Group Guide

Lion/Lamb

December 20, 2026

Main Passage: Genesis 49:8-12; John 1:29; Revelation 5:5-6

Theological Theme

Jesus is both the Lion of Judah, powerful with royal authority, and the Lamb of God, the sacrifice that saves us.

Introduction

? When you think of Jesus, are you more likely to think of Him as a lion or a lamb?

? What do you know about how the Bible uses both of these pictures of Him?

1. The Scepter Will Not Depart (Genesis 49:8-12)

These verses come from a passage in which Jacob (Israel) bestowed a blessing upon his sons (from whom came the twelve tribes of Israel) at the end of his life. This portion of the text was Judah's blessing.

? How is Judah described in this passage?

? Where do we see lion imagery in this passage?

? What are some ways you see this imagery connected to Jesus during His time on earth and following His death and resurrection?

2. He Who Takes Away the Sin of the World (John 1:29)

In Genesis, we saw the image of the powerful lion. In John, we see an image of the gentle lamb.

? What does it mean for Jesus to be the "Lamb of God"?

What are some ways we might misunderstand this picture of Jesus?

How have you experienced Jesus's gentleness in your life?

3. The Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5-6)

We come full circle in this passage in Revelation. In Revelation 5, in the heavenly throne room, John saw a sealed scroll with writing on both sides, and just when he despaired because it looked as though no one would be worthy to open it, another emerged.

How is Jesus described in these verses?

How can Jesus embody both of these descriptions?

Why do we need Jesus to act as both lion and lamb on our behalf? Where do you feel most in need of Him now?

Conclusion

While Jesus did have the power and authority to conquer in every sense, He wasn't the military conqueror the people expected. Jesus conquered death and the grave and gave us the gift of eternal salvation through His work as the sacrificial lamb. He is the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" as John wrote in John 1:29. In the season of Advent, we celebrate that Jesus came to earth out of God's great love for us and worship Him as both the Lion and the Lamb.

What does our study today teach us about Christ and His character?

How can we encourage one another in the power and gentleness of Christ on our behalf?

Who is God calling you to share the truth about Christ with now?