



# *Walking With the Savior*

## *Through An Eyewitness Account of John*

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come.

### *Joining John on the Journey with Jesus*

Let us prepare ourselves for a spiritual journey by putting on our spiritual walking shoes, ready to walk alongside John as he follows Jesus. This journey invites us to witness, through John's eyes, the teachings and miracles of Jesus, and to experience the transformative impact of faith and devotion. By joining John, we are encouraged to open our hearts to the message of Jesus and to be inspired by the life-changing decisions that shaped John's path as a disciple. As we take each step with John, we become participants in a story that continues to inspire and guide believers in their walk with the Savior.

## *Background Matters*

**John** identified **Jesus** as **the Lamb of God** (cf. 1:36; 1 Peter 1:19). The connection to the Old Testament sacrifices is probably general. The sin offering which bore the sins of the nation on the Day of Atonement was a goat (Lev. 16). Daily offerings were normally lambs, but they did not atone for sin. The Passover lamb (Ex. 12) and Isaiah's mention of the Messiah's likeness to a lamb (Isa. 53:7) may



have been in John's mind. John, by the Holy Spirit, saw Jesus as the sacrificial Victim who was to die for **the sin of the world** (cf. Isa. 53:12).

1:30–31. John repeated here what he had said earlier about Jesus (vv. 15, 27). John's fame was to be superseded by that of Jesus, whose priority stems from His preexistence: **He was before me**. But why did John say, I myself did not know **Him**? Though John and Jesus were related, as Mary and Elizabeth were relatives (Luke 1:36), nothing is known of any contacts between them in their years of childhood and adolescence. John did not know that Jesus was the coming One until He was revealed by the Father. All John knew was that he was to prepare the way for Him by **baptizing with water**. God would send His Man **to Israel** in His good time.

1:32. The baptism of Jesus is not recorded in John's Gospel, but the material of the Synoptic Gospels is assumed (see "John's Distinctive Portrait" in the *Introduction*). The Fourth Gospel does not state that this descent of **the Spirit** like **a dove** occurred at Jesus' baptism. The significant thing is that the invisible Spirit came **from heaven** and manifested Himself in a bodily (dovelike) form. John saw the Spirit as a dove **remain on** Jesus (cf. Isa. 11:2; Mark 1:10).

1:33. John had been **told** by God (**the One who sent** him) that when this sign of the dove would occur, the Person so marked out by the Spirit's coming and presence would be the One who would **baptize** by that same **Holy Spirit**. Cleansing by water is one thing, but the cleansing produced by the Spirit is of another order. Later at Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, the baptism with the Holy Spirit brought in a new Age (Acts 1:5; 2:1–3), the Church Age, the "Age of the Spirit" (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13).

1:34. John's testimony was **that this is the Son of God**. The prophesied Davidic King was God's Son (2 Sam. 7:13), and the messianic King is uniquely the Son of God (Ps. 2:7). The title "Son of God" goes beyond the idea of obedience and messianic King to that of Jesus' essential nature.<sup>1</sup>

**Lamb of God** a name given to Jesus. In the Old Testament, a lamb was sacrificed on Passover for the sins of the people. Like a sacrificial lamb, Jesus gave his life on Passover to save people from their sins (Isa. 53:7; John 1:29).<sup>2</sup>

*This Week in Walking With the Savior, The term "Lamb of God" is a profound designation attributed to Jesus, symbolizing innocence and sacrifice. In the context of the Old Testament, a lamb held significant meaning as it was sacrificed during Passover, representing a vital ritual for the atonement of the people's sins. This act of offering a lamb not only underscored the gravity of sin but also highlighted the hope for redemption and divine mercy within the community. Jesus is our Lamb.*

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<sup>1</sup> Edwin A. Blum, "John," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 274–275.

<sup>2</sup> *GOD'S WORD Translation* (Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group, 1995).



Take a couple of weeks to enjoy working on this study guide—it's a great way to learn!

## Jesus, the Lamb of God

### John 1:29–34

Topics:

Forgiveness, History, Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, Messiah, Name, Security, Sin, World

**STUDY GUIDE 3** *This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your **growth in the Word**. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.*

**Open It, Mondays.** Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. \*What can you infer from someone's title, such as Doctor, Professor, or Prince?

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**Explore It,** Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. \*Why did John call Jesus the Lamb of God? (1:29)

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3. What are the sins of the world? (1:29)

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4. What does Jesus do with the sins of the world? (1:29)

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5. \*What did John mean that Jesus surpassed him because He was before him? (1:30)

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6. How was Jesus before John? (1:30)

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7. Why did John say he didn't know who Jesus was? (1:31)

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8. What reason did John give for baptizing Jesus? (1:31)

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9. Why did John come to baptize people? (1:31)

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**Push on Wednesday,** keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

10. What creature represented the Spirit of God? (1:32)

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11. Why did the Spirit come down upon Jesus? (1:33)

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12. With what did John baptize? (1:31, 33)

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13. With what will Jesus baptize? (1:33)

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14. \*What title did John ascribe to the person he baptized? (1:34)

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15. What sin of yours has Jesus taken away?

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16. \*How do we receive the forgiveness that Christ bought for us?

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**Get It Thursdays**, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. In what way do you share Jesus' identity as a child of God?

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18. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?

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19. \*How does Jesus baptize us?

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20. \*How can you honor Jesus' Sonship with your life this week?

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**Drive it Home, Fridays**, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

21. What steps can you take to appreciate better who Jesus is?

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22. In what way can you reveal Christ to others this week?

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*A Journey Through The Gospel of John* **2026**

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