

*word*  
made  
*flesh*

DISCUSSION GUIDE

# The True Lamb

(John 1.6-8, 19-34)

Week of December 9th, 2018

## WELCOME

Talk about your group schedule and format, expectations, how your meetings will go, etc. Especially highlight schedule for the holidays and for Theology Labs in January (see below).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Share the following things coming up in the life of the church:*

### **Open Gym Basketball (now Coed) | Moving to Sunday Nights in December, 7-9p**

Basketball at Sharpsburg Elementary is moving from Monday nights to Sunday evenings from 6-8pm. It's open gym style, come and go as you please. If you can spare \$5 when you come that's great but don't let that be a limiting factor. Guys and gals are welcome. Reach out to Patrick Clinton with questions: pdclinton@gmail.com

### **Christmas Party and Hymnsing | Friday, December 14th 6:30-8:30p**

We'll have live music, coffee, adult beverages, fun snacks and Christmas treats to enjoy, some carol singing, plus fun activities for kids. Visit the City to sign up to **bring a holiday treat or to help with the kids' activities**. We hope you'll join us and bring some neighbors/friends/co-workers/family!

### **Redtree Art Show & Music Series | Starting Friday, January 11th**

New City is organizing the January-February art show at Redtree as well as a series of live music events on Fridays. We need YOUR help! Please submit artwork (see the City for more info) and join us Friday, January 11th and subsequent Fridays for art, coffee, and live music!

### **Winter Theology Labs | Wednesday in January 6-7:30p**

Our theology labs are designed to be short-term, focused opportunities for topical study, discussion, and reflection. Meant to supplement and support weekly worship and community groups, this round of theology labs will happen once a week on 4 Wednesdays beginning on January 9th. Labs are \$10, childcare will be provided, and you MUST register by December 31st. Labs: The Question of God: Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis Debate God, Love, Sex and the Meaning of Life w/ Paul Boys & Josh Reitano; Prayer: Experiencing Awe & Intimacy with God w/ Dave Dupee & Ryan Zhang; How to Read the Bible w/ Mike Previtera; Understanding Poverty w/ Marianne Chernesky; The Art of Neighboring w/ Brian Ferry.

### **Friday AM Women's Bible Study | Fridays @ 9:15a starting in January**

Calling New City women! Come join us Friday mornings 9:15-11:00am as we study the book of Exodus. Childcare provided. We'd love to see you. The registration deadline is December 31st.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer:

*God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and grace. Amen.*

## **ICBREAKER**

What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why?

## **STUDY/DISCUSSION**

### **1. READ John 1.6-8, 19-28.**

2. List together everything you learn about John the Baptist.
3. What does it mean to be a *witness*?
4. In what ways are we called to be on mission like John? Can you think of any concrete ways you can do that this Christmas season?

### **5. READ John 1.29-34.**

6. What do you make of John's repeated claim in verses 31 and 33 that at first "I did not know him"? Why do you think it's easy to miss what God is doing in the world, or in your life?
7. On Sunday Josh said the Christmas posture is to BEHOLD. What would it look like for you to slow down and pay attention to what God is doing?
8. Verse 29 — What is the significance of John's confession that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
9. Looking at this passage, what are the gifts God gives us here? How can we "unwrap them," so to speak, this year?
10. OPTIONAL: Print copies of the attached HANDOUT and read it together. Discuss what stands out to you as significant, challenging, or confusing.

## **PRAY**

Take some time to pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups. Exchange prayer requests. Or just pray "conversationally": *praying* your requests and interacting with God and each other (like a conversation) rather than *sharing* them. (And leaders, follow up with a post on the City or as a "Resource" in Planning Center with a list of prayer requests as a reminder to be praying for one another).

## HANDOUT — The True Lamb (John 1:6-8, 19-34)

The fact that the single command in our passage is to PAY ATTENTION reminds us that it is so easy to miss what God is doing. (from Sunday's sermon)

We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with him. He walks everywhere *incognito*. And the *incognito* is not always hard to penetrate. The real labor is to remember, to attend. In fact, to come awake. Still more, to remain awake. (C.S. Lewis)

We have filled every place among you — cities, islands, fortresses, towns, marketplaces, the very camp, tribes, companies, palace, senate, forum — we have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods. (Tertullian)

He must increase, but I must decrease. (John the Baptist)



Caravaggio, *Salome with the Head of John the Baptist* (1610)

Bartolomé González y Serrano, *St John the Baptist* (1621)

Behold, the Lamb of God  
Who takes away our sin  
Behold the Lamb of God  
The life and light of men  
Behold the Lamb of God  
Who died and rose again  
Behold the Lamb of God who comes  
To take away our sin  
(Andrew Peterson)

