

John – Week 7 – The Lamb of God – Bible Study Helps

Title: Behold the Lamb of God: Jesus Christ as the Ultimate Sacrifice

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores John the Baptist's profound declaration of Jesus as "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." The message traces the biblical theme of the lamb throughout Scripture, demonstrating how Old Testament sacrifices consistently pointed forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice. The pastor emphasizes that Jesus is not merely a lamb among many, but THE Lamb of God who provides complete and permanent atonement for sin. The sermon also clarifies the doctrine of Christ as the Son of God, explaining that this title affirms His deity and equality with God the Father. Additionally, the message distinguishes between seven different types of baptism found in Scripture, particularly focusing on the baptism of the Holy Spirit that occurs at salvation. The overarching call is for believers to recognize the incredible gift of salvation through Christ and to fulfill their purpose of sharing the gospel with a lost world.

Key Points:

- John the Baptist's role was to prepare the way for Christ and bear witness that Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Son of God
- The lamb as a sacrifice appears throughout the Old Testament, always pointing prophetically to Jesus Christ
- God shed the first blood in Genesis 3 when He clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins after their sin
- Abel's acceptable sacrifice was a lamb, while Cain's works-based offering was rejected
- Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac on Mount Moriah foreshadowed God's provision of His own Son as the ultimate sacrifice
- The Passover lamb in Exodus prefigured Christ as our Passover, whose blood protects believers from eternal death
- Christ's sacrifice was once and for all, unlike Old Testament sacrifices that had to be repeated continually
- There are seven distinct baptisms in Scripture: baptism of Moses, baptism of John, baptism of Jesus, baptism of fire, baptism of the Holy Spirit, baptism of the cross, and believer's baptism
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a spiritual baptism that occurs at salvation, sealing believers eternally
- Calling Jesus the Son of God means He is equal with God, possessing the same divine nature
- False teachers like Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses distort the meaning of Christ as the Son of God
- Believers exist to bear witness to Christ, make disciples, and preach the gospel to a lost world

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Scripture Reference:

- John 1:15-34 (primary passage)
- Genesis 3:21 (God clothing Adam and Eve)
- Genesis 4:1-5 (Cain and Abel's offerings)
- Genesis 22:1-14 (Abraham and Isaac)
- Exodus 12:1-13 (The Passover)
- Hebrews 9:19-28 (Christ's once-for-all sacrifice)
- Hebrews 10:1-14 (The insufficiency of Old Testament sacrifices)
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 (Baptism by one Spirit into one body)
- John 5:15-18 (Jesus claiming equality with God)
- Matthew 3:13-17 (Jesus' baptism)

Stories:

- Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden and God's provision of animal skin coverings, representing the first blood sacrifice
- Cain and Abel's offerings to God, illustrating the difference between acceptable sacrifice (lamb) and rejected works (produce)
- Abraham's test of faith when God commanded him to sacrifice Isaac, with God providing a ram as a substitute
- The Passover in Egypt when the blood of lambs on doorposts protected Israelite households from the death angel
- Joshua leading Israel across the Jordan River at the same location where John the Baptist later baptized
- The pastor's encounter at a high school play with a man who had stopped attending church, illustrating divine appointments for witnessing
- The Moravian missionaries, particularly two young men who sold themselves into slavery to preach the gospel to unreachable slaves, declaring "May the lamb that was slain receive the reward of his suffering"
- The fiery furnace account from Daniel 3 where Nebuchadnezzar saw one "like the Son of God" with the three Hebrew men

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Discipleship Questions

How does understanding Jesus as the Lamb of God change the way you view Old Testament sacrificial stories like Abraham and Isaac or the Passover?

John the Baptist's entire purpose was to point others to Christ. In what specific ways can you make your life more about pointing others to Jesus rather than drawing attention to yourself?

The sermon mentions that the Lamb of God takes away sin, not just covers it temporarily. How does this permanent removal of sin impact your daily walk with God and your assurance of salvation?

Why do you think God chose the symbol of a lamb throughout Scripture to represent Jesus, and what does this teach us about His character and the nature of salvation?

The message states that Jesus died for the whole world, yet not everyone is saved. How do you reconcile God's universal provision with individual responsibility to receive Christ?

What does it mean practically that you have been baptized by the Holy Spirit at salvation, and how should this reality affect the way you live each day?

The sermon emphasizes that calling Jesus the Son of God means He is equal with God, not a created being. Why is this distinction crucial for our faith and how we share the gospel?

If the two Moravian missionaries were willing to sell themselves into slavery to share the gospel, what sacrifices is God calling you to make for the sake of reaching the lost?

How can understanding the seven different baptisms in Scripture help you better explain salvation and discipleship to someone who is confused about what baptism means?

The pastor says we exist to bring God glory and make disciples. What would need to change in your priorities and daily schedule for this to become the driving purpose of your life?

