

# THE LAMB OF GOD

## LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES —

1. John the Baptist's story shows how a person can understand and accept their role in the Kingdom and then fulfill it.
2. When someone looked at John the Baptist, they saw Jesus. What do people see when they look at me?

## THE SCRIPTURES

*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup>This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him. <sup>33</sup>I would not have known Him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."* - John 1:29-34

## THE ROLE OF THE LAMB

- The image of the lamb would be very familiar to John's audience.
 

*"Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "'God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together."* - Genesis 22:7,8
- It is the role of the lamb to die so that others might live.
 

*"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar: it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life."* - Leviticus 17:11
- The scope of the sacrifice of the lamb grows.
  - One lamb... one person —
 

*"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."* - Genesis 3:21
  - One lamb... one family —
 

*"Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household... <sup>6</sup> Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight."* - Exodus 12:3,6
  - One lamb... one nation —
 

*"This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old. <sup>39</sup> Offer one in the morning and the other at twilight..."* - Exodus 29:38,39

- One lamb... the world —

*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* - John 1:29

- The need for the sacrifice of the Lamb still exists today.

*"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth: He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth."* - Isaiah 53:6,7

## JOHN POINTS THE WAY TO THE LAMB

- John knew the misconception about him...
  - ...and his responsibility to set the record straight.
- John shares the "secret" he learned while baptizing Jesus.
 

*"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him."* - Matthew 3:16
- The very act of baptizing found John foreshadowing the sacrifice of the Lamb.
  - His death
  - His burial
  - His resurrection

## JESUS IS THE LAMB!

- John had received divine revelation that Jesus is the Christ.
 

*"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD..."* - Isaiah 11:1,2
- We have received revelation that Jesus is the Christ.
- For the sixth time, John says, "It's Him!"

## FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

1. What would my life look like if I really understood sacrifice? (especially sacrifice needed for my own sin)
2. How can I best emulate the humility I see modeled in John the Baptist?
3. How can I most clearly and effectively reveal to those around me that Jesus is the Christ?
4. How often does my life testify that Jesus is the Lamb? Am I annoyingly consistent?

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