

SESSION 2



2

The God who wants to rescue us



TAKE A LOOK

Please read John 1:35-42

The John we read about in these verses is normally referred to as John the Baptist. He is not the same John who wrote John's Gospel.

1. What did John the Baptist tell his disciples about Jesus?

(See verses 35-36)

2. What happened as a result?

(See verses 37-39)

To understand the significance of calling Jesus the Lamb of God we need to know something about an event called Passover and a section of the Bible that speaks about a lamb being led to the slaughter.

Passover night took place over a thousand years before Jesus was born. At this point in human history the Jewish people were slaves in the mighty Egyptian Empire. However, we read in the book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible, that God made a promise to the Jews that he would rescue them

from this agonising situation. And this is how he did it. He chose a night when he passed through the entire country and brought death to the oldest son in every family. However, he told his people that on this night they could save their oldest sons from this judgement if they killed a lamb and painted its blood on the doorposts of their houses.

This night became known as Passover because although God **passed through** the whole land in judgement, he **passed over** any house where he saw the blood of a sacrificed lamb. The lamb was killed as a **substitute** for the oldest son. It died so that the child could live.

What does all this have to do with Jesus? To say that Jesus is the Lamb of God means that he came to do something similar to all those lambs that were killed on the night the Jews were rescued from Egypt. It means that he came to die as a substitute so that others can live. It means that he died so that we can be spared the judgement we deserve. There is a day coming when everyone who has ever lived will have to stand before their Creator and Judge. However, the good news is that because Jesus has already died as the Lamb of God, the sentence deserved by his followers will be **passed over** on the Judgement Day.

Another section of the Bible that helps us understand the significance of calling Jesus the Lamb of God is found in the book of Isaiah. It also teaches **salvation through substitution**. Here is a quotation to give you a flavour of what is written.

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." *Isaiah 53:5-7*

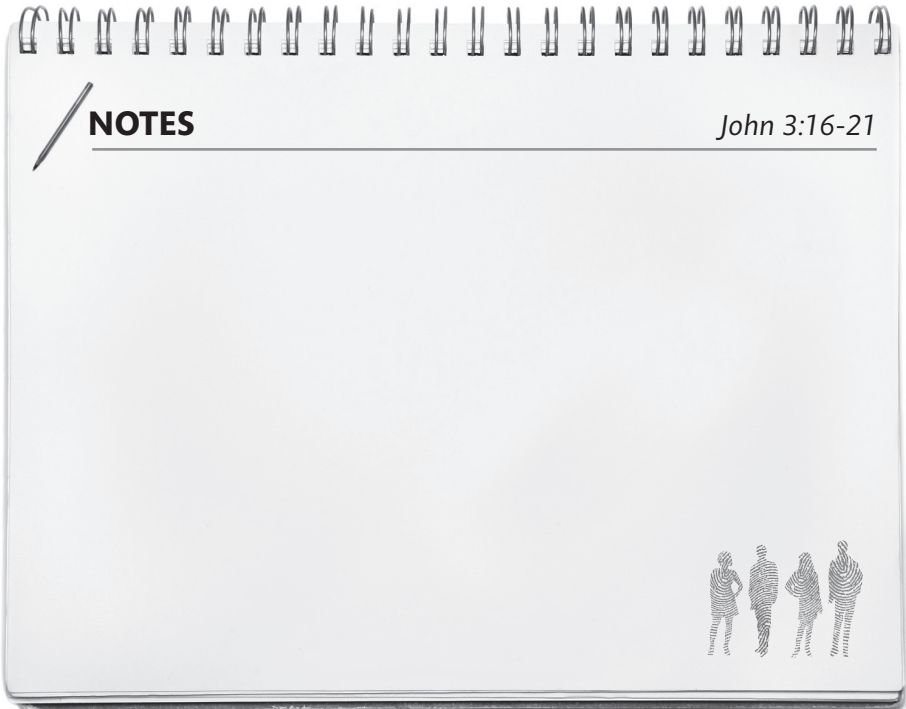
3. Why do you think Andrew hurried off to find his brother Simon?

(See verses 40-42)

The Jews of Jesus' day were longing for the appearance of their Messiah. Messiah is the English translation of a Hebrew word that means 'anointed one'. Christ is the English translation of a Greek word that means 'anointed one'. Messiah and Christ are interchangeable words.

Many promises had already been made about this special person in the Jewish Scriptures, what Christians call the Old Testament. A selection of these promises can be found on pages 39 to 44 of this booklet.

These predictions allowed Messianic claims to be tested. There had to be a perfect match between the predictions and the person claiming to be the Messiah.





HAVE YOUR SAY

- ☞ What did you find helpful?

- ☞ How convinced are you that we all need to be rescued from the judgement of God?

- ☞ How would you respond if someone said to you, “I can’t understand why the death of Jesus is so important to Christians”?



BIG QUESTION

What about other religions?



HAVE YOUR SAY

- ☁ What would Jesus say to someone who believes there are many paths to God?

- ☁ What should we do if we believe what we read in John 3:18?