Small Group notes: **Revelation 4 & 5** – 6 October 2019

Welcome
Who is the most famous person you have ever met? How did you react and why?
What is the most impressive building you have ever visited? How did it make you feel?

Word –Rev 4 & 5
Revelation 4 starts with an invitation. John is going to see many things over the next few chapters, and it will not be comfortable viewing. However, he is first granted a look into heaven. John sees rainbows, glass seas, lightning, 24 elders, seven torches, four animals and someone sitting upon a throne. We get two things from John's vision of heaven from chapter 4. Firstly, we see that Gods throne room is the control room of history. He is on his throne, and all things are subject to him. Whatever comes our way in the future, God is seated upon his throne and is ruling. Secondly, worship is the right and appropriate response to this knowledge and understanding of who God is. All of heaven and earth is represented in worship to this great God. It is right and appropriate that as the created, we give worship to our creator.

Rev 5 - Worthy is the Lamb
John sees the one who sits on the throne holding a scroll with seven seals. The Scroll contains the history of humanity and the world, and it is firmly shut. The imagery is the same as that of Ezekiel 2:9-10, Daniel 12 & Isaiah 29:11. In Daniel, the seals of the book must remain closed whereas in Revelation they are about to be opened. The last period of history has begun; we are in the end times! An angel proclaims, 'who is worthy to open the scroll'? No one comes forward! No one in heaven or on earth and under the earth could open the Scroll or even look inside it! Out of everyone who has ever been born and lived, not one of them is worthy? John begins to weep at this. An elder says do not weep, see the Lion of the tribe of Judah has triumphed. He is able to open the Scroll. John is told that a Lion has triumphed but what he sees is a Lamb. They are two very different animals for a start. The Lamb looks like it has been slaughtered. It also has seven horns and seven eyes.

- **Who is the Lamb?** Verse 6
The Lamb is Jesus the Messiah who was prophesied would come. Salvation is found in no one else.

- **What did the Lamb do?** Verse 9
He purchased men for God through his death on the cross and through his shed blood.

- **For whom did he do it?** Verse 9
For all. Every tribe, language, people and nation will be represented.

- **What does it mean for us?** Verse 10 –14
We have gone from slaves to servants and from rogues to royalty. Our salvation is secure.
We will reign with God on his earth. We will serve him as a kingdom of priests.
We will join with the rest of creation in worshipping the Lamb who is worthy.

Questions
- John's description of God: He has the appearance of Jasper and Carnelian – Rev 4:3
  Why is it not a more detailed description? How do you see God?
- John also tells us that a rainbow encircled the Heavenly Throne. – Rev 4:3
  How do other rainbows mentioned in scripture help us to understand this picture?
- What do the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures represent – Rev 4:4-8. How do they respond to Gods glory?
  What aspects of worship are emphasized? Do we worship in the same way today?
- How many hymns and worship songs can you think of which are based on – Revelation Chapters 4 & 5?
- What is in the Scroll that the one who is sitting on the throne is holding? – Rev 5v1
- Why does John weep? – Rev 5:4. What things make us weep when we think about the current state of our world?
- The Lion of Judah is proclaimed as worthy but a Lamb appears. Why? What are the differences between a Lion and a Lamb? What do each symbolize? 5v5&6
- John tells us that the Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes. What do these signify? – Rev 5:6
- Why are the Elders holding harps and bowels of incense in the presence of the Lamb – Rev 5:8?
- What does Jesus sacrifice mean for us? – Rev 5: 9-10

Response
If worship of God is a reaction evoked by a vision of God's glory and goodness, spend some time in prayer and meditation considering who Jesus is and what God has done.