

The Lamb on the Throne.
Christ the sacrificial Lamb reigns on high.

Warm Up

For many of us our literary or cinematic heroes are presented as strong, tough, independent, powerful men or women able to overcome. Rarely in these stories do the heroes die. Who is your favourite hero?

James Bond? Katniss Everdeen? Superman? Jack Reacher? Mr Darcy? Diana Prince (Wonder Woman)? Mulan? Moana?

Background and context

The Lamb on the Throne is a key theme in the book of Revelation. Jesus Christ is both the sacrificial Lamb and the reigning King. Revelation presents Him as worthy of worship, sovereign over history, victorious over evil, and the eternal Shepherd of His people. The word *Lamb* (Greek *arnion*) appears around **28 times** in Revelation, far more than anywhere else in Scripture. John deliberately portrays Jesus not first as a conquering lion, but as a sacrificed Lamb who reigns. The lamb, of course, is a direct reference to the Passover lamb who was slain in order to save and rescue the Hebrews from slavery. The lamb is not the obvious choice for a symbol of victory, power and authority, even more so, one that was slain!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

1. **Read Rev 5: 1-10.** Why does John hear a "Lion" but see a "Lamb"?
2. What does this teach us about God's kingdom? cf: **Genesis 49:9-10, Isaiah 53:7, Exodus 12**
3. **Read Rev 5:9-14.** The whole universe appears to break out into worship. Why?
4. What are the four reasons given to show that the Lamb is worthy of worship?
5. Why is Jesus worthy of worship rather than merely admiration?
6. **Read Rev 6.** What is being revealed through the seals? Why can no human open them?
7. What does this reveal about Jesus role in history?
8. **Read Revelation 7:9-17.** Where is the Lamb and what is His role?
9. What comfort does it bring, knowing Jesus is your Shepherd? cf: **Psalms 23.**
10. **Read Revelation 12:10-11.** How does remembering the blood of Christ help us resist fear and live victory filled lives?
11. **Read Revelation 14:1-5.** What does following the Lamb look like? Where is Christ leading you today?
12. **Read Revelation 6:15-17.** Who comes under the wrath of the Lamb? Who is able to withstand His wrath? Why is this both a warning and a comfort?
13. **Read Revelation 19:6-9.** History ends with a wedding. Why should this give believers hope? What is the wedding celebrating?
14. **Read Revelation 22:1-5.** What does the ultimate future hold? What blessings will believers receive? How can this be a source of hope?

Discipleship and Application

How should an understanding of the Lamb affect the following:

Worship, personal confidence, personal holiness, our evangelism and hope?

Which of the above might you struggle with? How can you improve in that area of life?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.