

Unit 36: The Church's Hope

Unit Description: As the church continues the mission Jesus gave, it does so with the hope that one day Jesus will return to make all things new and put an end to sin and death once and for all. On that day, Jesus will fully usher in God's kingdom as all of His followers enjoy being with Him and one another as part of a new heaven and earth.

Big Picture Question: What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.



SESSION 1: Jesus Is Worthy of Worship Revelation 4-5



SESSION 2: Jesus Will Return One Day Revelation 19-20



SESSION 3: We Will Be Part of the New Heaven and Earth Revelation 21-22



UNIT 36 | SESSION 1

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

REVELATION 4–5

KEY PASSAGE:

Revelation 21:4 NIV

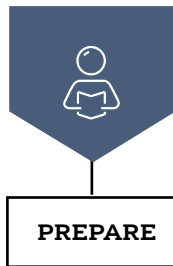
He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

John cried when he saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll. Then John saw the resurrected Lamb—God's Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is worthy. He deserves all praise, honor, and blessing.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

John's vision of heaven in Revelation 4–5 offers us a glimpse of Jesus' worthiness and heaven's splendor, as those found in Him will abide with Him forever. From these passages, we know that God will forever reign with all glory, splendor, righteousness, and holiness attributed to His name.

How does Jesus meet John—and us—in our need? What do we learn about the nature of heaven and our role there as the redeemed?

Revelation 5 introduces the crucial conflict of today's passage: No one has been found worthy to break the seal of this great scroll. This somber realization led the apostle to weep, until his gaze was lifted up to Jesus. He alone has conquered the power of sin and death, making Him the only One worthy to open the scroll. However, the magnificent, conquering Son of God did not appear in the way we would expect; rather, His appearance was like a slaughtered lamb—representing His sacrifice on our behalf.

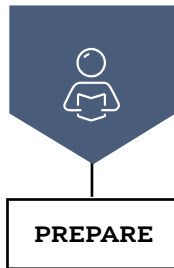
As He took the scroll, the creatures and elders fell down before Him in praise. The angels likewise declared that the slaughtered lamb's power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing would endure forever! The resurrected Jesus who defeated sin and death rose victoriously to bring us

back into relationship with the Father. By trusting in Him and giving Him praise for all He has done, we find our purpose in this life and for all days to come. We will forever worship the only One worthy of praise. This is what heaven is: the place of eternal unity with our Lord, where we will praise Him for eternity, no longer inhibited by sin. We will experience God's glory in its fullness there forevermore.

As you prepare to teach this session to kids, remember this main point: Christ is worthy of endless praise and has made a way for us to dwell with Him forever! Though this passage may seem difficult to comprehend, the simplicity of His worthiness is what we must return to: Our God is good, and He loved us enough to send us His Son.

TERMS TO KNOW

Revelation: the last book of the Bible, written by the apostle John, the book of Revelation is an apocalyptic work pointing to future hope and calling for present faithfulness



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Who Is Worthy?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ stamp
- ☐ music



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Is Worthy of Worship" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 36, Session 1" questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Betty Law" missions video
- ☐ world map

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Be No More (Revelation 21:4)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ dry erase board and marker



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

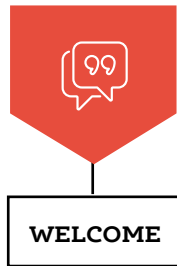
- ☐ painter's tape
- ☐ empty wrapping paper tube

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ sticky notes, 7 per team
- ☐ dry erase board and marker

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ "Praise Him!" activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “What are things or people the world praises? Why do people praise them?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Who Is Worthy?” on the activity page.

| **SAY** “God created us to worship. But only He is worthy of our praise. Today, we will learn why Jesus is worthy of worship.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: CAN YOU GUESS IT?



