



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
- C3-4 Salvation chart

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.

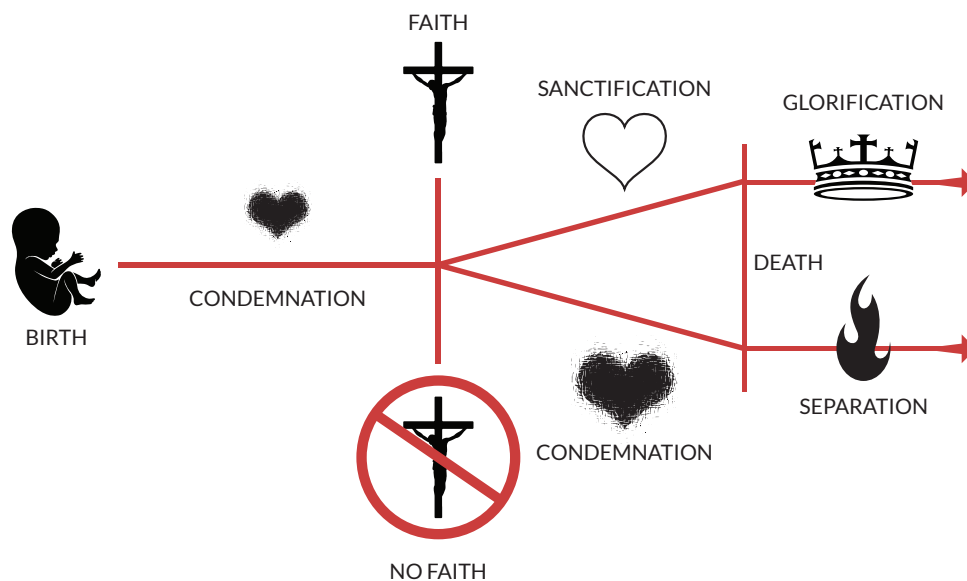
What is the difference between the sacrifice Jesus made and the sacrifice of animals? Jesus offered his own body as a perfect sacrifice. His sacrifice doesn't have to be made over and over again. He only had to do it once. As the perfect Lamb of God who was without sin, Jesus actually paid the penalty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

Hebrews 10: 14 continues, ¹⁴ *For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

What does it mean to be made perfect forever? "Made perfect forever" is referring to a completed past action done to us that has future benefit. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross God sees us as perfect, so when we stand before him in judgment we won't be condemned for all the wrong we have done. This is called justification. God sees us just as if we had never sinned. He, for all eternity, will see us as perfect.

What does "Being made holy" refer to? It refers to sanctification which is an on-going action being done to a person, making that person holy or perfect. We know we aren't perfect, even though the verse says we have been made so forever. We are still sinners and do what is wrong.

The good news is that when we believe in the work of Jesus on the cross we are justified; the Holy Spirit is at work in us changing us into what we should be. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us making us holy by enabling us to do what we ought to do and be obedient to Christ. We are on a continual path of being made better by the work of the Holy Spirit in us.



Use the chart to explain this over again. (picture C3-4)

- **Physical Birth** – What is a person born into? A person is born with a sin nature into a state of condemnation.

- **Justification** – (made perfect forever = delivered from the penalty of sin)
What happens when a person believes in Jesus? A right standing with God is gained when a person confesses belief in who Jesus is and what he came to do and is therefore justified by Christ’s redemptive work on the cross. This is the judicial aspect of salvation as a person is saved from the guilt and penalty of sin and gains the promise of eternal life in heaven.
- **Sanctification** – (being made holy = being released from the power of and bondage to sin)

What does the Holy Spirit begin to do when a person believes in Jesus? With confession of faith, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in a person, sanctifying him and enabling him to follow Christ and make right choices in life. This is the health aspect of salvation. A person enters the healing process: being made well from the destructive aspects of sin and being released from the power of sin.

- **Physical Death**
What happens when a person dies? Ultimately, in death a person who has confessed belief in Jesus enters the state of glorification and is delivered from the very presence of sin, dwelling in a perfect state with Christ in heaven. A person who doesn’t believe in Jesus stays in a state of condemnation.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What is the meaning of the following words: condemnation, justification, sanctification, glorification?
- **Thought Questions:** Why is it necessary that our sins be covered and atoned for?
- **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:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Jesus as the perfect Lamb of God offered himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

1. Jesus's sacrifice was different from animal sacrifice because it was done once for all sin. It doesn't have to be offered over and over again.
2. When we believe in Jesus' sacrifice, God sees us as perfect forever. We are delivered from the penalty of our sin.
3. When we believe in Jesus' sacrifice the Holy Spirit begins a work in us making us holy by changing us into what God wants us to be.

