



Topeka Bible Church
How to Grow a Disciple
"Connect #1: Connect Widely"
Community Group Study Questions
Revelation 5:9-10 and selected passages

1. Do you typically think of the church (i.e. the body of Christ) as being homogeneous or diverse? Given God's sovereign rule over all people (*Psalm 24:1; Job 41:11; 2 Chronicles 29:11*), why is diversity within the body of Christ appropriate?
2. While the church experiences diversity across races, ages, etc., what factor unites the body of Christ together (*Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Colossians 1:18*)? Would you say that the church is characterized by diversity? Unity? Both?
3. The nation of Israel was hand-selected by God to be His special covenant people (*Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 7:6*). In light of this fact, do you ever thank God for including Gentiles (non-Jews) in His plan of salvation and redemption (*Ephesians 2:11-13; 1 Peter 2:9-10*)?
4. Where does Jesus stand in relation to the four living creatures and the elders (*Revelation 5:6*)? How do they respond when He takes the scroll from Him sitting on the throne (*Revelation 5:7-8; Psalm 95:6-7; Isaiah 45:22-23*)?

5. What is a “new song” and why do these beings sing this song when Jesus takes the scroll (*Revelation 5:9; Psalm 98:1*)? Why is Jesus the only one worthy to open the seals of the scroll (*John 1:29; Colossians 1:19-22*)? Whom did Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, purchase through His shed blood (*Revelation 5:9; John 3:16*)?

6. Do you think about what heaven will be like? Does the description of heaven in *Revelation 5:9-10* inspire you (see also *Revelation 7:9-10; Philippians 2:9-11*)? How does the diversity of people in heaven (which is a future reality) dictate what the church should look like today (which is a present reality)?

7. How can you connect with people of all different backgrounds, life stages, races, ages, etc. here at TBC? Have you ever tried to connect with others in a class, Bible Study, Community Group, missions trip, etc.? What holds you back from connecting widely with others who are different than you are?

Memory Verse:

“And they *sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’”
(Revelation 5:9, NASB)