Before the session, draw a picture of a crown, a lion's face, and a lamb on a dry erase board. Form kids into pairs and provide them with a piece of paper and a washable marker. Lead one kid from each pair to tape a piece of paper to her partner's back. Tell kids that one kid will choose one of the three pictures on the dry erase board to draw on their partner's back. Tell the partners with the paper on their backs to try to determine which of the three pictures is being drawn. After the drawing is complete, allow kids to remove the paper from their backs and see if they guessed correctly.

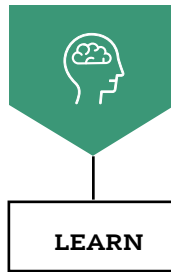
| **SAY** “You weren't sure what picture was being drawn until you were able to remove the paper from your back. Similarly, the only way we can know what the future will be like is if God, who knows the future, reveals it to us. Today, we will see how God showed John what the future will be like.”

☐ OPTION 2: PASS THE SCROLL

Gather a piece of paper and roll it into a scroll. Invite kids to sit in a circle and pass the scroll when the music plays. When the music stops, whoever has the scroll will say, “Who is worthy to open the scroll?” and will be out. Tell kids not to open the scroll. Play several rounds as time allows or until only one kid is left.

| **SAY** “Today, we will learn how John saw a vision of heaven and a scroll. We'll hear how he cried because no one was worthy to open it. Let's get ready to hear how he finally saw One who was worthy to open the scroll.”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! I’m so glad you’re here! My name is [your name], and I am excited to share a true story from God’s Word with you. If you have your Bible with you, will you take it out? **[Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]**

Today, we will be in the last book of the Bible. Do you know what book that is? **[Allow responses.]** That’s right, Revelation! This book was written by one of Jesus’ disciples named John. God gave him a vision while he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos. Let’s learn how John saw an amazing vision which showed him that Jesus is worthy of worship. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “We have a new big picture question. Our big picture question is, **What is the hope of the church?** The answer is, **The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new.** Let’s say the answer together: **The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new.**

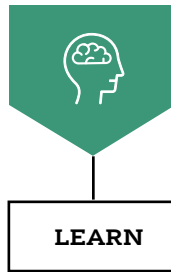
Faith in Jesus provides us with amazing hope. Not only do we have forgiveness of sin, but we also have the hope of eternal life when Jesus returns. This is not a wishful hope, but a very true and confident hope. Just as God’s promise came true when Jesus came to earth, so will His promise come true when Jesus returns. Christians have the only true hope! ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Over the past several weeks, we learned about the life of Paul and how he faithfully preached the gospel wherever God took him. Sometimes Paul was with churches sharing about Jesus and other times he was in prison. God used Paul to help spread the gospel far and wide. Many people believed in Jesus and many churches were started. Even while in prison, Paul wrote to churches to encourage them to share the gospel and make much of Jesus.

Other apostles of Jesus also went out into the world and shared about Jesus. One of those apostles was John. John was with Jesus while Jesus was on earth. Today, we will learn how John saw a vision of Jesus in heaven. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Revelation 4–5. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Is Worthy of Worship.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

“ John was on the island of Patmos when he had a vision. Jesus appeared to John and showed him what will happen before the end of time. In the book of Revelation, John wrote about what he saw.

John saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. The One seated looked like fiery red stones. A rainbow like an emerald surrounded the throne. He saw 24 other thrones around the throne, and 24 elders sat on the thrones. Each elder wore a gold crown.

John saw four living creatures around the throne. “The first creature was like a lion; the second creature was like an ox; the third creature had a face like a man; and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. Each creature had six wings. **All day and night they never stop saying:**

**“Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God, the Almighty,
who was, who is, and who is coming.”**

John saw the creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One on the throne. He saw the elders fall down and worship, throwing their crowns before the throne. **They say to God:**

**“You are worthy to receive
glory and honor and power,
because You have created all things.”**

Then John saw a scroll in the right hand of the One seated on the throne. **A mighty angel asked, “Who is worthy to open the scroll?”**

No one in heaven was worthy. No one on earth was worthy. No one under the earth was worthy either. **John began to cry loudly because no one was worthy!** At last, **one of the elders said, “Look! The Lion of Judah is able to open the scroll. He is worthy!”**

Then John saw someone standing near the throne. He was like a slaughtered lamb. He took the scroll, and the elders and living creatures fell down before Jesus, the Lamb. They worshiped Him and sang a new song.