Small Group Discussion Guide

"The Lamb of God" - John 1:29-34

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking someone to pray, thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: What's one Old Testament story that has become more meaningful to you as you've grown in your faith? Why?

Sermon Review (10 minutes)

Key Passage: John 1:29-34

Main Points:

1. **The Lamb** - Jesus Christ as God's sacrifice for sin
2. **The Testimony** - John the Baptist's witness to Christ
3. **The Son of God** - Jesus as God manifest in flesh

Discussion Questions (40-50 minutes)

Understanding the Lamb of God

1. The sermon walked through several Old Testament "lamb" stories (Genesis 3, Genesis 4, Genesis 22, Exodus 12). Which of these resonated most with you and why?

Leader note: Allow multiple people to share. This helps reinforce how the Old Testament points to Christ.

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2. Read Hebrews 9:26 and 10:12. How does understanding that Jesus offered Himself "once for all" change the way you view His sacrifice compared to the Old Testament sacrificial system?

Key insight: The finality and completeness of Christ's sacrifice should bring security and gratitude.

3. The sermon mentioned that in Revelation, Jesus is repeatedly called "the Lamb." Why do you think this title is so important in heaven? What does it tell us about what should be important to us now?

The Seven Baptisms

4. The sermon outlined seven different baptisms in Scripture. Which ones were new to you? Why is it important to distinguish between them?

The seven baptisms:

- *Baptism of Moses (1 Cor 10:1-2)*
- *Baptism of John the Baptist (water)*
- *Baptism of Jesus (His example)*
- *Baptism of Fire (judgment)*
- *Baptism of the Holy Spirit (spiritual - at salvation)*
- *Baptism of the Cross (suffering/martyrdom)*
- *Believer's Baptism (obedience after salvation)*

5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 and Ephesians 1:13. How does understanding that you've been "baptized" and "sealed" by the Holy Spirit at salvation impact your assurance of salvation?

6. If you've been baptized by immersion after trusting Christ, what did that experience mean to you? If you haven't, what's holding you back from this act of obedience?

Leader note: Be sensitive here. Some may need encouragement to take this step.

The Son of God

7. Read John 5:17-18. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus for calling God His Father? What does this tell us about what "Son of God" really means?

Key point: The Jews understood He was claiming equality with God.

8. The sermon warned about false teachings (Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses) regarding Jesus as the "Son of God." Why is it crucial to understand that Jesus is "God the Son" - fully God in human form?

9. How would you explain to someone that Jesus is both fully God and fully man? Why does this matter for our salvation?

Personal Reflection (10-15 minutes)

Choose one or two questions for personal reflection, then share with the group:

1. **Gratitude Check:** When was the last time you really meditated on what the Lamb of God did for you personally? How does your daily life reflect gratitude for His sacrifice?
2. **Witness Assessment:** John the Baptist's entire purpose was to point people to Jesus. On a scale of 1-10, how well are you fulfilling this same purpose in your daily life?
3. **Doctrine Clarity:** If someone asked you to explain who Jesus is, could you clearly articulate that He is God in human flesh? What would you say?
4. **The Moravian Challenge:** The sermon ended with the story of Moravian missionaries who sold themselves into slavery to preach the gospel, saying "May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering." What sacrifice is God calling you to make for the sake of the gospel?

Practical Application (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose at least ONE of the following to put into practice:

1. Study and Share

- Pick one of the Old Testament "lamb" stories (Genesis 22 or Exodus 12)
- Study it this week with the lens of how it points to Jesus
- Share what you learned with one person (family member, friend, or coworker)

2. Clarify Your Testimony

- Write out your testimony focusing on how you came to understand Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away sin
- Practice sharing it in 3 minutes or less
- Ask God for one opportunity this week to share it

3. Disciple or Be Discipled

- If you're a mature believer: Identify one person you could begin meeting with to disciple
- If you're a newer believer: Ask someone to meet with you regularly to grow in your faith

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- Take action this week to set up the first meeting

4. Baptism Follow-Through

- If you've trusted Christ but haven't been baptized, talk to a pastor or leader about taking this step of obedience
- If you have been baptized, reach out to someone you know who is saved but hasn't been baptized and encourage them

5. Gospel Intentionality

- The sermon reminded us that "there are no coincidences" - we're placed where we are for gospel purposes
- Identify 3 people in your regular life (work, neighborhood, family) who don't know Christ
- Pray for them daily by name this week
- Ask God for an opportunity to share the gospel with at least one of them

Group Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

1. **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for sending the Lamb to take away the sin of the world
2. **Intercession:** Pray for specific unsaved people by name that group members mentioned
3. **Boldness:** Pray for courage to be witnesses like John the Baptist - pointing people to Jesus
4. **Clarity:** Pray for discernment to recognize false teaching and ability to articulate true doctrine
5. **Urgency:** Pray for hearts burdened for the lost, recognizing that time is short

