

A Portrait of Jesus

The Lamb of God

John 1:35-51

Welcome Did you have a nickname or perhaps a pet name for a person or object. Why that name?

Worship Come and See (Graham Kendrick)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejClBRsvkUM>

Word Read John 1:35-39

Q. What is John the Baptist's role in this section (see also v29)?

Q. How does he describe Jesus? Why? – Depending on your group you may want to recall the Leviticus studies, the story of Abraham and Isaac (Gen 22:6-8), the story of the Passover lamb (Ex 12:21-23), or the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7.

Q. How did the two disciples of John respond to this revelation? Why?

Q. How does John provide us with a way to introduce others to Jesus? What does it require of us? (relationships, confidence that Jesus can meet their need – may be others).

Q. What was Jesus's invitation?

Read John 1:40-51

Look at the three encounters with Jesus:

- John's disciples

- Simon

- Nathaniel

Q. What role(s) did John, Andrew and Philip play?

Q. What did Jesus do?

Build up a picture of Andrew and Philip using this passage but also John 6:5-9 and 12:20-22. You may also want to reflect on Peter's character.

Q. Are there any clues here to suggest the type of person that Jesus uses to make himself known to others?

To think about:

Q. Why do we find it difficult to share the gospel?

Q. Does this passage help us with these difficulties?

Witness

Alpha is starting soon. Ask Jesus who you should invite and ask him to provide the opportunities for you to do so.

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Bringer of the New Covenant

John 2:1-11

Welcome

Have you ever been to a wedding or party that didn't go to plan? How did the guests respond?

Worship

Chris Tomlin – Our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-JZ9KsI7YI>

Word:

Looking back at the previous study what names/descriptions had been given to Jesus (Jn 1:36, 41, 45, 49, 51).

Q. Up to this point what evidence did they have that he was any of these things?

Read John 2:1-11

Q. What was the purpose of this first sign? (v11)

Recall that the first disciples had been disciples of John and had a knowledge of the scriptures. Then read Isaiah 25:6-8.

Q. How would the knowledge of this develop their faith (at this point? Post resurrection?

Q. What helps develop your faith in Jesus?

Q. Who was responsible for providing the wine (v. 9-10)? In what ways does this miracle foreshadow what is to come? (Rev 19:7)

Q. In v6 John draws his attention to the intended use of the stone jars **and** how much they contain (altogether the equivalent of 800 bottles today). What is he trying to emphasise?

You might want to draw attention to Luke 22:20

Q. In v10 what is different between the wine provided by the bridegroom and that provided by Jesus. What does John want us to learn from this?

Q. Back to verse 11. Why does John refer to this as a sign rather than a miracle?

To think about:

Are we thirsting after the old wine, the water or the new wine?

Witness

This was a sign for the disciples. How can we signpost Jesus to others. Remember the Alpha course coming up and those you hope to invite.

Just as Jesus responded to the need of the wedding couple ask Jesus to help you respond to someone in need this week.

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God's Son Given For Us

John 3:1-16

Welcome

Has someone misinterpreted something you said (or vice-versa) with a humorous consequence?

Worship Thank-you for Fathering Me (Pete James)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHMT4k_5lBU

If you prefer a live version (no words)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJwwu8Zn2Lc>

words only <https://essentialchristiansongs.com/song/thank-you-for-fathering-me>

Word Read John 3:1-16

Q. What do we learn about Nicodemus from the first two verses (and v10)?

Q. Can you think of modern day equivalents?

Q. Why do you think he came at night?

Q. How does Nicodemus address/describe Jesus. Was he right?/wrong?

Q. Any modern day equivalents?

Q. Jesus's response in v3 seems very abrupt (cf his encounters in the earlier studies). Why do you think this was?

Note: the term born again (born from above) might not have been unfamiliar to Nicodemus as it was taught widely among the Jews at that time that since they descended from Abraham, they were automatically assured of heaven.

Q. What point(s) was Jesus making (v 3-8)?

Q. Read v11 – who are the 'we'? Does this verse provide any insight about how we can witness?

Q. Why do you think Jesus reminded Nicodemus about an old testament incident (Nu21:5-9) in v13-15? Note that Nicodemus (with Joseph) prepared Jesus's body for burial (Jn19:39).

Q v16 is probably the most quoted and well known verse in the Bible. Why?

Witness

- Pray for those (known and unknown) who feel they have no need of Jesus, those who accept that Jesus was a good man, those who believe their own goodness is good enough.

- Remember Alpha is starting soon. Have you invited anyone yet?

- Pray for your mission partner as they share the gospel with those they serve.