John heard thousands and thousands of angels around the throne. They said in a

STORYTELLING TIPS

Define it: Define the word *worthy* for kids to understand. Tell them *worthy* means *deserving of all glory*. Tell kids that Jesus is worthy because He is valuable beyond measure, and He alone has conquered sin and death.

Repeat it: Lead kids to repeat “He is worthy!” when you say it in the Bible story.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered
to receive power and riches
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing!”

John heard every creature everywhere—in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and on the sea—**worshiping the Lamb together.**

Christ Connection: John cried when he saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll. Then John saw the resurrected Lamb—God’s Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is worthy. He deserves all praise, honor, and blessing. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ The vision John saw from God is full of hope and good news. The vision took place in heaven where there was One seated on the throne. What were the creatures around the throne saying? Look at Revelation 4:8. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 4:8.]** The creatures never stop saying “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” God is worthy of worship forever because of who He is and what He has done.

Then John saw a scroll, but no one was able to open the scroll. Who did the elders say was able to open the scroll? Look at Revelation 5:5. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 5:5.]** The Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ, is able to open the scroll because He has conquered sin and death. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, He alone is worthy to open the scroll and judge the world. He alone is worthy of worship.

The throne room of heaven was filled with worship for the only One who saves—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Our own hearts can also be a throne room for Jesus as we honor Him as Lord of our lives and choose to worship Him alone. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ John cried when he saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll. Then John saw the resurrected Lamb—God’s Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is worthy. He deserves all praise, honor, and blessing. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 36, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we give God glory?
2. Why does Jesus deserve all of your worship and praise?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ In 1953, Betty Law and her husband, Tom, became missionaries to Havana, Cuba. [Point to Cuba on a world map.] Betty and Tom lived in Cuba for seven years, telling people the good news about Jesus. Later, they became missionaries to Spain. [Point to Spain on a world map.] While in Spain, the Laws planted churches, led mission teams, and even taught at a Bible college. ”

Play the missions video. Close in prayer, thanking God for the Laws responding to God’s call to tell people about Jesus in Cuba and Spain. Pray for other missionaries serving around the world, that they may help people know Jesus and worship Him.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Revelation 21:4 together.

SAY “ Jesus came and conquered sin and death. He will come again so that all who trust in Him will live with Him forever. ”

Write the key passage on a dry erase board. Then erase one word at a time while inviting kids to say the missing words aloud. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “Be No More (Revelation 21:4).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

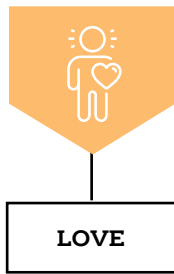
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, God, for Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that He died for our sins. We give Jesus all praise and honor because He alone is worthy. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Revelation 5. Tell kids that Revelation is that last book in Bible. Explain that John wrote the book of Revelation to seven churches in the area of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). Tell kids that John's letter was meant to encourage them and give them hope while they faced persecution.

Consider comparing the New Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Turkey [C6, C7, D6, D7].) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 5:13.

SAY “ Jesus will be worshiped forever by every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea. He will be praised and adored for all that He is and all that He has done. He alone has made the way for everything that was cursed by sin to be made new again. **The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new.** As we wait, we can live to honor Him and tell others the good news. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why is Jesus described as both a Lion and a Lamb in John’s vision? ”

Discuss how Jesus is referred to as the Lion of Judah in the Bible because He is the promised Messiah who would conquer sin and death. Tell kids that as the Lion, Jesus is victorious. Share that Jesus is also called the Lamb of God because He willingly gave His life on the cross for our sins. Tell kids that Jesus is both the conquering King and Suffering Servant.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rev. 5:5,8-10.)

