

# Going Deeper

How many of you know the nursery rhyme, "Mary Had a Little Lamb?"

Do you remember the words?

*"Mary had a little lamb, little lamb. Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow. And everywhere that Mary went, Mary went, Mary went... Everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go."*

This little song reminds me of Jesus. That lamb loved Mary so much it followed her everywhere. This song reminds me that we love God, because God first loved us. Just like Mary's lamb, God will do whatever he has to do, to be with us.

Easter shows us just how far God was willing to go.

Read John 1: 36-42.

John the Baptist (he was Jesus' cousin) called Jesus the "Lamb of God."

And then, two of the first disciples, Andrew and Simon Peter, start to follow Jesus.

It's sort of funny when you think about it. Usually, a lamb will follow other sheep or the shepherd. But here we have two men following the Lamb.

Jesus, of course, is a grown man, not really a small sheep, but there are some important reasons why John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God."

Here is one reason why Jesus is called the "Lamb of God."

In Old Testament times, before Jesus was born, people would take a lamb and they would make a sacrifice with the lamb to show God how sorry they were for their sins.

A sacrifice is something that the people of God used to do in the Old Testament. People have always felt bad about sin, and sin separates us from God.

So to deal with that problem God had a plan- sacrifices. Long ago, he commanded his people to make sacrifices for their sin.

A person who wanted to be forgiven for their sins would take a lamb to the priest. The priest would lay his hand on the lamb and say something like this,

"We have sinned, but God has allowed this lamb to die in my place so that I can be forgiven of my sins."

Then the lamb was taken to an altar, and the lamb, with the sins laid upon it, was killed.

It is a sad thing to watch a lamb be killed. But when the people sacrificed a lamb, they were reminded that sin is a very sad thing as well. They knew that God was sparing their own lives when the lamb was killed in their place. They knew that this lamb was specially chosen as the most perfect lamb from the flock for the sacrifice. An innocent lamb has done nothing wrong and has not sinned. Still, this lamb was dying in the place of the people who had sinned.

When John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God, the people around him knew what John meant. Jesus was perfect, without sin. He was sent from God as an innocent sacrifice. And after Jesus was put to death on the cross, they would understand that Jesus died in our place. We were the sinners, not Jesus; but Jesus took our punishment himself because of love.

Remember in the Old Testament, priests offered a perfect lamb as a sin offering? That offering wiped away the people's sin for a year, but the next year and the next the offering had to be repeated. Jesus was the *last sacrifice* that ever had to be made, because He was the sacrifice sent by God Himself; the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

And that's why John called Jesus, the "Lamb of God."

*I'd love to hear you explain this to me on a video. Post it on the*

*CBC Families page!*