

LION AND LAMB

One of the elders said to me, "... See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed...." Then I saw a Lamb.

—Revelation 5:5-6

INTRODUCTION

Let's pretend you're an author writing a novel. You're trying to think of a good way to describe your characters—how they look, how they act, what kind of personality they have. You want to do it in a way that's interesting but will also quickly show readers what the characters are like. So instead of writing something like, "He was large and strong," you decide to write, "He was an ox." And instead of writing, "She was very stubborn and uncooperative," you write, "She was a mule." This is called a *metaphor*.

Jesus sometimes used metaphors when he talked about people. He once referred to a man as a "fox" because the man was cunning and sly. He called the Pharisees "snakes" because they were loathsome and dangerous. What's more, the Bible uses metaphors to describe Jesus! These metaphors help us understand who Jesus is and what he is like.

Today's devotion is based on Revelation 5:5-6, in which the apostle John wrote, "One of the elders said to me, '... See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed....' Then I saw a Lamb." The devotion is called "Lion and Lamb."

DEVOTION

Gavin shielded his eyes against the blizzard. Suddenly Bryce slumped in the snow. "Just leave me."

Gavin shouted, "No!" Pulling his brother up, Gavin dragged him forward.

Then he saw their house through the snow. And he heard their mom call, "Lunchtime!" Gavin dropped Bryce, and they raced to the door, laughing. Their mom said, "I'm glad you're enjoying your 'arctic expedition.' It may be your last one this winter. The month of March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb."

Bryce kicked off his boots. "What does that mean?"

Smiling, his mom replied, "It means that when March arrives, it's wintry and powerful, like a lion. But by the time it leaves, it's springlike and mild, like a lamb."

Jesus is a lion, strong and mighty. He's also a lamb, gentle and meek. You can see both his strength and his meekness in John 18:1-13. With three words, Jesus knocked a bunch of soldiers to the ground. Yet he let them arrest him so he could die to save the world. When you worship Jesus, remember that he is the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God.

WORDS TO TREASURE

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

—*Revelation 5:12*

QUESTIONS

1. What metaphor would you use to describe yourself? You can use any kind of metaphor; it doesn't have to be an animal one. Maybe you're a river or a sports car or a tree!
2. When the Bible calls Jesus a lamb, what words do you think of that would describe him?

Answers include: meek, mild, humble, gentle, obedient ...

3. When the Bible calls Jesus a lion, what words do you think of that would describe him?

Answers include: strong, majestic, kingly, fearsome ...

4. Does it make sense to you that Jesus is called both a lion and a lamb? How is it possible for both metaphors to be true?

The answer is: each metaphor helps us understand different qualities about Jesus and how he acts at different times.

5. Can you think of any other metaphors the Bible uses to describe Jesus? What about God the Father? What about the Holy Spirit?

Answers include: "cornerstone" and "capstone" for Jesus; "rock" and "fortress" for God the Father; and "wind," "water," and "fire" for the Holy Spirit.

6. What do these metaphors teach you about each of them?

Consider spending some time playing a game or doing an exercise to help children memorize the "Words to Treasure" Scripture verse.