

SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

WEEK TWO: JESUS IS THE LAMB

READING

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 He is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’ 31 I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 Then John testified, “I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. 33 I didn’t know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.” John 1 (NLT)

TEACHING

In this passage, we meet another John. This is not the John who wrote this book. This is John the Baptist – he was Jesus’ cousin. And God gave John the Baptist a very special job.

John went before Jesus to tell everyone that Jesus was coming – he prepared the way for Jesus. John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” That’s a pretty weird nickname. What does it mean?

When John called Jesus “the Lamb of God,” his listeners would have known what it meant. In the Old Testament (which is the first half of the Bible), God’s people needed a way to be forgiven of their sins. Maybe you’re wondering, “What is sin?” Sin is loving anything more than Jesus – and they sinned a lot. And so do we!

God wants us to be with him, but sin separates us from God – that is a big problem! Here’s the good news: God made a way for our sins to be forgiven. In the Old Testament times, the people of God sacrificed animals – like lambs. That sacrifice would make them right before God – for a little while. Then they would sin again and they would need to make more sacrifices.

But Jesus came as the Lamb of God to offer the final and perfect sacrifice – once and for all. His death gives us life and his sacrifice is the only one we ever need. That’s why John the Baptist said that Jesus was “far greater” than himself. Because Jesus came to do for John—and for you and me—what we could not do for ourselves. He came to take away our sins. Our right response is to place our trust and hope in Jesus, the Lamb of God.

RESPONSE

OPENING QUESTION(S):

SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

- John the Baptist had a very special job. What job do you want to have when you are older?
- If you already have a job, what is your favorite thing about that job? Least favorite?

TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- Who is THE LAMB OF GOD?
- What is one thing you learned about Jesus today?

CHILDREN:

- Who is THE LAMB OF GOD?
- What is sin? What is the problem with sin?
- How were people in the OT forgiven of their sin?
- How can you and I be forgiven of our sins?

TEENAGERS:

- What is sin? What is the problem with sin?
- How were people in the OT forgiven of their sin?
- How can you and I be forgiven of our sins?
- What does it mean to trust and hope in Jesus, the Lamb of God?

ADULTS:

- What types of sacrifices do I make to try to make myself right with God on my own? Why don't those sacrifices work?
- What is one area of my life that I need to learn more to trust Jesus?

PRAYER

God, thank you for sending Jesus, the Lamb of God. Thank you that Jesus lived the life I could not live, died the death I could not die – and did both in my place. Thank you that the Lamb of God lives now forever and that because of that I have the hope of eternal life with you. Help me to trust in what Jesus did so that I can love Him more than anything else in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

In this passage, we see the Trinity at work: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Take some time to read through the passage and identify where each member of the godhead is at work.

In this passage, Jesus is baptized in water. Read Matthew 3:13-17 for another account of the water baptism and notice what God the Father says about God the Jesus. Why do you think Jesus needed to hear that? Why do we need to hear that? How can we remind ourselves of that truth every day?