★ **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)

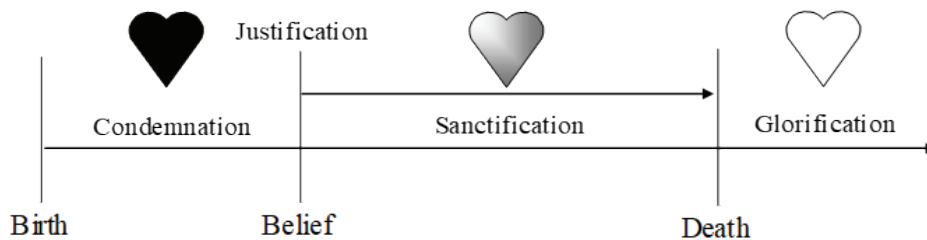
★ **Further Understanding:** Salvation discussion

Draw the chart below on the board, but only fill in the parts of salvation. Fill in the rest of the chart and have the students fill in their notes as you discuss it together.

Hebrews 10:4 - *by the one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Part of Salvation	Deliverance from	Explanation
Justification	Penalty of sin	Confession of belief in Jesus which means one is no longer condemned.
Sanctification	Power of sin	Work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life once they put their faith in Jesus.
Glorification	Presence of sin	Entrance into eternal life with Christ through his sacrifice on the cross.

Draw the diagram below on the board and have the students fill in the diagram on their notes.



The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: What happened with the birth of Jesus?

Reading 1: Phil. 2:1-11 – The Manger: Cradling God’s humble servant

How did Paul say the Philippians could make his joy complete? (2-3) What should our attitude be the same as? (5) What was Christ’s attitude? (6-7) What was he obedient to do? (8) What was the result? (9-10) How can we have the same attitude as Christ? What will our lives be like if we have that attitude? What does it mean to be humble? Why does God want us to be humble? How did Jesus’ birth demonstrate humility? How did Jesus’ life demonstrate humility?

Reading 2: Luke 2:8-14 – The Angels: Announcing the birth

What happened to the shepherds when they saw the angel? (9) What did the angel say to them? (10-12) What happened after the angel spoke? (13-14) Why are people so terrified at the presence of an angel? Is God always present with us? Are we always in awe of his presence? Should we be? How? Is God’s peace given to all men? Explain.

Reading 3: Luke 2:15-20 – The Shepherds: Believing the message

What did the shepherds do after they heard the message? (16) What did they do after they had seen Jesus? (17,20) What showed that the shepherds believed what the angel had told them? What should always follow belief? Why? After they saw Jesus what showed that they believed the truth about Jesus? What can we learn from the shepherds? How does the reading relate to John 14:23?

Reading 4: Luke 2:21-40 – Simeon: Seeing with his eyes the precious Savior

Why was Simeon at the temple at the same time as Mary and Joseph? (25-27) What was his praise to God? (29-32) What did he say to Mary about the baby? (34-35) How did Anna respond to Jesus? (38) What do you think it was like for Simeon to see Jesus? Why did so few other people see Jesus with the same eyes as Simeon? What can we learn from Simeon? How does the reading relate to Ephesians 1:17-19a?

Reading 5: Heb. 9:19-22; 1 Pet. 1:17-21 – The Lamb of God: Taking away the sins of the world

What does the law require? (Hebrews 9:22) Why? How were we redeemed from our empty way of life? (18-21) Why are we able to have faith and hope in God? (1 Peter 1:21) Why did Jesus have to be sacrificed for our sin? What does blood do for our physical bodies? How is that similar to what Christ’s blood does for us spiritually?

Reading 6: John 10:11-18 – The Lost Sheep: Needing a Shepherd

How does Jesus describe himself? (11) What will the good shepherd do for his sheep? (11) How are the sheep to respond to the shepherd? (16) Besides laying down his life for us how has Jesus shown he is the good shepherd? How do we listen to his voice? What will be the result?