

## Come, See the Lamb

John 1:19-34 & John 1:35-51

Jan. 7 & 11

**Unit Verse: "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NLT)**

### The Point:

Jesus calls us to Abundant Life.

#### **MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

The assigned texts describe two days in the beginning of Jesus' ministry. John (in other Gospels called "the Baptist"), who had his own ministry calling for repentance and baptizing in the Jordan River, was standing with some of his own followers when he saw Jesus and proclaimed Jesus to be the Lamb of God. John prepares the way and calls others to come and see as they encounter the Messiah.

#### **STORY SUMMARY: Come, See the Lamb**

John travels the country, preparing for Jesus' arrival. John corrects the assumption by many of his followers that he is the messiah for whom they wait. Over and over again, he corrects their misinterpretation by pointing to the coming of Jesus, the true Messiah. John is the lowly one, the servant, unworthy of even untying the sandals of Jesus. John clarifies that his baptism is a baptism of water, while Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John is merely the messenger, while Jesus is the Lamb of God, the one who will cleanse them from their sins. He shares what he has seen: that the Holy Spirit rests with Jesus. Many of those who saw Jesus named him as the Messiah. John called Jesus "the Lamb of God." Andrew found his brother and said that they had found the Messiah. Philip told Nathanael that they had found the one "about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote" (John 1:45). Nathanael responded to Jesus by calling him the Son of God and the King of Israel. All these titles identify Jesus as the promised Messiah the one for whom many had been waiting for a long time. However, seeing Jesus and naming him was not enough for these men. After they met Jesus, they became his disciples. The word "disciple" means "student." At this time, the disciples of a rabbi (teacher) were not there to learn facts and figures, but to learn the rabbi's way of thinking and acting.

#### **THE POINT: As disciples we follow Jesus, the Lamb of God.**

John's purpose was to prepare the people for the revelation of Jesus as Messiah. As John testifies about whom he knows Jesus to be, we too are called to testify about Jesus as God's promised Savior. Like John, we can point people to Jesus. That does not mean we have no questions about following Jesus. It is as the first disciples begin to follow Jesus and learn whom he really is that their trust deepens. The same is true with us. It is as we continue to follow Jesus and seek to live as his disciples, that our trust deepens and our lives better reflect his teachings and the good news of God's redemption.

#### **BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: Gospels**

The word "gospel" means "good news" and is used to describe the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. People often find it difficult to understand how four writers who are essentially telling the same story can take such different viewpoints. Readers must take into consideration the personality and focus of each individual writer, the culture of the day, the circumstances in which each lived, and the audience to whom each wrote. Much as witnesses to an event may have different accounts based on where they were standing and what affected them the most, the Gospel writers have a different perspective and view to the story of Jesus. By

including all four Gospels in our Bibles, we have a greater and more complex picture of Jesus' ministry on earth.

***SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Prayer***

Prayer can be both a corporate and a personal practice. In the two passages we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit through baptism. Baptism often happens in the corporate setting of worship and is an entrance into the family of God known as the church. The second lesson tells of Jesus calling the disciples personally, by name. Jesus also calls each of us by name; yet we travel together in community along this journey of faith.

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers,

Welcome back! We start the New Year in the New Testament. We will be in the book of John for most of the year. We start with John the Baptist and his proclaiming that Jesus is the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. What a beautiful picture of our messiah. John humbly points people to Jesus over and over again. Our work in hope youth is not to know all the answers but to continually point the kids back to the one who does and that is Jesus. How can you point the youth in your life to Jesus today? Does your life point people to Jesus? Now is a good time to start!

We are so excited to see what God is going to do in Hope Youth this year! Thank you for all you do to help our kids know and experience the love of Jesus.

Blessings,

The Youth Team.