



LESSON 41

John sees the worthy Lamb

REVELATION 5:1-14



Jesus is able to complete God's perfect plan.



"And one of the elders said to me, 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals'" (Rev 5:5).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is worthy to open the scroll.
2. Jesus is worthy because He is the Lion and Lamb.
3. Jesus is worthy because He redeemed by His death.
4. Because Jesus is worthy, He is our great Savior.
5. Because Jesus is worthy, every created thing praises Him.

Objectives

1. Explain that Jesus causes the events in the scroll to happen.
2. Define "worthy" and show that this fits who Jesus is.
3. Explain that Jesus' death was victory.
4. Explain why John wept loudly when no one could open the scroll.
5. List who praises Jesus in this chapter.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

John sees the worthy Lamb • Revelation 5:1-14



Lesson Summary

As John watched what was happening in God's heavenly throne room, he saw a scroll in God's right hand. But like many important documents, it could only be opened by someone special. In this case, only Jesus has the right character and authority to open the scroll, for only He is able to execute all that the scroll contains. And when He opens it, heaven and earth erupt with praise. From the highest angel to the lowest created thing, everyone praises the Lamb.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The Lamb is worthy of praise because He died as a loving sacrifice, giving up His life to purchase people for Himself. So the way to escape the coming judgments is by trusting in Jesus' death and by honoring Him above all. Also, the way to stay faithful in the midst of every trouble is to remember that Jesus is worthy. We can cast all our cares on Him, for He is able to complete God's perfect plan.



John testifies to the exalted Jesus
Revelation 1:1-20

John sees the worthy Lamb
Revelation 5:1-14

God will judge the world
Revelation 19:11-20:15

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Commentary

Jesus is able to complete God's perfect plan.

When we see a world infested with wickedness, disaster, grief, and pain, it is tempting to give up or abandon hope. Yet there is one thing that gives hope and strength to press on: someone is coming to defeat every enemy, punish the wicked, undo the curse, and welcome every faithful believer into a new and perfect world. We can be sure of this, since Jesus is worthy and able to accomplish God's perfect plan.

Only the Lamb is worthy to open the scroll (5:1-7)

God's perfect plan is represented by the scroll (Rev 5:1). Since it is in His right hand, this plan is completely owned and controlled by God. Since the writing continues onto the back and since it has seven seals, it is the full and perfect message: it covers everything to the very end so that no other message is needed (22:18). Like Daniel's scroll (Dan 12:4, 9), it contains the final phase of history, but now this final phase is coming soon, without any prophesied event having to come first (Rev 1:1, 3). Like Ezekiel's scroll (Ezek 2:9-10), it is mostly full of judgment, with the first six seals each revealing one judgment (Rev 6) and the seventh seal containing all the rest (Rev 8-9, 16). But like Jeremiah's scroll (Jer 32:10), it is a title deed that gives ownership. Sure enough, Revelation ends with a joyful and glorious inheritance (Rev 21:1-22:5). This scroll is God's perfect plan to finally defeat all evil and set up a new and perfect world.

But a title deed isn't just something to read. It is full of actions that can only be accomplished by the one with authority to open it. So John cried and cried when no one anywhere—no angel, no demon, no human, no animal—had the ability to open the scroll (5:2-4). For centuries humans had come and gone, but not even the most godly man or woman could open that scroll. If no one could open it, then none of the things in the scroll would happen.

Wickedness, pain, sorrow, and death would not be defeated. The curse would keep festering and the devil would triumph. The hope of new life in a new world would be lost. No wonder John wept in utter despair!

But then he stopped, for there was one who is **worthy** and **deserves** to open the scroll. But who? It has to be someone who **is good, has the right to be in charge, and has the power to make it happen**. Jesus meets these requirements (5:5-6). He is the lion-like king prophesied by Jacob long ago (Gen 49:9-10): strong, majestic, courageous, and wise, able to defeat His enemies and rule over all. He is David's human descendant (2 Sam 7:12-16; Isa 11:1-10), which is important because only a human can finish man's job of ruling over the earth (Gen 1:26-28; Ps 8). But He is also God (Ps 110:1), which is important because only God can undo God's curse on earth. In fact, as the Lion of Judah and chosen Root of David, Jesus has already won the victory.

