



**discussion guide for**

# **The Golden Key**

## **KEY SCRIPTURES:**

### **Jeremiah 6:16**

*Stand by the roads, and look for the ancient paths, where the good way is. . . .Walk in it, and find rest for your souls.*

### **John 11:25**

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."*

**Discuss what it means in Jeremiah to "look for the ancient paths, where the good way is." How does Tangle do this in the film?**

**Bifrost was a mythological "stairway to heaven", which George MacDonald uses to represent eternal life with God, but only those who possess the golden key can make it across the rainbow into paradise. Discuss John 14:6 and the concept of Jesus being the "golden key". How is this at odds with culture's idea of "all roads lead to Rome" regarding eternity?**



Seasons and the Old Man of the Sea (a.k.a. Death) are “compelled” to do what they do- seasons come and go, death is an inevitable thing. Why do you think God allows both good *and* bad seasons in our lives? Do you think there can be a purpose in bad circumstances? Have you had a bad circumstance that nevertheless produced something good in the process?

Much of George MacDonald’s work deals with *theodicy*- that is, why does God allow evil to exist, and the concept of good and evil at work together in an imperfect world. Explore theodicy. Why *does* God allow evil to exist? How does human sin and the fall of humankind in the Garden of Eden play a role in theodicy? How does Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection factor into it?

Aunt Lilia and Mossy live directly on the border of Fairy Country. How is this a parallel for the supernatural world as mentioned in Ephesians 6:10-20?

In the story, hell is symbolized as “drowning in the depths of the sea forever.” Read II Thessalonians 1:3-12. Do you think God “sends people to hell”? Why is the concept of hell sometimes a difficult concept to grasp? How does the reality of heaven and hell factor into theodicy and the reality of good and evil, reward and consequence, at work in the world God created?