

Lewis, C. S. *Surprised by Joy*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1955.

This book is the story of C. S. Lewis' journey to Christianity in his own words. It is not a typical autobiography. It has elements of an autobiography, but only parts he felt would help communicate the different influences in his life that formed his thinking about God and Christianity. If you have read any of Lewis' writings, a curiosity is usually piqued as to how he was able to write such deeply profound essays and books. Well, this book helped answer some of my curious questions. From his family relationships to the different authors he enjoyed in boyhood through adulthood, you are able to see the breadth of his literary prowess. The old adage is true – "A reader is a leader." Lewis was a voracious reader of all kinds of literature that expanded his way of viewing the world which made him able to effectively communicate to millions of people in his day and beyond. I enjoy hearing and reading people's stories, so I was pulled in upon reading the first page. If you choose to read it, make sure your dictionary is accessible! Lewis used many words that are particular to British culture in the early 20th century as well as other great words in the English language which I did not know. So, it was a learning experience in this area as well.

Level: Medium

Theological Stance: Church of England; Anglican

Rating: 8

Recommend? Yes