proverbs 13:22
Job 27:17
Proverbs 28:8
2. Compare and contrast what you learned in question one with the situation where the company takes the trolls ill-gotten treasure.
3. Bilbo was thrown into thorns but was saved. How are thorns used as imagery in the Bible?

¹ They were all reluctant to start their "adventure."

4. The trolls exemplify the “seven deadly sins.” Find these characteristics in the Bible and what Bible has to say about them.²

Chapter Three: “A Short Rest”

1. The narrow path lined with white stones is hard and not easy to see. From a Christian perspective, what does this remind you of?
2. In the Bible, what does water frequently symbolize?
3. Compare the company’s walk over the bridge with a Christian’s walk through life.
4. What does the Bible have to say about decision making?

Chapter Four: “Over Hill and Under Hill”

1. The goblins personify the misuse of power. Explain this statement from both a Christian and secular perspective.
2. The swords of the company light up when evil goblins are close. What does the imagery of light remind you of?
3. Gandalf rescued the company even though it is through their own carelessness that they needed rescuing. How is this similar to how God rescues us?
4. Research what the Bible has to say about justice and injustice.

² The seven deadly sins are: lust, pride/vanity, sloth/laziness/idleness, envy/covetousness, greed/avarice, un-righteous anger, and gluttony.