

Session 2: Worthy Is The Lamb!

Rev 4:1 - 5:14

(Scripture references based on NIV)

1. Key Learning Points

- God the Father Almighty reigns on the throne and is worthy of worship.
- Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, died to save us, and now reigns with God in heaven; all who trust in Jesus have eternal hope because they will be with him forever.
- All creatures bow before God and Jesus in humble and exuberant worship because he is worthy to receive praise, honor, glory and power.

2. Warm-up Activity / Starter Question

The objective here is to have a quick overview picture for the group to have in view throughout the discussion. You may update this picture as you move through the discussion questions.

Activity: Sketch the Scene!

- 1) Have the members of your group take turns to read out Revelation 4 and 5 aloud.
- 2) Instruct your members to pay attention to “Who, Where, and What” during the reading.
- 3) On a large piece of paper, have the group members take turns to contribute to sketch a picture of this scene in heaven using the throne as the central focal point.
- 4) Tell them “Good job!”, no matter how poorly they did. <3

3. Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for revealing yourself to us in your Word. Open our eyes and our hearts to see and receive what you are teaching us today. Help us to respond with humble worship and thankfulness for you are worthy of all praise, honor and glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

4. Context

The information here is intended to be helpful contextual information for the leader. You may choose to share the points of greatest interest and importance for your group.

Link to Previous Session

- Last week (Rev 1-3), we learned about the message from Jesus Christ to the seven churches who were facing persecution, and his call for believers to choose him over the world/Satan.
- The choice before them stands: worship/bow before Christ, or worship/bow before Satan.

Overview: Vision of Worship Scene in Heaven

This is a summary for the YSGL to note.

- This week (Rev 4-5), Jesus gave John a vision of God's throne in heaven. We will learn more about the Lord God Almighty who reigns over all creation, and Jesus Christ as the Lamb who gave his life for us; they are worthy of all worship, glory, and honor.
- We also catch a glimpse of what worship is like in heaven, where all creatures fell down before God/Jesus and gave praise and honor to God/Jesus unceasingly - worship that has no end!
- This vision demonstrates the sovereignty and majesty of the Lord God Almighty and Jesus Christ. It assures believers that despite their present suffering and persecution, God is in control, and Jesus the Lamb will bring about the final fulfilment of all of God's promises.
- Jesus, shown here as a Lamb who was slain and standing in the center of the throne, reveals the truth that his followers would follow the path that he took - through sacrifice and suffering. But victory is assured, because the victory of believers is anchored upon the victory of Jesus Christ, and he has already triumphed.

Link to Following Sessions

- In the following weeks, we will learn about what happens to those who continue to reject Jesus, and choose to worship Satan.
- This series on the book of Revelation will conclude with a glorious vision of the new heaven and new earth where all who chose to worship the triune God will reign with him forever and ever.

5. Discussion / Exploration

The discussion is structured as two main parts:

- *Part 1: focuses on why the Lord God Almighty and Jesus Christ the Lamb are worthy of worship*
- *Part 2: focuses on the worship scene in heaven as all creatures bow before the Lord God Almighty and Jesus Christ the Lamb.*

Part 1a: Lord God Almighty - Creator and Ruler of All Things (Rev 4)

Refer to Revelation 4 only for this section.

1) What stood out most to you from John's description of the splendor of this throne room in heaven? (Rev 4:2-11)

There are no right answers here and you do not need to hear from everyone! This is just to get a sense of which portions of scripture stood out to your group members (e.g. wowed, amazed, very awesome).

2) We read about how the Lord God Almighty sits on the throne. How was he being worshiped and why was he worthy of worship? Hint: look at Rev 4:8-11!

- How He is worshiped
 - The living creatures praised him unceasingly (v8-9).
 - The elders fell down before him, worshiped him, and laid their crowns before him (v10-11).
- Why he is worthy of worship
 - He is worshiped for who he is. He is holy, eternal, and sovereign (v8-9).
 - He is worshiped for what he has done. He has created all things (v11).

Part 1b: Jesus Christ - Redeemer, Lion and Lamb (Rev 5)

Refer to Revelation 5 only for this section.

3) When you read John's description of the Lamb in verse 6, which part of Jesus' ministry on earth comes to mind?

- It might remind us of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sin.
- The Bible uses imagery to help us understand God's redemptive story and plan.
 - In Rev 5, John uses the imagery of "Lion of Judah" (Gen 49) and "Root of David" (Isa 11:1) to connect Jesus to the Messiah promised in the Old Testament.
- John then reframed the imagery as the "Lamb" who was killed/sacrificed, pointing to the sacrificial love demonstrated by Jesus on the Cross.

- The Lamb, who is Jesus, now stands at the center of the throne, signifying his authority to rule.

4) Why is Jesus deemed worthy to open the sealed scroll? Hint: look at v5 and v9!

- Jesus is worthy to open the scroll because he has triumphed through his work on the cross.
- He sacrificed his life (blood) and purchased (redeemed) men for God (v5 and v9).
- Note to be shared
 - *We will learn more about the scroll in later sessions as the seals of the scroll were opened and its content revealed.*
 - *For now, very briefly, the scroll represents God's declaration concerning his kingdom, and a description of events relating to his plan to save the faithful and judge the wicked. Opening the scroll represents Jesus bringing about the final fulfilment of all of God's promises.*

5) Why do you think John uses the imagery of Jesus reigning as a slain Lamb, rather than a powerful Lion? What does this mean for us as followers of Jesus?

This can build upon your answer in questions 3 and 4 above.