What victory? The victory of His sacrificial death as the Lamb of God (Exod 12:3-6; Isa 53:7; John 1:29). He is alive, but the power of His self-sacrifice never stops. His death proved that He is perfectly good and loving (John 15:13), and His death proved His power over sin (Rom 8:3), death and the devil (Heb 2:14-15), rulers (Col 2:15), and hell (1 Pet 3:19). He could have used His power as the Son of God to get off the cross and annihilate His enemies, but He did not (Matt 26:53-54).

He faithfully obeyed the Father to the point of death (26:39), so that He would be worthy to open the scroll and do everything written in it.

The Lamb's seven horns symbolize His complete power and authority (Dan 7:8, 20, 24). His seven eyes reflect His omniscience as He sees all and knows all. He does so by means of the seven spirits, which represent the Holy Spirit that Jesus sent into

THINK ABOUT IT
Because Jesus is worthy, it is worth it to love and trust Him.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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the world (John 14:16; Isa 11:2; Zech 4:1–10). So as the all-powerful and all-wise Lamb, Jesus has taken the scroll and will now accomplish all the events to come in the rest of Revelation (Rev 5:7; 1:1).

Everyone praises the Lamb who is worthy (5:8–14)

When Jesus took the scroll, all heaven erupted in praise. It began with those closest to the Lamb (5:8). The four living creatures are like the cherubim that Ezekiel saw (Ezek 1), and their job is to glorify God in connection with all living things. The 24 elders may be human believers already in heaven, or they may be angels whose job it is to glorify God alongside believers (Heb 1:14). The 24 elders hold harps, which are associated with worship (Ps 71:22), and bowls of incense, which are prayers of believers. Because of

what this chapter is about, these prayers are especially about punishing the wicked, rescuing the righteous, and finishing God's kingdom plan (Matt 6:10). These prayers seek God's honor, so they please God like sweet-smelling incense (Ps 141:2).

to God in order to know Him and proclaim how amazing He is (1 Pet 2:9). It is also a blessing because one day redeemed people will reign along with Jesus (2 Tim 2:12; Rev 20:6). Jesus is worthy to finish God's plan because the One who redeemed people in the past is able to keep them and bless them in the future too.

The praise keeps increasing. First countless angels and then every created thing joins in. This includes not just the redeemed, but also all of God's enemies—everyone proclaims the worthiness of the Lamb (Phil 2:10–11). Like the creatures and elders, the multitude of angels know Jesus is worthy because of His death. Because of His death, He possesses everything He needs to make the Father's plan happen (Rev 5:12). He has power both in who He is and in what He is able to do. He owns every resource and understands everything. He has majesty both inside and out, so that He is worthy of all praise. Because of this, all creation proclaims that He is completely equal to the Father forever (5:13). And if that were not enough, the four living creatures kept saying “Amen,” “it is true,” after each song (5:14), confirming beyond any doubt that the Lamb is absolutely worthy.



THINK ABOUT IT

As we pray for God to finish His plan of judging and saving, we become part of the worship that is happening in heaven.

The living creatures and elders sing a new song (Rev 5:9). Even though we have it written down now, it will be new because they will sing it in a new and greater way than ever before. They will sing about **redemption**, about how Jesus gave His own life to buy back people. Unlike the original Passover lambs (Exod 12:3–6), Jesus' death purchased people from every lineage, language group, race, and nation. By purchasing them, Jesus set them free from slavery to sin and Satan (Col 1:13). But He also bought them to be His own (1 Cor 6:20; 7:23). They are now God's kingdom, God's subjects (Rev 5:10). This is a huge blessing, because God's subjects are also **priests**, people with direct access

When you are weak, oppressed, and tempted, when you are ready to give in and feel as though you cannot go on, have hope. Instead of looking to yourself, look to Jesus, your great Savior and champion. Stay true to Him, because just as He has redeemed you in the past, so He will finish God's plan for the future. You can endure now because one day evil will be destroyed and you will receive a perfect reward: to live forever with the one who is worth all love and glory and praise and honor.

