

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## Week 2: John 1:29-34 - Jesus: The Lamb of God

### CONTEXT

**A quick look back:** Spend a few minutes reviewing the big picture of John from Week One. What kind of literature is the gospel of John? Who wrote it? What is the book's main purpose? How is the book divided? Where are we in the large story of Scripture?

**Today's Passage:** Today we encounter a story from the perspective of John the Baptist, who is introduced in verses 6-9. John the Baptist was a relative of Jesus, one who Luke tells us was "filled with the Holy Spirit from birth" and whose entire purpose was to bring the people of Israel back to their God and to prepare the way for Jesus. In this first chapter of John, we hear seven different names that describe Jesus- John the Baptist speaks the first name in this passage as he identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God.

### CONTENT:

**Read John 1: 29-34 out loud and then pick ONE of the following ways (Option A, B, or C) to help your group engage with this passage.**

**Option A. Notice/Wonder:** Ask everyone to read the passage again quietly on their own. As they read, ask them to make a list like the one below. Remember that what people notice or wonder can just be small, simple things.

What do I NOTICE about this text? What do I WONDER about?

Once everyone has had the chance to make their list, come together as a group and share your observations, writing them on a board or a place where everyone can see the list as it develops.

**Option B. Creative Engagement:** Give everyone paper and drawing supplies. Have everyone read the passage again on their own, then invite them to spend some time illustrating the passage (or a part of the passage) in whatever way they want- concrete, abstract, colors, images, words. When everyone has completed their art, come together and spend time sharing with each other what you drew and why.

**Option C. Guided Bible Study Questions:**

1. Read John 1: 6-9, which introduces John the Baptist and his role. What words do you see repeated? How do they help us understand what happens in verses 29-34?

2. When John proclaimed that Jesus is the “Lamb of God!” he is bringing to mind an important image and practice of Jewish life: the Passover Lamb. Passover was celebrated each year to remember when God had freed the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Read Exodus 12: 1-13. What details do you notice when you read this story? What were the people to do with the blood of the lamb? What did it accomplish? How does this tie into what John the Baptist is saying? Why might “Lamb of God” be the first name given to Jesus in this gospel?
3. In verse 29, what will the Lamb of God actually do? Why might the word “world” be so important here?
4. John the Baptist says in verse 30- “A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.” How does this relate to John 1: 1-5? What is John trying to teach about Jesus and who He is?
5. Verses 32-34 give us our first picture in this gospel of the Trinity in action. Read the verses and identify where you see the three members of the Trinity.
6. What does John the Baptist seem to be doing related to his own identity in these verses? What is he doing related to the identity of Jesus?

## APPLICATION:

How does all of this connect to our lives? Here are some questions to help guide your discussion.

- We learn in this opening chapter that John the Baptist is called to be a witness to the life and work and light of Christ. He sees Jesus for who He is, and then he testifies to others about it- he speaks that goodness out loud.
- In what ways has God been revealing Himself in your life recently? Have you seen God at work in your life or in the life of someone you love in any ways that you could share?
- John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God. How does that image strike you? Do you ever think about Jesus that way when you read Scripture or pray or worship? When you think of Jesus, what images come to mind most naturally?
- What does witness look like in your life? On this campus? Is it something you think about? Talk about in your faith communities? What do you find are challenges to faithful witness?

## PRAYER:

- Use words/images/themes from the passage to guide your prayer.
- Raise up your “wonderings” from the notice/wonder section to God in prayer
- Take prayer requests and pray over each other as a group or in small groups
- Use this written prayer:

*Lord, you have called us and brought Light into our lives.  
 And now you ask us to be your light in the continuing darkness.  
 At times we may be like a small, fragile, flickering candle,  
 at times a bright, strong, beam of light...  
 By Your Spirit aid us in our journey,  
 so that our lives and our words and our deeds  
 might point to the Lamb of God,  
 the beautiful one who takes away the sins of the world.  
 Amen.*

