

Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 1:29-36

Sermon Summary:

Typically when we think about sin our minds tend to immediately think about bad things we've done, thought, or spoken, or to things we should have done but didn't. So when we read: "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*" (Jn. 1:29) we can tend to fall into our default understanding of sin, and interpret this verse as Jesus dealing with all our individual sins. But in John's Gospel, sin specifically points to '*unbelief*' (Jn. 16:8-9). With this understanding, what Jesus 'took away' is our unbelief in him & in God! John the Baptist announces that Jesus is the 'Lamb of God', that is, the Passover Lamb that took away our deep-seated unbelief in God. As the sacrifice for us, he reverses our condition of unbelief & brings us life, intimacy & real relationship with God once again. We couldn't do this by ourselves & that's why God's love compelled him to step in & do it for us. The question before each one of us is "*How will we respond?*"

Discussion:

1. When you typically think of the word 'sin' what comes to your mind?

2. From the Gospel of John how would you describe sin? (Jn. 16:8-9; 1:10-11; 8:24)
3. Talk about what God is really doing in John 3:16-17.
4. Discuss how John speaks not only about people's need for a new Exodus, by baptising people in the Jordan, but also the need for people to have a new Passover Lamb (Exo. 12:3, 6-7) as he announces Jesus as the Lamb of God.
5. Chacko says, "*John indicates that **Jesus' death** & its effects are **no longer limited to Judaism but are for the whole world**. By [calling 'Jesus the Lamb of God' he] subverts the exclusive, racial, & nationalistic Jewish idea...& makes it **available for everyone** ...through...Jesus."* How is this helpful to your understanding & for conversations with friends & family?
6. Talk about your on-going experience of God helping you with your unbelief.

End with Prayer.

- Pray each of us receives the Light Jesus brings to us, & the grace to keep growing.
- Pray for one another's needs