- Jesus the Lamb triumphed through the shedding of his blood, not by military conquest. This is counter cultural for the believers at that time, as the Roman world they lived in existed primarily due to military conquest.
- One bible teacher called this the "central paradox of the Christian faith – Jesus conquered not by force but by death, not by violence but by martyrdom. The Lion is a Lamb!". This dual imagery of the Lion and the Lamb helps the readers understand Jesus from two different perspectives.
- As followers of Jesus, we are called to follow the path that he took - through sacrifice and suffering. But victory is assured, because the victory of believers is anchored upon the victory of Jesus Christ, and he has already triumphed.

6) Who did Jesus come to save, and what is their role in God's kingdom? Hint: look at v9-10!

- Jesus came to save everyone who placed their trust in him (v9).
- They will be a kingdom and priests to serve him and to reign with him (v10).

Part 2: Worship God (Rev 4 & 5)

Refer to both chapters, Revelation 4 and 5 for this section.

Summary so far (can be shared aloud)

- Across Rev 4 and 5, we see all the creatures bowing down and worshiping God intensely.
- In Rev 4:8-11 and Rev 5:9-14, we learnt about why God is worshiped through the hymns sung by the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, and every creature in heaven and earth.
- In both instances, God is deemed worthy of worship.

7) Imagine you were standing with John in this throne room and witnessed the scene in Revelation 4-5, how would you feel / respond? Why?

No right answers here, just to hear about how people feel about the entire scene.

- Some possible feelings
 - Grand, awe, wonder, intense, fear
- Where we might get these feelings from
 - Description of Lord Almighty on the throne (Rev 4:3)
 - How the worship is unceasing (Rev 4:8-10)
 - How everyone worships by bowing down (Rev 4:9, 5:8)
 - Immense number of beings worshiping God (Rev 5:11,13)
 - Descriptions of the living creatures are scary (Rev 4:6-8)

[OPTIONAL] Do any pictures, songs, verses, emotions come to mind as you read aloud these hymns? If you were to give a title to the hymn, what would it be?

No right answer; this is to help crystalize the key message of each hymn in a few words.

- E.g. The Creation Hymn (Rev 4:11), The New Song of Redemption (Rev 5:9-10).

8) From these hymns, what is one truth about God that stands out to you most? How does this make you want to worship him?

The objective here is to help your group members reflect on what their worship of God is dependent on. Our feelings and moods can fluctuate, and sometimes we may not feel like worshiping. But true worship is anchored upon the unchanging nature and truth about God.

- Some possible answers
 - God is worshiped because He is worthy of worship
 - God is worshiped for who he is, his glory and his majesty; our cry is “You are worthy!”
 - God is worshiped because He is holy, eternal, creator, sovereign, merciful, and shows sacrificial love.
- Some reflections on our worship of God
 - Worship is an expression of our heart’s response to who God is and what he has done.
 - We are to worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24), with humility and reverence because he alone is worthy, and with a thankful heart (Heb 12:28).
 - We are commanded to worship and love only God; we place him first in our heart (see: Exod 20:3; Deut 6:5, Matt 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 4:8)
 - Worship is more than just singing; it is offering ourselves totally to God - this involves sacrifice and obedience in every area of our lives (Rom 12:1).
 - If God is not on the throne of our hearts, we are not worshiping God as he deserves. We have replaced God with something/someone else; the Bible calls that idolatry.

[Optional: For those interested to explore further on worship. Read and discuss this short article in the Methodist Message [Worship's un-influence - The Methodist Church in Singapore](#). Worship is said to transform us into being more like Christ by helping us to be “uninfluenced” by the world and be “deeply influenced” by God. Do you agree? Discuss.]

6. Main Discipleship Takeaway

The vision of unceasing heavenly worship of the Lord God Almighty and Jesus Christ the Lamb assures us that Jesus has triumphed, and encourages us to persevere in following him despite persecution and hardships. This is our eternal hope in Christ.

7. Application / Reflection questions

You may choose whichever or however many your group can cover meaningfully.

- 1) Write a personal prayer or hymn of worship to God/Jesus.
- 2) We observe how the creatures worship God for who He is, what He has done, and how worthy He has shown Himself to be. What does your own worship of God tend to be based on?
- 3) Worship is more than just singing; it is offering ourselves totally to God - this involves sacrifice and obedience in every area of our lives. What is one practical way that we can worship God, whether in sacrifice or obedience this week?

- 4) Worship as a YSG community. Collaborate on a playlist of worship songs inspired by the Book of Revelation. For the next few sessions, start or end the session by singing one of these songs together. You can get one person each week to share briefly on why they “like” that song.
- 5) Recall the context of the book of Revelation: it was written to believers who were facing fierce persecution, and many have or were in danger of losing their livelihood, and even their lives.
 - a) Do you know some Christians who are facing persecution for their faith? Alternatively, you can search news headlines and find out a little more about Christians in our region/world who are facing persecution for their faith.
 - b) As you pray for and empathise with these believers, read/sing one of the hymns you have studied in section 5. Do the words take on a new or deeper meaning?
 - c) In this coming week, continue to pray for them; if you personally know someone in that situation, send them a message or a bible verse (can be from this week’s lesson) to encourage them to hold on to Jesus.

8. Closing Prayer

As a group, spend a couple of minutes in silence.

- Just sit in the presence of God, and marvel at his majesty, glory, and beauty.
- Encourage your group members to express their praise and worship: it can be a simple, “Lord Jesus, I worship/praise you for ...”; or lift up their hands; or sing a short chorus together.
- Close in prayer.

Lord God Almighty, we worship you for you are majestic and you rule over all creation. Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you for you are on the throne, and we will reign with you forever. We pray that your Word will strengthen our faith and help us to always put you first in our lives. Fill us with joy and hope as we serve you as your redeemed people until you return to bring us to our eternal home. Holy Spirit, we thank you for teaching us and working in our hearts. We pray all these in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.