

Week Beginning: 12th May 2019

Worship Series: #3 in series



lifegroups
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:9-10

Remember This Week

Worship not only unveils the beauty of a God who loves us, is for us, and living in us but it fills our lives with a new song that brings life, hope, strength, and trust in every circumstance of life. The daily act of living becomes an act of worship that proclaims to the world that there is nothing of greater worth than Jesus Christ.



One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.**

Psalm 127:4

Risen Christ, you are the Lamb of God who sits on the heavenly throne in unspeakable glory and unimaginable power. You have commanded us to worship you. You are worthy of our worship. All power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing belong to you forever and ever. May our lives reveal the beauty of your life and proclaim that it is so. May our gathering together in your name reveal your beauty in ever increasing ways. Amen.

1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *What is the most beautiful thing you have seen or experienced in the last month?*
4. *What is your favourite worship song and why?*



Disappointment. Disillusionment. Dysfunction. Discouragement. Dread. Defeat. Darkness. Death. If monochrome grayscale life is all there is, then ready yourself for a life that is dreary dull, dead. But John assures us today that's not the final chapter the Father has written for us. The resurrection of the lamb-who-was-slain changes everything. Out of darkness, light shines. Out of despair, hope arises. Out of discouragement, inspiration awakens. Out of death, new life grows. This is the beauty that the resurrection restores to life. Today we explore life that vividly colours and adds beauty in every time, place and circumstance; a vibrancy and freshness that emerges in and flows from living in worship.

Read Revelation: 5:1-14

5. *What about the heavenly scene impresses you the most? A phrase/picture/word?*
6. *What is seen and what is heard in the passage? Why is it important?*
7. *What is significant about a Lamb that had been slain, standing in the middle of the throne where the Father is seated?*
8. *Compare the songs sung to the Lamb in verses 9, 10, 12, and 13 to the praise spoken to God the Father in 4:8 and 4:11. How are they similar? How are they different? Note who says the words, and how they are said, in addition to the words themselves.*

As John stood in the presence of God, no-one was found to be worthy. If what we see in life is as good as it gets, if what you hear on the news and experience in your own life is the best of what can be, then there's not much to look forward to; no hope that can be offered. The last word is death. The book remains closed. It's not surprising that John wept bitterly.





9. *When you look at your life or the world, what causes you to weep? To lose hope? To become disillusioned?*

The destiny of John, the church, and the universe itself hangs in the balance over the question of whether someone can open the scroll. When life is full of despair, disappointment, defeat, death and all those old songs that cause us to lose hope, we are assured that there is someone who is worthy to open the scroll and bring into being God's plan of redemption and rule for the world. It is Jesus Christ, the Lion of Judah - all majesty, power, rule and authority belong to him. Lions conquer - that's what John hears. Yet what he sees is a gentle Lamb that has been slain, who purchased his people with the blood of his atoning sacrifice (5:9-10). This Lamb is the hope of the world. This Lamb is the very heart of the Gospel – the revelation of God's own heart. It is this Lamb who takes the scroll, who now holds the Church and the world in his hands, who submits and sacrifices his life so that we have a future forever. **Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf"** (Hebrews 7:25 NLT).

10. *How does the vision in Revelation 5 give you a greater vision for who God is?*
11. *Worship is not an action but a reaction, a response evoked by an experience of God's glory and the victory won by the slain Lamb. How is your worship a response to your experience of God's glory? What stops you giving yourself fully to worship?*
12. *What circumstances in your life do you need to have reframed by gazing at the lion who is also the Lamb-who-was-slain.*

The victory of the Lamb-who-was-slain puts a new song in our heart and on our lips. Whatever tune is playing in your mind right now. Whatever tune plays in your mind in the middle of the night. Whatever tune is making you weep. Jesus, the Lion of Judah our Lord gives you a new song - one that is powerful, beautiful, directed to what is real and true. Today if you are weak and faltering, helpless or hopeless, despairing or disillusioned, you will find a compassionate Saviour -- because this Lion is also a slain Lamb! As the Lamb of God he is filled with mercy and grace, forgiveness and life for you.



The Lamb-who-was-slain holds the Church and you in his hand. It's a hand of blessing and life, that adds colour and vibrancy to our lives, even when what we experience tries to rob us of joy. Living in worship means living to a new reality - that hears and trusts God's word of promise and sees the signs of colour and beauty and promise in the simple things of life each day. It's pointing out the beauty of God for others to see - a beauty that gives hope. A beauty that declares God is in control. God puts a new song...not a revamped song...not a cover...but an original work of beauty in your heart and on your lips. When you bring hope, comfort, strength, support to others, you are singing a new song. When you add colour, laughter or bring peace and calm in the midst of turmoil, when you see the beauty in others and call it out, you are living in worship, singing a new song of worship to the lamb who was slain who is alive forever and ever.

13. *To what degree are you singing a new song in your life right now?*
14. *What verse or phrase do you need to hold onto in the week ahead to let your living be an act of worship that brings glory to Christ? (See also Romans 12:1).*

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Keep your eyes open to recognise the signs of beauty in this world. Find at least three blessings each day to praise God for and at least one thing that you can call out and acknowledge in other that reveals the beauty of Christ. It may be a simple act of kindness that someone does, a word of hope that someone offers, a smile that brings warmth to a heart.

- * Praise God for the new song he puts in our hearts each day. Thank Jesus that he lives within us to make our hearts his own. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live what your voice proclaims, that through your words and deeds, Christ is glorified and his will is done.
- * Pray for the creatives in our community – song writers, artists, craftsmen and women – who add beauty to our world and reveal the One who sits on the throne and reigns in heaven and on earth.
- * Pray for those whose lives are stuck in monochrome grayscale; who are stuck singing a old song, that they may know the love of Christ, who gives all a new song to sing.



Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, may your whole life bring glory to the name of Christ. Amen.