



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#C3 – The Lamb of God
Hebrews 10:11-13

PICTURES NEEDED

- C3-1 Manger scene with sheep
- C3-2 Jesus holding a sheep
- C3-3 Sacrificial lamb and Jesus on the cross

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
What does it mean that Jesus is the Living Word? Jesus is the Word because he reveals the mind of God. He is the expression of God's thoughts and makes the reality of who God is visible and real to men.
What are some of the characteristics of the Word? He is God and has all the attributes of God. Life and light are found in him. He is the Creator of all things
- **The Big Question Review: Who is Jesus?**
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** John 1:14
Jesus is the Living Word who came to earth to reveal God's glory.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

LESSON CONTENT

In a nativity scene, there is always a shepherd with sheep. Why do you think that is? **(picture C3-1)** An angel spoke to shepherds, who were taking care of their sheep out in a field, telling them about Jesus being born. The shepherds went to the stable where the baby was to see if what the angel had said was true. The shepherds were there at the stable right after Jesus was born.

Having sheep in the nativity scene should remind us of two things about Jesus: He is the Lamb of God and our Good Shepherd.

When he saw Jesus for the first time, John the Baptist said, (John 1:29) *"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* What did John mean by that? Jesus is the sacrificial lamb that takes away the sin of the world. In this lesson, we will examine what that means.

In Micah 5:4-5a there is a prophecy about the Savior, *"He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace."*

What does that prophecy say about the savior? **(picture C3-2)** He will come to shepherd us and lead us into God's presence where we can dwell forever in perfect peace and safety. He will be known throughout the whole earth.

Sheep are not very smart animals and if they don't have a shepherd watching over them, they easily get lost and run into all kinds of trouble. 1 Peter 2:25 describes our condition, *"For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."*

What does the verse say about our condition? We as people are like lost sheep. We need a shepherd to lead us to God so we can live in safety. If we turn to Jesus, he will lead and guide us in his truth. We will not be lost in our sin and have to wander in darkness.

Under the sacrificial system of the Old Testament before Jesus came to earth, the priests sacrificed a perfect lamb to cover the sins of the people. This was an outside covering of sin. Jesus came to cleanse us from sin on the inside, once and for all.

Hebrews 10:11-13 says, ¹¹ *Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.* ¹² *But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,* ¹³ *and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.* **(picture C3-3)**

Before Jesus came, what did the priests have to do as part of their religious duties? Every day they had to make an animal sacrifice to cover the sins of the people.

What couldn't the animal sacrifice do for sin? The sacrifice couldn't take sin away; it could only cover it.

What is the difference between the sacrifice Jesus made and the sacrifice of animals?
Jesus offered his own body as a perfect sacrifice. His sacrifice doesn't have to be made over and over again. He only had to do it once. As the perfect Lamb of God who was without sin, Jesus actually paid the penalty for all our sin: past, present and future. The sacrifice of animals had to be done over and over again.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** How is Jesus the Lamb of God? How is Jesus our shepherd?
- **Thought Questions:** What would be the problem for us if Jesus didn't die for our sins? What would happen to you if Jesus isn't your shepherd?
- **Prayer:** Thank God for sending his Son to die for you so that you could be made holy by the covering of your sin and enter into a right relationship with God for all eternity. Pray that Jesus would so fill your heart that you would want what he wants and do what is good and right.
- **The Big Question: How is Jesus the Lamb of God?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 1:18-19
Jesus lived a perfect life and shed his blood to take away our sin.

¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Questions: What does it mean to be redeemed? How are we redeemed? What do we have to do to be redeemed?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

★ **Activity Page:** The Names of Jesus

Jesus is called by many names in the Bible, some of which are listed below. Find the names of Jesus in the word search puzzle. On the puzzle there are no spaces between the words in the names. Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, Immanuel, King of Kings, Light of Life, Morning Star, Righteous Branch, Prince of Peace

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+++++++SD
HCNARBSUOETHGIR
E+++M++I+++N+LE
+C+++OM+++I++AH
++A++MR++K+++MP
+++EA++NF++++BE
+++NP++OI++++OH
++U++FG++N+++FS
+E+++NO+++G++GD
L+++I++E+++S+OO
+++K++++C+++TDO
+++++++N+++AG
++LIGHTOFLIFE+R
+++++++R+++
+++++++P++
```

(Over,Down,Direction)
GOODSHEPHERD(15,12,N)
IMMANUEL(8,3,SW)
KINGOFKINGS(4,11,NE)
LAMBOFGOD(14,3,S)
LIGHTOFLIFE(3,13,E)
MORNINGSTAR(5,3,SE)
PRINCEOFPEACE(13,15,NW)
RIGHTEOUSBRANCH(15,2,W)

★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

Jesus lived a perfect life and shed his blood to take away our sin.

★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

• **Craft:** Gift Box

As a reminder that Jesus gave his life for us as the sacrificial Lamb of God and is therefore the best gift we can ever receive, make a Christmas gift box.

Materials: white cover stock paper, red or green satin ribbon, scissors, glue sticks, colored pencils

Preparation: Run off craft C3 on cover stock paper.

Instructions: Color in the shapes and words on the box. Cut the box out along black lines. Fold the box along gray lines and glue gray tabs down to make the box. Tie a ribbon around the box.

- **Game:** Lost Sheep (Hide the Hanky)

As a reminder that we are like lost sheep in need of a shepherd, play Hide the Hanky but use a picture of a sheep instead of a hanky.

Instructions: Run off a small picture of a sheep. Have the children cover their eyes and hide the picture so that only a corner of it is showing. Once the picture is hidden the children walk around the play area trying to spot it. When a child spots the picture, he sits down. Once all the children have spotted the picture then the game can be played again with the first one who spotted it hiding it.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.