

**WARM-UP**

- What is something you made that you are most proud of? How long did it take you to make it?
- Have you ever tried to change a habit of yours? Tell us about it.
- Share a time when you had to sacrifice something for a loved one. What did you sacrifice and how did it make you feel?

**WORD** *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* **JOHN 1:29**

(Read also **JOHN 1:30-34**.)

The lamb was one of the most symbolic sacrifices in the time of the Israelites. The blood of the lamb spared them from judgment during the Passover. In the Old Testament, two lambs were offered every day by the priests as a means to commune with God and pay for the sin of the people. But not even the sacrificial lambs were enough to redeem humanity from sin. Thankfully, Jesus became the Lamb of God who was sacrificed and stood in our place. Today, we will look at what His sacrifice means for us, as we make Him known to others this Christmas.

## 1 | Jesus is the Lamb of God.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* **JOHN 1:29**

In Jewish tradition, as commanded by God, the sacrificial lamb must not have any defect or blemish. The lamb would take the place of someone who disobeyed God and would be a means for forgiveness and fellowship with God—until the next sin. The truth is, human effort and sacrifice are insufficient to completely remove sin. This is why God was the one who provided the perfect Lamb for us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to bring us back into a right relationship with Him. Jesus lived a life without sin, fully God and fully man. How did Isaiah describe the coming Messiah centuries before Jesus came (Isaiah 53:7–8)?

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## 2 | Jesus takes away sins.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* **JOHN 1:29**

The priest had to sacrifice lamb after lamb regularly because the people would sin. The purpose of the sin offering was eventually lost and became a ritual more than a space for people to be with God. Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, came to dwell with us so that He could once and for all redeem humanity from sin. He accomplished this by being the ultimate and perfect sacrifice to die for us. He took away all of our sins, since we are totally incapable of doing it ourselves. He came to take our place and die for us. Why is the gospel about Christ's death and resurrection, not just His birth and life?

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### 3 | Jesus takes away the sins of the world.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* **JOHN 1:29**

Jesus' death and resurrection was not only meant for the Jews, but also for all who believe in Him. The Book of Revelation shows us how Jesus, the Lamb of God, was slain so that His blood would ransom *people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation* (Revelation 5:9). It will be a glorious sight: One day, people from different cultures and backgrounds will praise Jesus, the Lamb of God who sits on the throne as the righteous Judge and King. How do you think your family and community would be different if they understood and believed this truth?

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#### APPLICATION

- Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who takes away the sins of humankind. We can have a relationship with God because of Jesus, and not by our own efforts. How will this truth affect your relationship with God, beginning today?
- Christmas can easily be overshadowed by other things apart from Jesus. What is something you can do this week to make Jesus the center of Christmas?
- Jesus' death on the cross meant light and life for all men. Take some time to tell someone about Jesus this week—that He is the best gift we can receive this Christmas.

