

“Lamb of God”
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By Rebecca Enney

The next day after Jesus was baptized, John the Baptist saw Jesus walking toward him. John said “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” I wonder what John meant by that . . . Lamb of God. Do you think he meant that Jesus was kind of cute, like a lamb? No.

To explain what I think he meant I’ll start with asking if any of you have ever helped by being an offering assistant. That’s when four children take the baskets for the offering and pass it to each of the rows of people in the congregation. The people put their money in the basket and then you bring the basket back up front to Pastor Easton and she holds it up to the cross and altar to show that we give this money for God’s work.

Even thousands of years ago, this happened. Except it was a little different. First, they did not have a cross, because Jesus wasn’t born yet and therefore had not died on the cross yet. Nonetheless, people brought an offering as part of their worship of God.

Except that the offering was not only money. More often it was something from their farm, like a basket of wheat, or a bucket of grapes or a white dove (which is a little bird) or sometimes they would even bring a lamb. Not every week, but every family sometime would make an offering when they went to the temple to worship God.

Temple is what they called it before Jesus lived, before churches.

Now, when they selected the wheat or the dove or the lamb, they would want to get what was the very best. As you can see, this lamb has a broken leg. (show sheep collection) And some of these are not a perfect color. So the person would find the very best lamb to be the offering. It would be taken to the temple and then it would be given to God for food.

Now, because God doesn’t really sit down at a supper table and eat food, those lovely lamb chops would be eaten by the priests who lived at the temple and fed to the poor and hungry widows and orphans.

And then Jesus was born, Jesus, whom John called the Lamb of God. It seems that when Jesus died on the cross, it was as if God was giving an offering to us, the very best God could offer, his only Son.

It was like when the lamb died in the old days, except this time it was Jesus, the son of God. And when Jesus died on the cross it was kind of like an offering of food. It is like God turned things around. And God gave his best to us!

You see, when we have communion, we say that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine. Now, it still looks and tastes like bread and wine, definitely not like lamb chops, but nonetheless, it is the way that God feeds us.

At communion time, when your mommy and daddy, and maybe even you, get a taste of the bread and wine, it is a time that you can remember that Jesus died, just like a lamb.

On your activity page today I drew a symbol of Jesus. See, it is a lamb. You can color that in while Pastor Easton talks to the grown ups.

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