SAY “ Why did John weep in his vision? ”

Remind kids that John wept because no one was able to open the scroll. Discuss how the scroll symbolizes God’s purposes for the world and what is to come. Tell kids that only Jesus is able to open the scroll because He has conquered sin, death, and the whole world by His blood on the cross. He alone is worthy of such honor and power and wisdom.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rev. 5:5.)

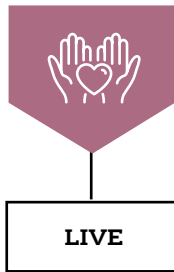
SAY “ How might you share how Jesus is worthy of all our worship with a friend who is not a Christian? ”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that we can share how every person is a sinner in need of forgiveness. Tell kids that we can share how only Jesus provides the forgiveness we need and gave His life to do so. Discuss how Jesus is worthy because of who He is and what He has done to provide us with salvation and eternal life.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Thess. 5:9-10.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: HOME RUN!**



Tell kids that the national sport of Cuba is baseball. Use painter's tape to create a home plate and three lines. Make the first line about 4 feet from home plate, the second line 10 feet from home plate and the third line 15 feet from home plate. Form kids into two teams. Invite one kid at a time to "bat" from home plate using an empty gift wrapping tube. Choose a pitcher to throw a crumpled ball of paper to the batter. The batter gets three chances to hit the ball. Award points as follows: one point if the ball gets past the first line and two points for the second line. If a kid hits the ball past the third line, it's a home run and he gets five points. The team with the most points wins.

SAY “ Hitting a home run leads to cheers and praise. But as fun as it is to honor someone in a game, the Laws wanted the people of Cuba to know that only Jesus is worthy of all praise and worship. He alone deserves our worship because of who He is and what He has done. ”

☐ **OPTION 2: THE LION AND THE LAMB**



On a dry erase board, create two columns and label one *Lion of Judah* and the other *Lamb of God*. Form kids into two teams and provide Bibles for each team. At the bottom of the dry erase board, write the following Bible references: Genesis 49:9-10 (Lion); Genesis 22:8 (Lamb); John 1:29 (Lamb); Revelation 5:5 (Lion); Matthew 2:6 (Lion); Revelation 5:6 (Lamb); Revelation 7:17 (Lamb).

Provide each team with seven sticky notes and direct them to write the references on the sticky notes. Then guide teams to look up the Bible references and determine if the verse describes Jesus in terms of a Lion (Judah) or a Lamb. Direct kids to place their sticky notes on the correct column on the dry erase board. Then review the answers.

SAY “ Jesus is the long awaited Lion of Judah who came to rule as King. But the Lion conquered sin and death because He became a Lamb. Jesus is worthy of worship because He gave His life so our sins can be forgiven. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising Jesus for being the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. As time allows, lead kids to complete "Praise Him!" on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FOLD



Unit 36 • Session 1

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

Revelation 4-5

**WHAT IS THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH?
THE CHURCH LOOKS FORWARD TO JESUS' RETURN WHEN HE WILL
MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.**

John was on the island of Patmos when he had a vision. Jesus appeared to John and showed him what will happen before the end of time. John saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. John saw four living creatures around the throne. All day and night they never stop, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God, the Almighty,
who was, who is, and who is coming."