Prayer Method:

- Have each person share one specific prayer request related to the sermon
- Go around and have different people pray for the requests shared

Memory Verse for the Week

John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Before Next Week

- Read John 1:35-51 in preparation for the next study
- Follow through on your chosen practical application
- Be prepared to share what God taught you through it

Leader Notes

Preparation:

- Review the sermon and this guide thoroughly before your meeting
- Pray for each group member by name
- Be prepared to share your own applications and struggles
- Have extra Bibles available for those who may need them

Facilitation Tips:

- Keep the discussion moving but don't rush meaningful conversation
- If someone dominates, gently redirect: "That's great, let's hear from someone who hasn't shared yet"
- If the group gets off track, kindly bring them back to the question
- Be vulnerable yourself - share your own need for growth
- End on time to respect people's schedules

Follow-Up:

- Check in with group members during the week about their applications
- Reach out to anyone who seemed particularly impacted or struggling
- Celebrate any gospel conversations or steps of obedience taken

"May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering." - Moravian Missionaries

5-Day Devotional: Behold the Lamb of God

Day 1: The First Blood Shed

Reading: Genesis 3:1-21

Devotional: In the garden, humanity's first sin required the first sacrifice. When Adam and Eve sinned, God Himself shed blood to cover their shame with coats of skins. This wasn't just practical provision—it was prophetic proclamation. From the very beginning, God established that sin requires a blood sacrifice. Their fig leaves of self-effort were insufficient; only God's provision could cover their guilt. This foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Like Adam and Eve, we cannot cover our own sin through good works or religious effort. We need God's provision—the blood of the Lamb. Have you tried covering your shame with fig leaves of your own making, or have you accepted God's perfect covering through Christ?

Day 2: The Acceptable Sacrifice

Reading: Genesis 4:1-16

Devotional: Two brothers, two offerings, two eternally different outcomes. Cain brought the fruit of his hands—impressive, sincere, but unacceptable. Abel brought a lamb from his flock—the sacrifice God required. This reveals a fundamental truth: there are only two religions in the world—God's way and man's way. Cain's anger at God's rejection reveals the pride in every human heart that wants to approach God on our own terms. But God has established the terms of acceptance, and it's always through blood sacrifice, ultimately fulfilled in Christ. Many today, like Cain, bring their good works, their sincerity, their religious activities, expecting God to accept them. But God looks for the lamb. Have you come to God through the Lamb He provided, or are you still trying to impress Him with the works of your hands?

Day 3: God Will Provide Himself a Lamb

Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

Devotional: Abraham's knife raised over Isaac captures one of Scripture's most profound prophetic moments. For three days, Isaac was as good as dead—foreshadowing Christ's three days in the tomb. Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice, just as Jesus carried His cross. When Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb?" Abraham prophesied, "God will provide Himself a lamb." This statement holds double meaning: God would provide the sacrifice Himself, and God would provide Himself as the sacrifice. The ram caught in the thicket saved Isaac that day, but it pointed to the greater Ram who would save the world. God named that place Jehovah-Jireh—the Lord provides. Two thousand years later, on that same mountain range, God provided His only Son as the ultimate sacrifice. What Isaac experienced in type, Jesus experienced in reality—for you.

Day 4: When I See the Blood

Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Devotional: The Passover reveals God's justice and mercy in perfect balance. Every firstborn in Egypt would die that night—judgment was coming. But God provided an escape: a lamb's blood applied to the doorposts. The death angel didn't ask about good works, religious knowledge, or sincere intentions. He looked for one thing: blood. Where he saw blood, death passed over. This wasn't symbolic—real lambs died so real people could live. Paul declares, "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." The blood of Jesus, applied to your life by faith, causes God's judgment to pass over you. But notice: the blood had to be applied. It wasn't enough for the lamb to die; the blood had to be personally appropriated. Have you applied the blood of Christ to your life through faith? God's judgment is coming; only the blood provides safety.

Day 5: Behold the Lamb of God

Reading: John 1:29-34

Devotional: When John the Baptist declared, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world," every Jew understood the weight of those words. They'd heard about the lamb in Eden, seen Abel's acceptable sacrifice, remembered Abraham's provision, and celebrated Passover annually. Now John announces that all those lambs were pointing to this Man—Jesus Christ. Unlike the repeated sacrifices that only covered sin temporarily, this Lamb would take away sin forever. The word is "taketh away," not "covereth." This is the final, complete, eternal solution to humanity's sin problem. Jesus didn't come to make bad people good; He came to make dead people alive. He is the Lamb of God—God's provision, God's sacrifice, God Himself. The question isn't whether the sacrifice is sufficient; it's whether you will behold Him, believe Him, and receive Him. Have you beheld the Lamb?