

LEAD SHEET

REVELATION - WK 4 WHAT JOHN SAW OCTOBER 23, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE

If you want to know God better, give back to Him!

GETTING STARTED

General Discussion:

- What are some distractions in your life that make it difficult to hear the voice of God?
- What are some voices in your life that compete for your attention? *(Allow for discussion.)*
- Why is it sometimes so easy to listen to those voices? *(Allow for discussion.)*

DIGGING IN

(Optional reading: Ezekiel 1:4-28, and Isaiah 6:1-3. Most of John's imagery in chapter 4 comes from these two sources.)

Read Revelation 4:1-6

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the things used to describe God's throne? *(Rainbow, precious gems, crystal sea, flames of seven torches, thunder and lightning.)*
2. Why do you think these types of images are used to describe God's throne? *(To show His power and majesty.)*

Read Revelation 2:10 and Revelation 3:3-5

Discussion Questions:

1. After reading this, who do you think the 24 elders represent and why are they dressed in white with gold crowns? *(In Revelation 2 and 3, these were promised to those who remained faithful and refused to worship anyone other than God, even in the face of persecution. Throughout Revelation we will see that 12—and multiples of 12—represent God's people. 12 tribes, 12 disciples, etc.)*

2. Why would God show John these elders? (So that the people could see that these rewards were a reality if they remained faithful.)

3. Do you think this scene is picturing the end of time or something that was already a present reality? Which would have been a bigger encouragement for the Church? *(Allow for discussion.)*

4. Why do you think there is a sea of glass in this vision? What do you think it represents? *(Two main views exist. 1. The sea may represent separation. This is true in other areas. It could be showing that right now there is still separation between us and God, who reigns on His throne in Heaven. Revelation 21:1, describing the new Heaven, the Scripture says that there is no more sea. 2. The sea may represent evil. At that time, the sea was often seen as a place where evil and chaos existed. Later in Revelation we will see the beast come from the sea. It was believed only the gods could tame the water. For example, God parted the Red Sea and Jesus calmed the waves. This vision may show how God subdues evil and chaos and reigns over it.)*

Read Revelation 4:7-8

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the four creatures? What do you think they represent? *(They come from Isaiah 6 and there is much debate as to their exact representations. However, more broadly they have been typically understood to represent*

the created order – four seasons, four elements, four directions, etc.)

2. What do these four creatures do?
(Worship God day and night.)

Read Revelation 4:9-11

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is worshipping in this passage? *(Living creatures and twenty-four elders.)*

2. Whom are they worshipping and why? *(God, for He created all things.)*

3. How are they worshipping? *(Giving glory, honor and thanks to God. The elders lay their crowns before the throne.)*

4. Who is on the throne? *(God.)*

Read Revelation 5:1-4

Discussion Questions:

1. As God is seated on His throne, what is He holding?
(A scroll.)

2. What do you think is written on the scroll? *(Scrolls seen in visions from Heaven typically had the destinies of the people written on them.)*

3. Why do you think the scroll had 7 seals? *(Remember, 7 represents perfect and complete. This scroll was perfectly and completely sealed.)*

4. Who is worthy of opening the seals? *("No one in Heaven or earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it." Revelation 5:3)*

5. Why does John weep? *(Because it seems as if God's plan for the people would not be fulfilled.)*

Read Revelation 5:5-7

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is John told not to cry? *(Someone is worthy to open the scroll and its seals.)*

2. Who is able to open the scroll? *(The lion was the symbol of the royal house of David. It was said, the Messiah would come from the line of David. This is Jesus!)*

3. John is told about a lion, but he sees a lamb that looks like it has been sacrificed. Why? *(Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice on the cross. He had the power of a lion but chose to humble Himself like a lamb and be sacrificed. The sacrificial lamb would have reminded the people of the Exodus—Exodus 12:21-28— where God brought judgment on the enemies oppressing His people. Now that is about to happen again.)*

Read Revelation 5:8-10

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the golden bowls of incense? *(The prayers of the people.)*

2. What would their prayers at that time have been? *(For God to rescue them and to bring judgment. This prayer is evident in Revelation 6:10. Jesus is opening the scroll to bring judgment as an answer to the prayers of the people.)*

3. Again we see the four living creatures and the elders worship. This time they worship the lamb. Why are we seeing this? *(Remember the main point, who is Lord: Jesus or Caesar?)*

4. What are some things we learn about Jesus through their new song? *(Through His sacrifice we were purchased by God, our purpose is to serve and worship Him (not anything else of this world) and His kingdom—the Church—will reign forever.)*

Read Revelation 5:11-14

In Greek, 10,000 is the largest number term. By making it plurals (tens of thousands) it essentially means an infinite number of angels

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was John shown an infinite number of angels worshipping around God's throne? *(Because God alone is worthy of worship.)*
2. Who do we see worshipping here and what do they represent? *(Four living creatures – created order, twenty-four elders – the people of God, All of the angels.)*
3. What is God showing through this? *(All of the created order, all of the people of God, and infinite numbers of angels all worship the true God. Who do you worship?)*
4. What do they say in verse 12? *(Worthy is the lamb.)*
5. Who joins into the worship in verse 13? *(Every creature in Heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea.)*

Notice that the 4 living creatures only say Amen (bringing things to a close) after everyone in all of creation joins in to worship the only true God.

MAKING IT REAL

General Discussion:

- What do you think is the main point of Revelation 4-5? *(To show that God alone is worthy of our worship and our commitment.)*
- What are some things that our culture worships over God? *(Self, money, power, sex, etc.)*

- What are some areas you might be settling for a “cheap imitation” instead of worshipping God alone? (Only students can answer this honestly. If they are honest, they will most likely mention stuff, their own reputation, etc.)

- What are some areas where it is difficult for you to live like a Christian? (*Around people who aren't Christians – at school, on sports teams, at work, maybe even in their own homes.*)

- What are some strong pressures you face to conform to culture? (*To talk a certain way, be involved in unhealthy relationships, etc.*)

- How would it have made the Church feel to know that in their suffering God was still in control and reigning on His throne? How does it make you feel to know that is true in your life as well? (*It is encouraging, it gives purpose to making a stand, gives hope for the future.*)

Read Revelation 4:4 again

Discussion Questions:

1. How does it make you feel to know that the same reward in Heaven from 4:4 awaits us if we are faithful to Christ in this life? (*It is inspiring, hopeful, encouraging, etc.*)

2. According to the new song in Revelation 5:9-10, the purpose of every person from every tribe, tongue, and nation is to serve and worship God alone. Had you ever thought about that before? How does that make you feel? (*It may make some think of their purpose differently, it challenges what they think the point of life is, etc.*)

3. What is something you can do this week as a response to these two chapters? (*Set aside time to worship God, give up on my cheap substitutes, read these chapters each day this week.*)

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray that your students aren't tempted to conform to contemporary culture by worshiping the things of this world. Instead, pray that your students make a conscious choice every day to make Jesus their Lord. Pray that they recognize their purposes to serve and worship the God who purchased them through the sacrifice of Jesus.