

King of the Golden City Discussion Guide

What you can expect from this guide:

Almost 100 years since its original publication, this is the story is an allegory of a little maid and the gracious King who deigned to visit her. This is a book best read aloud to a child, regardless of whether the child is capable of reading it themselves.

With short chapters, it is best to read aloud one chapter at a time, allowing time for questions and discussion. In order not to overtax the short attention spans of young children, we only include one discussion question per chapter. We hope this question will lead to more discussion beyond a short answer.

For older children (or those wanting additional discussion) we have also included additional Scripture passages and excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church to provide greater depth to the chapter's theme.

Chapter 1

1. How can we prepare for our visits with Jesus at Mass? What are things we can do in preparation? (p. 4-5)

Chapter 2

1. Who are lieutenants or instructors in your life? (p. 12)

Chapter 3

1. Can you think of who Malignus is like? Why do you think it is difficult for people to ignore him? (p. 16)

Further Discussion on Free Will

- As long as freedom has not bound itself definitively to its ultimate good which is God, there is a possibility of choosing between good and evil, and thus of growing in perfection or of failing and sinning. This freedom characterizes properly human acts. (CCC 1732)
- The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to the slavery of sin. (CCC 1733)

Chapter 4

1. Do you know when you were adopted by the King? (p. 21)

Further discussion on Baptist

- Pull out the family Baptism gown, your child's Baptism candle, or pictures of that special day. Perhaps your child can call her Godparents and ask questions about her Baptismal Day.

Chapter 5

1. You and every person has a Prince Guardian—do you remember to talk to him? (p. 28)

Further Discussion on Guardian Angels

- If your child already knows the *Guardian Angel Prayer*, another good prayer to learn is the *Send Your Angel to Mass Prayer*. A printout of this prayer can be found at blog.holyheroes.com

Chapter 6

1. How do we remove spots from our white robes? (p. 32)

Further discussion on Confession

- If your child has already received the Sacrament of Confession, make a plan for when you can both go to confession. If your child has not received the Sacrament of Confession yet, this is a good time to talk about this upcoming sacrament.

Chapter 7

1. What are some times you have said “no” to your Self? (p. 37)

Chapter 8

1. Who are the girl and boy soldiers you think Malignus is afraid of? What do we call them when they get to the Golden City? (p. 39)

Further discussion on the Saints

- Perhaps there are certain saints your child is particularly interested in. Take some time today to discuss why those particular saints appeal to your child and how you can learn more.

Chapter 9

1. Where have you heard the phrase “daily bread” before? (hint: it is part of a prayer we pray very often!) What does it refer to? (p. 48)

Chapter 10

1. Are you always as quick to confess as Dilecta? (p. 50)

Chapter 11

1. Is Daisy a good friend to Dilecta? (p. 60)

Further discussion on near occasions of sin

- Ask if your child understands what a near occasion of sin is and discuss ways they can be avoided.

Chapter 12

Note: a tragic fire is featured in this chapter

1. Why was it difficult for Dilecta to leave the show once she went in and sat down? (p. 68)

Chapter 13

1. Sometimes it can seem that little things do not matter but we know they do. Who are some small good things you can do every day? (p. 71)

Chapter 14

1. At the end of the day, do you ever think back over your day and tell God all the bad and good things that happened?

Chapter 15

1. What can we do to learn more about our King? (p. 80)

Chapter 16

1. Who is our Mother waiting for us in the Golden City? How can we talk to her now? (p. 85)

Further discussion on Faith

- Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man...to live, grow, and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be working through charity, abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church. (CCC 162)

Chapter 17

1. What are some gifts that we can give souls in Purgatory? (p. 91)

Further discussion on Purgatory

- If you are reading this in the fall, remember that November 2nd is the Feast of All Souls. Make a plan for how you can commemorate this day.

Chapter 18

1. Sometimes we do not feel like doing things like going to Mass. What do you think the King would say to us when we are feeling this way? (p. 95)

Chapter 19

1. We don't know when the King will come to bring us to the Golden City. What can we do every day to be ready when He arrives? (p. 97)

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