THINK ABOUT IT

One day everything that has breath will praise Jesus, because He is worthy (Ps 150:6).



Lesson Outline

Jesus is able to complete God's perfect plan.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

Love Jesus as your great Savior because . . .

1. He will finish God's perfect plan (5:1–4, 7).
2. He is the Lion who is in charge (5:5).
3. He is the Lamb who defeated death (5:6).
4. He paid the price for sin to make you His own (5:8–10).
5. He is worthy of all praise (5:11–14).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Only the Lamb is worthy to open the scroll (5:1–7).
 - God held a scroll with seven seals (5:1).
 - No one was worthy to open the scroll (5:2–4).
 - The Lion and Lamb is worthy (5:5–7).
2. Everyone praises the Lamb who is worthy (5:8–14).
 - The four living creatures and 24 elders praise the Lamb (5:8–10).
 - Countless angels praise the Lamb (5:11–12).
 - Every created thing praises the Lamb (5:13–14).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What was in God's hand?**
A scroll.
- 2. What was on the scroll?**
Seven seals.
- 3. Who is the only one who can open the scroll?**
Jesus.
- 4. Who praises Jesus after He takes the scroll?**
Everyone: four living creatures, 24 elders, countless angels, every created thing everywhere.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What does the scroll represent?**
It is God's perfect plan for the final stage of history: defeat and judgment of the wicked and salvation and a new world for the righteous.
- 2. Why did John cry so loudly?**
If no one can open the scroll, then evil will not end and the new world will not come.
- 3. What two animals is Jesus like?**
The Lion of Judah and the Lamb who has been sacrificed.
- 4. How is the Lion of Judah worthy?**
He is the human descendant of David, the divine Messiah, and the promised ruler.
- 5. How is the Lamb who has been sacrificed worthy?**
He proved His character and His power. His character is perfect love—obeying the Father and rescuing sinners. His power is the greatest—defeating sin, Satan, death, and hell.
- 6. What did Jesus do for people by dying?**
He buys them to set them free and make them His own.
- 7. Why do the countless angels list seven things Jesus rightfully has?**
To show that He is perfectly worthy and able to make God's plan happen.
- 8. How much do all created things praise Jesus?**
They praise Him exactly the same as they praise the Father.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



SEVEN STICKERS

A seal was like a sticker placed on the scroll. The seal could be opened only by someone with authority. Demonstrate by putting seven stickers on a rolled-up piece of paper. Choose seven children to break the seven stickers. Talk about how only these children were able to break the seals. In today's lesson, we are going to see another scroll with seven seals, but only one person is able to open it: Jesus.

LION AND LAMB

Bring a stuffed lion and lamb to class. Ask the children to describe what each is like (strong, fluffy, etc.). In today's lesson, Jesus is called both a lion and a lamb. Jesus is called a lion because He is strong and powerful. He is called a lamb because He, like the Passover lamb, died as a sacrifice for sin. Ask the children what animals they are like. Are they fast like a cheetah? Strong like an elephant? Smart like a dolphin?



ROOT OF DAVID

Jesus is also called the "Root of David" because He was a descendant of King David (Rev 5:5). Show the children a picture of a tree's roots, draw them on the board, or bring in a potted plant and reveal its roots. Explain how the branches, leaves, and fruit are all connected to and come from the root. Ask your children if they know the names of their grandparents. Using their grandparent's name, call them the child of the root of _____.

WORTHY

Only Jesus was "worthy" or able to open the scroll. Illustrate this by making a closed fist and challenging the children to pull it apart with their fingers. Are they worthy (able) to do it? What kind of a person would be able to open your hand? Jesus was able to open the scroll because of who He is—God and man, and because of what He has done—overcome sin, death, and Satan.