John saw the creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One on the throne. He saw the elders fall down and worship. They say to God:

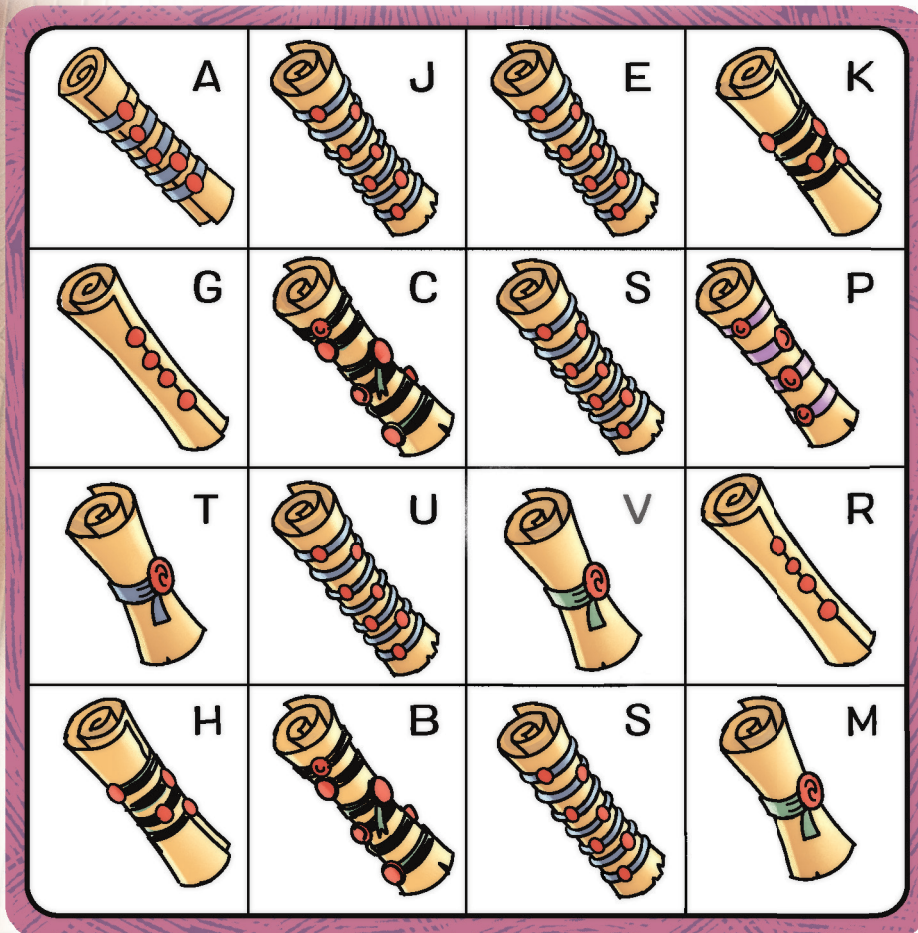
"You are worthy to receive
glory and honor and power,
because You have created all things."

Then John saw a scroll. A mighty angel asked, "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" John began to cry loudly because no one was worthy! One of the elders said, "Look! The Lion of Judah is able to open the scroll. He is worthy!"

Then John saw someone standing near the throne. He was like a slaughtered lamb. He took the scroll, and the elders and living creatures fell down before Jesus, the Lamb. John heard every creature everywhere worshipping the Lamb together.

Christ Connection: John cried when he saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll. Then John saw the resurrected Lamb—God's Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is worthy. He deserves all praise, honor, and blessing.

Who Is Worthy? | Find and circle the five scrolls that are the same. Then unscramble the letters on the scrolls to answer the question, who is worthy to open the scroll?



Praise Him! | Order the words on the crowns from the least number of gems to the most to fill in the missing spaces in the message.

_____ is the _____ who was
slaughtered to receive _____ and
riches and _____ and _____
and _____ and _____ and
_____!

NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

Jesus Is Worthy of Worship

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Jesus appeared to John and showed him what will happen before the end of time. John saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it.
- Four living creatures gave glory, honor, and thanks to the One on the throne.
- A mighty angel asked, “Who is worthy to open the scroll?” The Lion of Judah is able to open the scroll. He is worthy!

CHRIST CONNECTION:

John cried when he saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll. Then John saw the resurrected Lamb—God’s Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is worthy. He deserves all praise, honor, and blessing.

KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 21:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new.

