

LESSON 77

Worthy Is the Lamb

REVELATION 5:1-14



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD, IS WORTHY

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Revelation 5 from the Scriptures or read story 155, "Worthy Is the Lamb," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Who Is More Excited?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several small candy bars

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Make Your Own Scroll Out of Paper

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper—one sheet for each student
- ✓ string—an eight-inch length for each student
- ✓ sealing wax or a candle and matches
- ✓ nickels—one for every few students

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Read Revelation 6

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles for the class

TOTAL 65 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy—The literary style of the book of Revelation is apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic literature reveals something previously hidden and usually does it through a vision. These visions often include strange images of things that do not normally exist. The apostle John receives the vision from God that is recorded in the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:1, 9–11).

The image of the lion of the tribe of Judah in Revelation 5:5 is a reference back to Genesis where Jacob, who was called Israel, gathered his twelve sons to tell them what would happen to them in the future. To Judah he said, “Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.” (Genesis 49:9–10).

Jesus, “the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll” (Revelation 5:5). The scroll is symbolic for the final plan of God. God’s plan to dwell with his people in heaven forever is about to be opened!

The Lion is the Lamb—When the imagery of Revelation changes, it does not mean a new character or event is being introduced. Though John describes a lamb, he is actually giving us a different view of the Lion (Revelation 5:6). Imagine that one of the elders said, “Look, the Lion has triumphed!” but when John looked, he saw a Lamb who was slain. In reality, all these pictures are talking about the same person, Jesus Christ.

The Book of Revelation was written with the symbolic number seven, which is the number of completion. The Lamb did not have seven literal horns and eyes. Horns were used to designate power, so this passage is telling us that the Lamb seen here had supreme or complete authority and power. When the Lamb removed the scroll, without resistance from God, all heaven worshiped. The Lamb was worthy!

All of creation will worship the Lamb—Everyone in heaven joins in the worship of the Lamb (Revelation 5:9–14). Together they all proclaim, “Worthy is the Lamb!” (Revelation 5:9, 12). No one is sleepy or distracted. Everyone has one purpose: to worship the Lamb.

Each Sunday when we gather we come with the same purpose: to worship the Lamb of God who was slain. We worship the Lamb, the Father who sent the Lamb, and the Spirit of God who opened our eyes to know the Lamb.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Scrolls and Seals

The paper of ancient times was made of papyrus plant fibers that were formed into long panels, and rolled into scrolls. The fibers of the plant were laid both horizontally and vertically, one layer over another. The side of the scroll with horizontal fibers would be easier to write on than the flip side with the vertical fibers. Therefore, scrolls were normally only written on one side. Legal documents such as contracts and wills were tied with a string and then a wax seal was placed over the string to guarantee that the contents of the document remained unaltered.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The gospel is found in the praises of heaven, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain" (Revelation 5:12). Jesus is that Lamb. The hundreds of thousands of lambs sacrificed in Old Testament times could not take away sin. But Jesus, the Lamb of God, was a worthy sacrifice for sin. His worth is sufficient to atone for all sin, and his worth commands our worship and praise. We join all of heaven when we sing "Worthy is the Lamb."

There is only one Lamb who sits on the throne: Christ who conquered death. Here in the book of Revelation we see the culmination of the gospel. The books are opened, and the heavens praise the Redeemer, who has brought salvation by his death. By his blood, he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. The gospel promise given to Abraham is finally fulfilled by the Lamb.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Revelation 5 from the Scriptures or read story 155, "Worthy Is the Lamb," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Who Is More Excited?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several small candy bars

The object of this illustration is to demonstrate that the recipient of a gift should be more thankful than those who observe the giving of the gift. If the angels, who watched as Jesus gave salvation to men, were excited about it, how much more should we who receive the gift praise and thank him.

Ask for a volunteer to come forward and then with great pomp and encouragement, give them a candy bar. Then ask the following questions:

- **What do you think about what I did?**
(It was kind, nice, etc.)
- **Who should be more thankful, you (the class) or the person to whom I gave the candy?**
(The person who got the candy.)
- **Why?**
(The person who received and benefited from the gift is the one who should be more grateful.)

- What would it say about her if you were more grateful for what I gave her than she was?

(It would say that she doesn't appreciate your gift enough.)

Read through today's Scripture and connect it with this object lesson. If necessary, reread Revelation 5:11–12 and ask the class to describe what the angels are doing. Then ask if our gratitude should be more or less than that of the angels who are celebrating the work of Christ on our behalf. Is our gratitude greater?

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Ask the children where they see the gospel in Revelation 5.

- **Jesus is the Lion, and the Root who was victorious.**
(Verse 5: a reference to the resurrection)
- **Jesus is the Lamb who was slain.**
(Verse 6: a reference to the crucifixion)
- **Verse 9 includes a description of the sacrifice of Jesus for the redemption of people.**
(This is the gospel.)
- **All creatures around the throne sing "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain."**
(Verse 12: This is a reference to the crucifixion.)

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Make Your Own Scroll Out of Paper

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper—one sheet for each student
- ✓ string—an eight-inch length for each student
- ✓ sealing wax or a candle and matches
- ✓ nickels—one for every few students

Use this exercise as a way to excite the children about the scroll in Revelation 5 and to talk about the fact that from the beginning of creation until the time when Jesus took the scroll, no one had been found worthy to take it. Literally millions of lambs had been sacrificed to make atonement, but the scroll remained sealed. Jesus was the only one worthy!

Pass out the sheets of paper and string. Have the students roll up their paper and tie it with a string. Go around the class and use the sealing wax or wax dripped from a lit candle to seal the string onto the scrolls where the papers overlap. Have each student take a nickel while the wax is still soft and press it into the wax to leave an impression. Show the class that if a person were to break the seal you would be able to tell.

Talk about Jesus' sacrifice and speak of how he was worthy because he was sinless. God's wrath for sin was absorbed by Christ, and with the righteousness Christ gives us, the plan of God is complete. Mankind is redeemed and the time has come to open the scroll.

We now wait for Jesus to come again. Jesus said no one knows the time or the hour but only the Father (Matthew 24:36).

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Read Revelation 6

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles for the class

Read through Revelation 6 with the students. As the plan of God unfolds, final judgment comes to the earth with destruction.

Look up and read the following verses, which speak of judgment: Romans 2:5–16; Joel 3:12–16; and Matthew 25:31–41.

Ask the students how the certainty of a final judgment can help us to live godly lives today. Help the students see that God’s final judgment will actually take place and that our only hope is to trust in the Lamb of God who was slain for our sin.