PRAISE THE LAMB!

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheet, paper bags, crayons, scissor, dried beans (or rice), colored tape, glue stick.

Directions: Color the craft image and cut it. Glue it to the bottom of the paper bag. Put the dried beans inside (use at least two paper bags). Fold the paper bags so to have a handle for the maraca, and tape it. (You can décor the maraca with stickers.)



Praise the Lamb!
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6-8



INTRODUCE

ABLE TO OPEN

John was sad because no one was found worthy to open the scroll. To illustrate this, either glue or very tightly seal a jar shut. As the children enter the classroom, have each of them try to open the jar. This will serve as a great opportunity to introduce He who is both the focus and center of today's lesson. He is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the worthy Lamb of God. The only one able to open the scroll.

WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE

Ask the children to identify the different ways we show appreciation or honor. We might clap (loudly at a football game, softly at a golf tournament), shout, sing, chant, jump up and down, etc. Have the children ever cheered so loudly that they lost their voice? What or who caused them to cheer so loudly? In today's lesson, we'll meet the One most deserving of our praise: Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.



ILLUSTRATE

RIGHT HAND

Ask your children how many of them are right-handed. Those who are have more strength and ability in their right hand than their left. Demonstrate by having a right-handed child write their name on the board with their left hand. In the Bible, the right hand stands for strength and authority. It is the strong hand, the hand with the most power. The scroll was in God's right hand (Rev 5:1).

SEVEN SEALS

Before class, make a scroll with writing on both the inside and outside. Seal it with seven seals made from paraffin wax or clay. During the lesson, break the seals using a letter opener.



APPLY

THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheet, crayons, tape, scissors, yarn, glue stick, tan construction paper, red copy paper.

Directions: Color the images, cut them and glue them to the tan construction paper. Roll the paper and close it with the yarn. Cut seven red circles to make the seals.



The One Who Is Worthy
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2

AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

“I am not very happy today. I have not been allowed to compete in the Olympics. I think I should. I think I would do great in _____ (fill in the blank with a funny or least likely competition). I think I might even get a gold medal! Why shouldn't I get to compete in the Olympics?”

Because I have not earned a spot. To go to the Olympics, you have to qualify at the Olympic trials. You have to prove that you are good enough, and you have to do it in the right way at the right time. Since I cannot, I am not worthy.

HEIGHT REQUIREMENT

Have you ever been excited to go on a ride at a circus or amusement park, only to discover that you are not tall enough to ride? Did you try and stand on your tippy toes, or put tissues in your shoes, or spike your hair in order to meet the height requirement? Talk about why certain rides have height requirements and why we must follow them. Today's lesson is about the only One who qualifies to open the scroll that is in God's right hand.



ILLUSTRATE

TROPHY TIME

Bring in a medal or trophy. Explain what it was created as a reward for. Now ask if you should give it to someone in the class. No—no one in the class deserves it. They have not met the requirements to be worthy of it.

RESTORATION

The reason John desired to see who was worthy to open the scroll is that he was eager to see the earth restored. He was ready to see who would be able to defeat Satan, wipe away sin, and make all things new. To illustrate the effect that the Fall of man had on the world (Rom 8:19–22), purchase an inflatable globe and show it to the class. Begin describing the way the earth once was and then when man's sin enters the world, quickly deflate the globe, reducing it to a pile of plastic upon the table. This will provide a physical illustration of the effect of sin upon the earth and the need for one to come and restore it.



APPLY

EVERY KNEE WILL BOW

Read Philippians 2:9–11 as a class. Is there anyone that will be able to oppose God in the end? Since everyone will worship God in the end (Rev 5:13), why is it foolish to oppose God now? What are the blessings of worshiping God now (salvation, peace, joy, reigning with Jesus forever in heaven)? What are the consequences of resisting Jesus now (judgment, war with God, sadness, eternity in hell separated from God)? We will all worship Jesus in the end, but are you worshiping Him now?