REVELATION 5:5-8

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STEP 1 - PRAY FOR GOD TO GIVE UNDERSTANDING

STEP 2 - READ TEXT

Read the text: Revelation 5:5-8

STEP 3 - QUESTION AND ANSWER

QUESTION: If Jesus is called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, why did He not simply rise up back then and bring evil to its knees?

ANSWER: Jesus chose to do the will of His Father. He chose to take on the sin debt of the world. He knew it was a debt that no human could ever pay. And John is seeing the central theme of the Gospel play out before his eyes. The victory won by the lion is accomplished only through the sacrifice of the lamb.

It was not yet Jesus' time to roar. But that day is quickly approaching.

QUESTION: What ironies stand out from this passage?

M ANSWER:

- The sacrifice of This Lamb isn't weak at all. It was a lion-like victory so great as to save any who come to Jesus Christ in faith. The sacrifice of This Lamb is strong enough to crush the forces of death and destruction.
- Just like the Jews of Jesus' day, the world continues to see power and strength in military might. But GOD displays HIS power in the beauty of Agape love and self-sacrificial actions of one for another.
- The sacrifice of This Lamb claims victory over Hell.
- In John's vision, This Lamb appears slain by deadly wounds but is alive, standing on His feet.
- Demons and wicked men conspired against Him and killed Him. But He rose from the dead, defeating and triumphing over His enemies.

What seems like irony from our perspective is GOD's perfect plan coming to fruition.

STEP 4 - DISCUSSION

DISCUSS: Instead of seeing the anticipated mighty Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the focus of John's attention was what he saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders. John saw a Lamb...The Lamb!

Our Lord Jesus had to first be "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) before He could be the Lion of judgment, the King of Glory.

SUGGESTIONS: Is it difficult at times to place all faith and trust in a lamb? Are there times when we, like the Jews, feel like the crushing weight of this world requires a mighty warrior to overcome our struggles?

DISCUSS: What can we do to worship The Lamb of GOD as He is...The Lion of Judah?

V SUGGESTIONS:

- Focus on His sacrifice that turned us from hopeless rebels into useful servants!
- He rescued us from slavery to sin and brought us to a Kingdom of priesthood!
- He turned us from enemies of GOD to those GOD calls friends!

STEP 5 - FINAL ACTIVITY

Jesus taking the scroll is something to be celebrated. All the wrongs ever committed will be avenged.

Provide paper and pen for everyone.

Have everyone write down the wrongs ever done to them.

Encourage those in the group to read them aloud.

Now... have everyone turn their paper over and write down the wrongs they have done to someone else.

Encourage those in the group to read them aloud.

After the group is done with their paper, have them destroy their paper either by fire or with scissors.

The point of the exercise is to get people excited about Jesus coming back, taking control of the scroll and avenging all the wrongs from all of history.

But it is also to recognize the irony of all the wrongs we have ever committed being avenged.