

## WORTHY IS THE LAMB

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: REVELATION 5



*Jesus, the Lamb of God, is worthy.*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**The Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy.** On his deathbed, Jacob, who was called Israel, gathered his twelve sons to tell them what would happen to them in the future. To Judah he said, "You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness — who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." (see Genesis 49:9,10)

Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah. Jesus is also the Root of David who has triumphed. The lion has triumphed and is worthy to open the scroll! The scroll is symbolic for the final plan of God. The final plan of God 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. Here the switch to talking about the lamb provides a further description of the Lion. 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 worshipped. The Lamb was worthy!

**All of creation will worship the Lamb.** Here we see that everyone joins in the worship of the Lamb in heaven. 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 — worship. We worship the Lamb, we worship the Father who sent the lamb, and we worship with the help of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

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### WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. The Lamb who was slain is Jesus. 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 our sins, 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.



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# ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

### Bible Passage: Psalm 89:26-29

#### Connecting the passage to Christ:

Jesus called God His Father, and it is Jesus whose throne will last forever. The covenant that Jesus introduced — the covenant in His blood — will never fail. John called Jesus “the firstborn” in Revelation when he wrote:

“Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth; To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen” (Revelation 1:5,6).

#### Questions for reflection:

- How are Revelation 1:5,6 and Psalm 89:26-29 similar in talking about Jesus? (Have your children look up both passages and compare them.)
- Could the passage in Psalm 89 be referring to anyone other than Jesus? (No, no other king's throne would last forever. Even when God promises to David that his throne will last forever, it endures forever through Jesus, the son of David.)



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**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY****BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

Take time during the class to review the *SWORD* Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS**

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

**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.)

Pick out a student from your class (Pick someone you haven't picked before.) Ask them to come to the front and then with great pomp and encouragement, give them a candy bar.

Then ask the following questions of the class

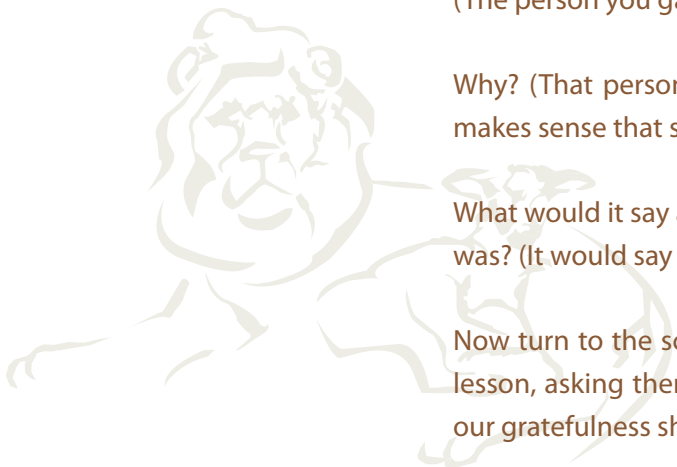
What do you think about what I did? (It was kind, nice, etc.)

Who should be more thankful, you (the class) or the person I gave the candy to? (The person you gave the candy to.)

Why? (That person is the one who received the gift and benefited from it. So it makes sense that she 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.)

Now turn to the scripture for today. Read it through and connect it to the object lesson, asking them to describe the gratefulness of the angels and then asking if our gratefulness should be more or less. Is our gratefulness greater?



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### MAKE YOUR OWN SCROLL OUT OF PAPER

**Supplies:**

- paper
- string
- sealing wax or a candle
- nickel

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

Roll up the paper and tie it with a string. Use the sealing wax or wax dripped from a lit candle to seal the string to the scroll where the papers overlap. Then take the 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 did not sin. And then he took the punishment for our sin. With God's wrath for our sin absorbed by Christ, and with the righteousness Christ gives us, the plan of God is complete for the redemption of man and the time has come to open the scroll.

All we are waiting for is the proper time for Jesus to come again. Jesus said no one knows the time or the hour but the Father. See Matthew 24:36.

### WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

**Supplies:**

white board

Draw out the children to tell you where they see the gospel in this passage.

- Jesus is the lion, and the shoot who was victorious – a reference to the resurrection
- Jesus is the lamb who was slain – a reference to the crucifixion
- Verse 9 includes a description of the sacrifice of Jesus for the redemption of men – the gospel
- They sing worthy is the lamb who was slain a reference to the crucifixion.

## PRAYER

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



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### IN CLASS PROJECT

Draw a picture of Jesus holding up the scroll victoriously. Write "Worthy is the Lamb," across the top of your paper.

### FOR THE OLDER GRADES

#### READ REVELATION 6

Read through Revelation 6, which describes the opening of the seals, with the students. As the final plan of God unfolds, judgment comes to the earth. There will be a final judgment and destruction of the earth.

Draw out your students about how the certainty of a final judgment can help us to live godly lives today.

Look up some of these scriptures which speak of judgment:

Romans 2:5-16

Joel 3:12-16

Matthew 25:31-41

Help the students see that God's final judgment will actually take place and that our only hope is trusting in the Lamb of God who was slain for our sin.

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Scrolls and seals** – The paper of ancient times was made of the fibers of the papyrus plant which were formed into long panels that were rolled up into a scroll. 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.