

A SERIES ON REVELATION: is this the end?

Week 11 – worthy is the Lamb

Transition: In our study of Revelation last week, we joined John as he was suddenly shown heaven in all its pure and glorious wonder. As you would expect, his eyes are immediately drawn to God who is sitting on His throne. There are not words to adequately describe what he sees, but he does the best he can by comparing God's emanating radiance to the most dazzling and gorgeous gems of his day. Next, John notices 24 thrones circled around God's throne with an elder seated on each one. John's attention is then drawn to four living creatures who continuously fly around God's throne proclaiming His glory. As the creatures do this, the 24 elders fall on their faces and join the worship.

Context: This week we are going to pick up right where we left off. John is still taking in the grandeur of heaven when he looks once again to the throne of God and sees a scroll in God's right hand. He then hears an angel cry out, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" When no one is found worthy, John weeps loudly. How will the scroll be opened?

Opening Questions:

- What are some common impressions of Jesus in our culture today? What is your experience...do the people you know (who are not His followers) generally have a positive, negative or neutral view of Him?
- As Christians, we often talk about worship, but what is it actually? (How do you define it?) Why do we naturally want to worship something? Share a memorable worship experience that you've had. What made it memorable?

Scripture/Storing: Revelation 5

Discipleship Questions:

- Why is John so upset about the scroll not being able to be opened? What does the scroll signify? What would it mean if it wasn't opened?
- An elder next to John describes Jesus, but the description doesn't match what John actually sees. How are all of the descriptions of Jesus fitting to the situation? What bearing do these descriptions have on your own life today?
- When Jesus is handed the scroll, the four living creatures and the 24 elders immediately begin singing. The elders each have a harp and golden bowls of incense. What is the significance of these items and what meaning do they have for your life now?
- Read the song that the elders and 4 living creatures sing. Why is Jesus worthy to open the scroll? What is your response?
- What does it mean that the people whom Jesus has ransomed are a kingdom and priests to God? When does a follower of Jesus become a member of the kingdom and a priest? How is it evident in your life that you are a member of God's kingdom? How is it evident that you are a priest to God? Share an example of when you observed someone act as a priest of God in your life. ...in your workplace. ...from your childhood. How did it affect you?
- The multitude of angels then join in the singing. They mention a number of things that Jesus is worthy to receive. From whom does Jesus receive these things? If Jesus is worthy to you, how does He receive them from you?
- Finally, every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and in the sea joins in the singing/praise of Jesus. What is the significance of this? How might faithfully remembering this image help your daily walk with the Lord?
- What has the Holy Spirit taught you today?