



Portrait of Christ

Sketches in the Gospel of John

Inductive Discovery Lesson 2
John 1:19-51

Jesus: The Lamb of God

Some events are so important that we recall them in vivid detail many years later. More than 50 years had passed since John first met Jesus, but he still remembered it *down to the time of day*. John's details of that first encounter shed light on what Matthew, Mark and Luke had already written about how Jesus called the disciples.

Before John left off mending his nets to follow Jesus, before Peter and Andrew left the Galilee seashore to become fishers of men, there had been an earlier conversation with Jesus. John remembered it took place shortly after the Pharisees came to ask John the Baptist who he was. He answered, "I'm just the messenger—but He is the Lamb of God!"

The next day as Jesus walked by, the Baptist's words rang in the air again. "Behold the Lamb of God!" John and his friend Andrew wanted to know more. Jesus gave them the same invitation He offers to all who want to know Him:

"Come and see."

Working Text for John 1:19-51
New King James Version (NKJV)

19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” **20** He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” **21** And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” **22** Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” **23** He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord,” ’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. **25** And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” **26** John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. **27** It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” **28** These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ **31** I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” **32** And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. **33** I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ **34** And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. **36** And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” **37** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. **38** Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” **39** He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). **40** One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. **41** He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). **42** And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).

43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” **46** And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” **47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” **48** Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” **49** Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” **50** Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” **51** And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

John 1:29-34

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

John 1:35-42

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action.***

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

John 1:19-28

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

John 1:29-34

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

John 1:35-42

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

John 1:43-51

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a simple title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.



Take A Closer Look

...John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
John 1:29

Memorize God’s Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God’s Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God’s Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

(Challenge alert: You won’t always see an obvious answer directly from the verse.)

Look up. What does this verse show you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, or His promises.)

Look around. What does this teach you about life or people in general?

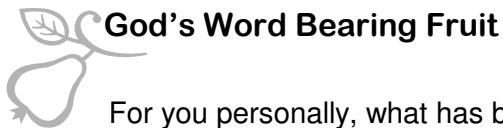
Look within. What does this teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

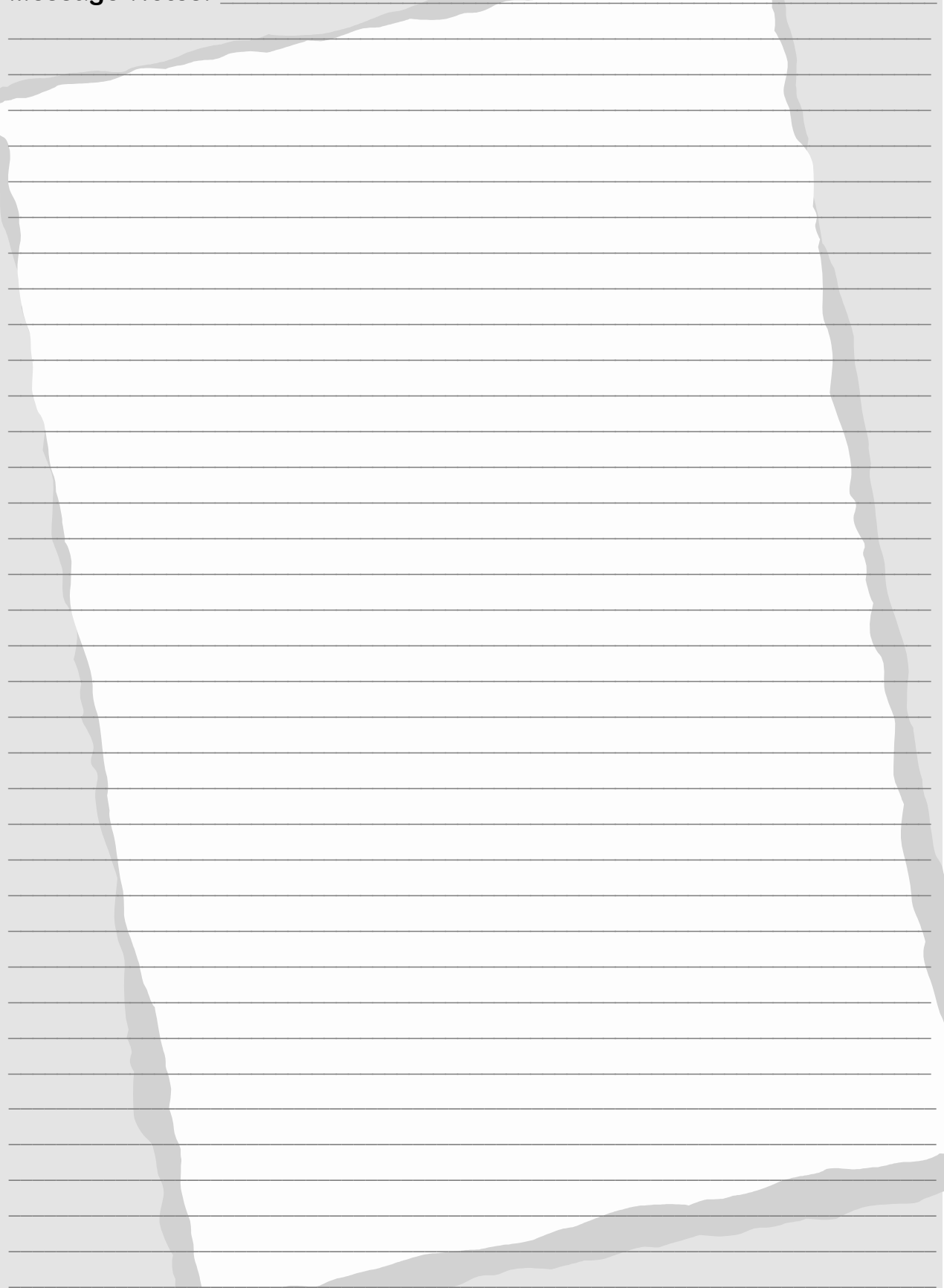
For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter?
How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

The Christian faith engages the profoundest problems the human mind can entertain and solves them completely and simply by pointing to the Lamb of God.

A.W. Tozer

Message Notes:



A large rectangular area with a light gray background and horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The area is framed by a thick, irregular, dark gray border that looks like a torn piece of paper.

