

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Worthy is the Lamb*

Lesson Objective:

Today we explore parts of the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation can be scary and even daunting; however, we'll focus on three particular lessons or aspects. Today's is on Jesus being worthy. God has a redemptive plan to make all things right, but who can know this plan? Only Jesus; only He is worthy. Our lesson also touches on the prophetic nature of Judah's blessing in Genesis 49. A special way in which God would work to redeem a broken, sinful creation through the Lion of the tribe of Judah. And not only as a lion, but a lamb. Jesus' sacrifice, much like a lamb, shows that He alone rescues, and He alone is worthy of all praise – just like what He receives in Heaven in John's vision!

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution. Because of the persecution, followers of Jesus scatter.
- The scattered Church takes the Good News and tells others about Jesus.
- John is banished to Patmos. Near death, God sends an angel to him with a revelation or vision.
- John's vision captures many, many things, but in our lesson, we focus on Jesus being the Lion and the Lamb and His worthiness.
- Only Jesus can take the scroll from the Father and open it.
- Jesus does take the scroll and opens it and Heaven breaks out in a chorus of celebration!

Scripture: Genesis 49:9-10; Revelation 5:1-14

Story: *The Gospel Story Bible*, Pages 310-311; *Jesus Storybook Bible*, Pages 342-348;
Vos Child's Story Bible, Pages 376-378

Scripture Memory for April: Acts 20:24 (ESV)

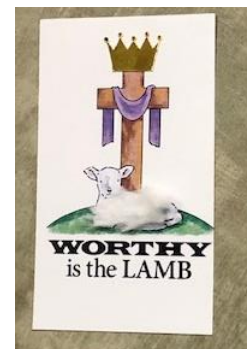
But I do not account my life *(cross forearms to make an "X")*
of any value nor as precious to myself, *(form a "O" with both hands)*
if only I may finish my course ... *(make hash marks with hand on opposite arm)*
to tell *(make a "talking" hand)*
the Gospel. *(open hands to form a Bible)*

Craft: Worthy is the Lamb

Supplies: Cardstock Lamb picture, crown, cotton, verse sticker, magnet, glue

Instructions: 1. Glue crown to top of cross
2. Glue cotton to lamb
3. Place verse sticker on bottom front and magnet on the back.

If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet



Story

Transition

Boys and girls, how many of you have seen a lion up close? What was it like? How many of you have seen a lamb before, please raise your hand? Wow! Well in our story today we read about the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb of God. But there is a special surprise at the end with both of these animals...let's find out in our story!

The End of the Bible: Revelation

We are coming to a close on God's Word – what God wanted us to know in the Bible. The Bible ends with the book of Revelation. Revelation was a vision or dream God gave to John the Apostle. John writes down everything he sees in the vision. Some things are very clear, and much of Revelation is strange and not-so clear. But what we can see in the book of Revelation is that Jesus is King, He deserves our worship, and He will make all things new.

Going Back to Genesis

In the book of Genesis, Jacob, whose name was also Israel, was getting very old and almost to the point of death. Israel calls all his sons together; there were 12 of them. Israel was going to give each son a blessing. A blessing is something that tells us about each person and what they will be like. First is Rueben, Simeon and Levi being next, and then Judah. Jacob says this about Judah, "Judah is fierce and powerful like a lion. No one dares to mess with him. The scepter," which is just another way to say someone is a king or ruler, "will not depart from Judah." Jacob says that someone from the tribe of Judah will always be on the throne or king. Judah will rule until the real king comes. And the nations will obey this King.

Jacob gave Judah a clue to his future. And not just his future, but the whole tribe of Judah. The rulers of Israel –kings – would only come from the tribe of Judah. A king was promised to always rule from the tribe of Judah too. But even more special was a Promised King that would be the most powerful and best king. This king was Jesus. After he rose from the dead, Jesus went back to Heaven to rule.

A Vision of Heaven

Many, many, many years later, the apostle John, one of Jesus' disciples and best friends, got in trouble for being a follower of Jesus. To punish John, the Romans sent the apostle to the island of Patmos. John was very old and close to dying. While he was on the island, God sent an angel to John and gave him a vision. The angel told John that what Jacob said about Judah would be fulfilled in Jesus. John wrote down what he saw in the vision.

John begins his vision telling about God sitting on his throne. In his hand was a scroll with writing on it. But the scroll had not been opened, in fact it had seven seals on it. Seals were ways to make sure that a scroll had not been opened or the message inside had not been messed with. The seals protected the information inside of the scroll. Only the right person was supposed to open a scroll and read the message inside.

In John's vision a powerful angel cries out in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" The Bible tells us that no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or look inside it. John became very sad and cried. John cried because there was no one who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

The scroll told how God would end all of the bad and wrong things sin had brought into the world. Only a worthy King could open the scroll. But then someone, the Bible says an elder, came to John and told him, "Do not cry! The Lion from the tribe of Judah has won the victory." The Lion from the Tribe of Judah? Remember how Israel had told Judah back in Genesis that kings would come from his tribe, but not only kings but a great, powerful King that would be like a lion. Do you remember? The Lion of the tribe of Judah is Jesus.

The elder tells John that the Lion of the tribe of Judah is related to King David. The Lion of the tribe of Judah is able to open the scroll! John looked for a Lion – a fierce, powerful Lion. But what John saw was not a lion, but another, different animal. What John saw was not a lion, but a lamb.

In the Bible Jesus is represented both as a lion and a lamb. This means that Jesus is like a lamb and a lion. “Jesus was sacrificed like a lamb for our sins, but he conquered sin and death like a mighty lion” (Gospel Storybook Bible, Page 310).

Jesus took the scroll from God. Once Jesus took the scroll, four living things and 24 elders bowed down before Jesus. The Bible says the living creatures and elders all had harps and began to sing a new song to the Lamb, Jesus.

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were killed;
and with the blood of your death you bought men for God
from every tribe, language, people, and nation.
You made them to be a kingdom of priests for our God.
And they will rule on the earth.”

As the new song was sung, John heard more and more voices singing this song. The Bible says there were thousands and thousands of angels – there were 10,000 times 10,000 angels. In a loud voice the angels also sang a song, though different than the songs of the elders:

“The Lamb who was killed is worthy
to receive power, wealth, wisdom and strength,
honor, glory, and praise!”

Then I heard every living thing in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. I heard everything in all these places, saying:

“All praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever
to the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!”
The four living things said, “Amen!”

And the elders bowed down and worshiped.

Only Jesus was able to take the scroll. As the Lion of the tribe of Judah and as the Lamb of God, only Jesus is worthy to be King and to be worshipped. Only Jesus was the One to conquer death and sin. Jesus is to be praised just like those in Heaven do in our story today. Jesus is worthy of our praise!

Questions for Review

Have children answer “yes” or “no.”

- The Church is growing – adding more and more people. (Yes)
- The Holy Spirit is growing the Church. (Yes)
- John was punished by being sent to Patmos. (Yes)
- An angel of God went to John and gave him a sandwich. (No! The angel gave him a vision).
- John saw the One sitting on his throne with a huge spear in His hand. (No! He had a scroll).
- Jesus appears and only He is able and worthy to take the scroll and open it. (Yes)
- Jesus is both the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb of God. (Yes)
- What is the Good News?