



Preparing for Small Group: Read the passage below, and answer the following questions.

- (1) What do these verses tell me about God?
 - (2) What do these verses tell me about sinful humanity?
 - (3) What do these verses tell me about Jesus?
 - (4) What does God want me to know?
 - (5) What does God want me to do?
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“The Lamb of God”

John 1:29

Jesus was sacrificed for your sin (29).

After baptizing Jesus and seeing and hearing all that John had heard, John looked at Jesus one day and exclaimed: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” To the modern ear, that sounds strange. What in the world did John mean when he identified Jesus as a lamb? What does being a lamb have to do with taking away sin? The answers to these questions would have been clear to the Jewish ear in the day of Jesus, and the answers to these questions become in Exodus 12 when God established the Passover with the people of Israel. In preparation for the final plague that God would bring against Egypt, God commanded each family in Israel to sacrifice a lamb and to put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes. When the plague came to take the lives of the firstborn in Egypt, only the homes with the blood of a lamb on its doorposts would be passed over. This was God’s protection for His people against His judgement for the sin of Egypt. John realized that Jesus was the Lamb that God was providing as the sacrifice for the sins of His people. Jesus was the Lamb of God whose sacrifice would provide protection from the judgment of God through the forgiveness of God. Jesus was sacrificed for your sin!

1. Read Exodus 12:1-28. Discuss the purpose of the sacrificial lamb as well as its application, related to Jesus, in the words of John.
2. How was Jesus the Lamb “of God?” Why did God have to provide the Lamb to be sacrificed? What are some passages in Scripture that answer these questions?
3. If His sacrifice was for the sin of the world, then how does that apply to you? Have you come to the place where you truly understand that Jesus was sacrificed for you? If so, when, and how? Share your testimony. If not, why not? Share, and discuss.

Jesus’ sacrifice was a substitute for the death you deserved because of your sin (29).

It’s impossible to understand the need for a lamb to be sacrificed until you understand the seriousness of your sin. There’s no such thing as a “little white lie,” or a sin that’s “really not that bad.” What people may consider the “smallest” of sins, are still sins against a holy, righteous, and perfect God. The seriousness of sin isn’t primarily connected to the specific act of sin. The seriousness of sin is primarily connected to the One we sin against: God! As a result, the consequences of sin are death! God makes it clear that what we earn for our sin is death, which is not just physical death but is also spiritual death. Jesus’ sacrifice for your sin could only

be for your sin if His sacrifice was for you! Jesus sacrifice was a substitute for the death you deserved because of your sin. Thank God that Jesus was the Lamb of God for the people of God!

1. Read Romans 6:23. Discuss what this verse says about sin. What is a wage? What does death mean?
2. Read Hebrews 9:22. Discuss what this verse says. Why is this the case?
3. Read Isaiah 53:6. How does this apply to your discussion?
4. How do all of these truths connect to the importance and application of Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice for sin?

Jesus's sacrifice fulfilled all God required for the forgiveness of your sin (29).

John's declaration wasn't just an issue of identity, but it was a proclamation of purpose. Jesus was the Lamb of God, and His purpose was to take away the sin of the world. God's declaration through the work of Jesus is that that's exactly what was accomplished! Being the sinless, perfect sacrifice for our sin, Jesus did what you and I couldn't do. Being the Son of God sent to save the people of God, Jesus did what you and I couldn't do, take on the wrath of God against the sin of all His people. Jesus' sacrifice was declared as victory once for all (Hebrews 7:27). Jesus' sacrifice was declared sufficient for the salvation of God's people through the loving grace of God (Romans 5:8-9). Jesus' sacrifice was declared eternally complete by the vision of the future for the people of God (Revelation 5:12). Jesus' sacrifice fulfilled all God required for the forgiveness of your sin.

1. Read Hebrews 7:27 and 1 Peter 3:18. Discuss what this verse says about the sacrifice of Jesus. What does this mean, and how does this relate to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets?
2. Read Romans 5:8-9. Discuss these verses. Apply these verses to your lives through the gift of your faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Read Revelation 5:12. Discuss the confidence and strength that these verses provide to the followers of Jesus today.
4. Do you know someone who needs to know the Lamb of God? Do you know someone who needs their sins forgiven? Pray for them now, and commit to proclaim the Lamb of God to them this coming week!