

John 1:19-34

Jesus: The Lamb of God

Scripture: John 1:19-34

Memory Verse: John 1:29b *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Lesson Focus: We will explore John the Baptist's testimony of Jesus Christ being the Lamb of God. We will dig into several OT texts to show how this has always been God's plan to rescue mankind from their sin. Furthermore, we will look at how just as Jesus Christ walked by the Spirit, so He calls His followers to do the same.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Holy Spirit, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Holy Spirit as a dove

Starter Activity: John the Baptist Testimony Skit

Before we get into the skit, have a brief discussion about what it means to be a witness.

Q: What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus Christ?

A: We tell others about what Jesus has said and did. We might also tell people how the love of Jesus Christ has changed us and stand out being kind and loving to others. *

Read **John 1:6-8**. We briefly touched on these verses last time introducing John the Baptist as the leader of "God's pep rally". (see John 1:1-14 lesson)

Q: What do these verses say John the Baptist was sent to do?

A: To be a **witness** to the Light, which was Jesus Christ. *

Teachers: Transition now into the skit. We will essentially act out **John 1:19-27** (with some additions from other gospels) which is John the Baptist's testimony before the Jewish religious leaders. You will need 2-4 volunteers that can read the script. Have the rest follow **John 1:19-27** in their Bibles. See the last page of the lesson for the breakdown of how these verses will be acted out. You, as the teacher, will be John the Baptist. Consider coming dressed in costume that day just to add some more sparkle to the skit (optional)! If possible, please ask another leader to be the Pharisee and have him/her organize the other two roles between the student volunteers to help them. Afterwards, wrap up the skit with the following discussion:

Q: What was the focus of John the Baptist's testimony: himself or someone else?

A: Someone else: Jesus! John the Baptist was saying he, himself, was a "nobody". He was merely a pointer to the coming King, the leader of the pep rally for the King.

Bible Study:

John 1:28: All of this happened in a particular place near the river Jordan. This is a real place you can visit today. Remember: what is recorded here is all REAL history. That means these are REAL people, REAL places, REAL events. Not fairy tales!

John 1:29: The red carpet has been rolled out by John the Baptist and now we have the King fully entering the scene.

Q: What does it mean to "behold" something?

A: To fix your eyes on something! John the Baptist wants to open our eyes in wonder as we gaze upon Jesus Christ. He wants us to be "Wowed".

Because this is the moment that God has been planning for thousands of years! All of history has been building up to this moment where God the Son, the promised Messiah, begins His earthly ministry as a man. Even John the Baptist's coming was planned as in v. 23, John the Baptist says that he was just a voice to point people to the King. This was prophesied 700 years earlier in **Isaiah 40:3**.

John refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Q: What do you think this means? Well, let's go back into the OT to better understand what this title means and to show how it foretold Jesus being this Lamb of God. *

(Teachers: Consider just picking one or two of these below for the sake of time)

Genesis 22: This is the account of Abraham being tested by God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac the miracle child, to God. While God was only testing Abraham's faith, Abraham didn't know that and we see a few things in the text:

Read v. 2: This is the first mention of the word "love" in the Bible. Just as Abraham loved his only son whom he was told to give up, God the Father loved His only Son whom He gave to the whole world (**John 3:16**).

Read v. 7-8: Notice Isaac is starting to freak out a little bit. He asks, "*where is the lamb*"? Abe trusts God will provide and God does in v. 13. As the lamb dies in the place of Isaac, so Jesus died in our place because of our sin!

Exodus 12: Several hundred years after Abraham, God's story now moves to Egypt and Moses.

Q: When you think of Moses from the Bible, what comes to mind? A: Maybe Pharaoh, plagues, the Red Sea (we studied this all last year!), the 10 Commandments. God's people, who are the great, great, great grandchildren of Abraham and Isaac, have been slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. Yet Moses was raised up by God to rescue them and so far there have been nine plagues which God has brought upon Egypt through Moses. * This final plague is described in this chapter.

Read v. 21: Moses commanded the people to sacrifice a lamb and put the blood around the doorframe of their home. By this, God's judgment would "pass over" them. God struck the Egyptian people with this plague and Pharaoh finally let them go!

