

Group discussion Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for "the big question."

Read Revelation 5:1-14 aloud.

1. What happened in this chapter?

Help the group re-tell the story in their own words.

2. Why did John weep in verse 4?

What was the significance of the scroll in God's right hand?

It is the plans that the sovereign God has for the world.

Why was it so hard to find someone worthy to open the scroll?

3. How was this worthy Lamb described in verses 5-6?

In what ways is there a surprise when you read 5-6?

Considering the dazzling throne from chapter 4 and the title "triumphant Lion of Judah," a slain lamb is a major let-down.

How does the slain Lamb offer hope for troubled believers?

The mightiest one in all creation, the one who stands at the center of God's throne, is the one who died. So, even if they kill you, you are stronger than and have triumphed over your enemies.

4. What made the Lamb worthy to open the scroll?

Read the song in verses 9-10.

How does suffering prepare you to serve?

How does suffering prepare you to receive honor?

5. How is the slain lamb imagery different from God's throne in Rev. 4?

Which image is a more accurate description of God...

A massive King seated on an indescribable throne?

A slain Lamb whose strength is revealed in weakness?

6. What was the situation for John's first readers?

Most of them were little house churches facing opposition from the Jews, the government, and sometimes their families.

How powerful were the Christians' opponents?

How does Revelation 4-5 offer an alternative reality for oppressed believers?

7. In verse 8, what is in the angels' bowls?

What does that say about our prayers?

† **The big question** If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It's okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.

What distracts you from seeing God's glory at work in the world and in your life?

What would help you to worship God like the multitude of angels in verses 11-14, even when it looks like God is getting killed?

Resources

Bible notes

- The scroll imagery calls to mind OT texts, where God's plan for the future is written on a scroll. (Ezekiel 2-3, Psalm 139:16)
- The lion of Judah image points all the way back to Genesis 49:9-10, where Jacob blesses his son Judah.
- Revelation 5:10 points to God's promise to the Israelites at Sinai (Exodus 19:6): "You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Israel never fulfilled this calling, and the church is still growing toward that destiny.

Prayer ideas

Praise God for his amazing power. And praise him for giving it up when he came to earth.

Thank God for purchasing us with his blood.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Ask each person to draw a picture of Jesus. Then draw a picture of something that makes you think of Jesus. Share your pictures with the group.

To promote adult-kid interaction, you could pair them up for this project and ask the kid to draw one thing and the adult to draw the other.

Read Revelation 5:1-10 aloud.

What is the picture of Jesus in this text?

How is he described in verse 5?

How does he look in verse 6?

How is Jesus like a lion? How is he like a lamb?

Amazingly powerful, yet willing to sacrifice for us.

How do the angels and others respond to Jesus and why?

Bowing down and worshipping, because he is worthy.

How can kids worship?



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LIFE Group Guide

Revelation 5 – the slain lamb

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme: **God is sovereign, even when he looks weak.**

God opened a door for John in Revelation 4, a door that revealed a different reality than the struggles of early Christians. It gives a vision that God is large and in charge, but also that God empties himself and suffers in order to restore his creation.

Leadership tip: Break into sub-groups of 3-5 periodically. Two opportunities for sub-groups would be the prayer time or the "big question." A sub-group trains new leaders, allows introverts to open up, deepens the conversation, and prepares your group to launch a new group in the future.

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ When has a worship service been helpful or meaningful to you?
- ❖ What can you recall from this morning's sermon?
- ❖ What is the best movie you have seen in the last year? How do movies help us escape from our circumstances to imagine a different reality?