

Who Is Jesus? Leader Guide Session 5: The Lion or The Lamb?

The Bible refers to Jesus as both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God. Those two animals don't usually get along. So how can he be both? How can Christ be so powerful and yet so gentle? So fierce and so compassionate? And if Jesus is both lion and lamb, what difference does it make?

Watch

Play the video for session five. As you watch, use the following outline to record any key points that stand out to you.

Notes

In Revelation 5:1-2, the scroll with writing on both sides and seven seals represents the final chapters of God's plan to vanquish sin forever. Opening this scroll requires someone special – someone worthy enough to break the seals and reveal what's inside.

Only Jesus can open the scrolls and usher in God's plans and purpose. As the Lion of the tribe of Judah, he has triumphed through his death, burial, and resurrection.

Judah was the fourth son of Jacob. When Jacob blessed him, he prophesied that Judah would be a young lion who would rule over his brothers.

When God's people occupied the Promise Land, the tribe of Judah – the first to claim their allotment – was represented by the emblem of the lion.

Jesus embodies the triumph, power, and sovereignty symbolized by the tribe of Judah. All nations worship him as the King of kings and the Lord of lords – the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

When John looks at the Lion of Judah, he sees a slain lamb with seven horns and seven eyes. What John is seeing is complete vision of the Risen Lord.

Slain Lamb: Under God's law, lambs were sacrificed in the temple to atone for people's sins. Jesus is the perfect lamb who was slain for our sins.

Horns: In God's economy, horns represent power and might. Jesus as the slain lamb has ultimate power and authority.

Seven: In the Bible, seven is considered a perfect number. So Jesus has perfect vision, wisdom, and insight.

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Spirit: Jesus is also perfect in the power of the Holy Spirit, the “sevenfold spirit,” that rests on him and his life.

When Jesus was introduced in John’s Gospel, he appeared not as the creator of the universe or the third party of the Trinity, but as the Lamb of God.

Because Jesus is the *Lamb who was slain*, we can embrace his finished work at the cross and receive salvation. Because he is the *Lion of Judah*, we can call on his name to receive power.

Discussion Questions

Take a few minutes within your group to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. What detail or image in this scene described by John in the book of Revelation is the most striking for you? Why?
2. What is the significance of Jesus being described as the Lion of Judah?
3. What is the significance of Jesus being described as the Lamb who was slain?
4. Which depiction of Jesus – the Lion or the Lamb – appeals to you the most? Why does that particular description resonate with you?
5. What does it mean to you to embrace the finished work of Jesus who is the Lamb of God? What does it mean for you to call on the name of Jesus as the Lion of Judah?
6. Returning to the question asked at the beginning of this study, how would you now answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” How had your answer changed since the first session?