Read v. 26-27: God's people were to remember this every year! Just as they were to remember the Passover lamb by which God's judgment passed over them, we are to look to Jesus, the Lamb of God, through whom God "passes over" our sins!

Isaiah 53: Another several hundred years pass and we have this amazing prophecy of the promised Messiah from Isaiah, another great, great, great grandson of Abraham.

Q: What is prophecy? God sees the "end from the beginning" and sometimes He tells us beforehand what will happen in the future!

Read v. 6-7: First we are told that we are all sinners, for we have "gone astray". But God has raised up the Messiah to bear our sin! But look at how v. 7 describes him: like a lamb that was led to the slaughter. Once again, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Q: What does it mean to **anticipate** something? It means you are excited and look forward to something (maybe vacation, going to a friend's house, Christmas, etc.)! *

We spent this extra time on doing this OT homework to show you that the OT **anticipates**, or looks forward to, and prepares for the coming of this Lamb of God. Jesus did not just come out of nowhere! The Father sent John the Baptist to get everyone ready, because Jesus was God's rescue plan from the beginning.

John 1:30-31: John the Baptist continues his witness pointing people away from himself and to Jesus.

Q: In v. 31 it says that He is to be revealed to Israel. What does it mean to reveal something? A: It means to show something that was previously hidden or secret.

Jesus has been walking this earth for about 30 years quietly and out of the spotlight, probably just working with His earthly dad, Joseph, as a humble carpenter. But now it was time for Him to be revealed as the Messiah and Savior of the world! Think of a superhero movie where the superhero gets unmasked to all of the world! *

John 1:32-34: At this time, John the Baptist tells us that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and remained with Him. Notice in v. 33 we have all three Persons of the Trinity referenced. The Father said that God the Spirit would fall upon Jesus, God the Son, and by this John the Baptist would know Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Read Isaiah 61:1: This was also prophesied hundreds of years beforehand, that the Messiah would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish His work!

Q: But why would Jesus have the Holy Spirit come upon Him since He was fully God?

A: Because Jesus came to live a real human life, like one of us! He experienced a lot of the same limitations and struggles that we all experience! He didn't just "turn on" His "divine superpowers" when things got hard. Rather, He prayed to the Father and He relied on the Holy Spirit to empower Him to walk as He did.

Key Point: This is why Jesus **truly understands** what we are going through! When life gets hard and you cry out to Him for help, He can come alongside you knowing exactly what you are going through!

Furthermore, later on in this book Jesus tells us that the same Holy Spirit will come upon all those who believe in Him and follow Him. In this way then, just as Jesus Christ walked by the Spirit, all of those who follow Him are called to walk by the same Spirit!

As we behold the Lamb of God who takes away our sins by faith, we receive the same Holy Spirit and He will begin to change us to help us walk more and more like Jesus.

What does that look like? We walk in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, just like Jesus did! (**Galatians 5:22**) Ask Jesus to help you walk in this way! Like John the Baptist, stand out and be a witness for Jesus Christ by walking in the Spirit!

John the Baptist Testimony Script

Characters: John the Baptist, Pharisee, Priest, Levite, and baptized person
(The act should begin with John the Baptist pretending to baptize someone. Have John kneel on the ground and "dunking" the baptized person)

John (to baptized person): I baptize you with water unto repentance, go and sin no more. But know that He who is coming after me is mightier than I and He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

The group of Jewish religious leaders now approach John while baptizing (and looking VERY grumpy)

John (to religious leaders): Greetings, you snakes! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!

Pharisee: Who do you think you are doing all this? Are you the Christ?

John: I am not the Christ.

Priest: What then? Are you Elijah?

John: I am not.

Levite: Are you the Prophet?

John: No.

Pharisee: Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us?

John: As the prophet Isaiah said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord."

