



News Story Summary

In 2016, the United States will elect a new president. As of July 29, 2015, there were 21 declared candidates between the two major parties. The Associated Press smartphone app has a “candidate tracker” button, in which you can compare each candidate’s experience in various categories: presidential administrations; Senate; House of Representatives; state/local government; private sector; military; and education. One candidate has 47 years of experience in the private sector but none in the military, and another candidate with 33 years of experience in the military has none in Congress, and so on. This is just one of a multitude of different ways to compare candidates, all in an attempt to help us decide who is worthy or the most qualified.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using phrases such as “candidate tracker” or “presidential candidate comparison.”)

Focus Attention

Before the group arrives, write, “Experience,” “Values,” “Name recognition,” and “Voting record” on the board. As the group arrives, invite them to guess how many candidates have declared their candidacy for the upcoming presidential election. Reveal the answer from the above news story (21), and comment on whether people guessed too high or too low. Ask, “With all these candidates, how will you decide who is worthy to be President?” Point out the categories you wrote on the board. Share the criteria mentioned in the news story. Invite class members to add any other criteria. Ask: Which credential carries the most weight for you? (Note: be careful to keep the discussion on a credential category.)

Introduce today’s Bible passage by pointing out that there was a point in which the Apostle John wept because he didn’t think there would be anyone found worthy to open the scrolls containing God’s judgment. But he quickly realized that there is One who is worthy. He will be the focus of today’s study. Encourage group members to be listening for ways in which the Lamb is worthy.

Challenge

Remind group members of the opening illustration. Point out that while a presidential election is very important, a president will still only serve two terms--eight years-- at the most. But Jesus will reign forever. And He reigns over “every tribe and people and nation,” (verse 9), not just our country. Jesus is worthy. Emphasize that regardless of what happens in the next election, Christ is on His throne and should be praised as such.