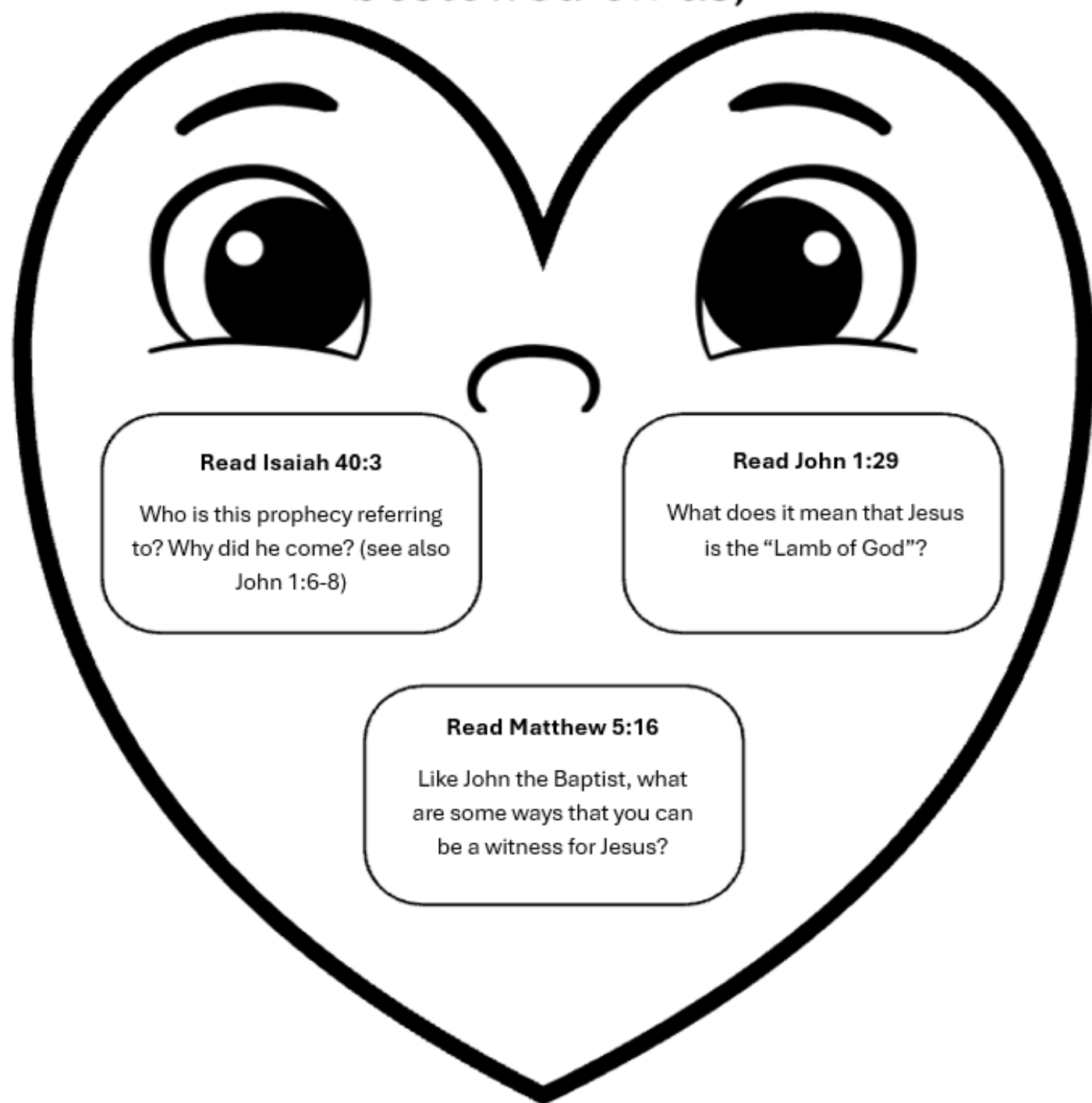
Pharisee: If you are not the Christ, or the Prophet, or Elijah, then why are you baptizing?

John: I baptize with water, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to even touch His sandals. Get ready, He is coming!

Pharisee (to priest/Levite): Let's go back to Jerusalem and tell the rest of the Pharisees that this guy is nuts! *(religious leaders leave laughing)*

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has
bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!