

The Lamb of God



CC_Art.com

John 13:1

A. Metaphors

Approx. Time: 40 min.	Materials: - Purpose SLIDE - Picture Card & Label Set for each pair - John 1 Text for each learner
---------------------------------	--








1. Introduce a discussion with the fact that John, the writer of the Gospel of John, had a specific purpose in writing his gospel.

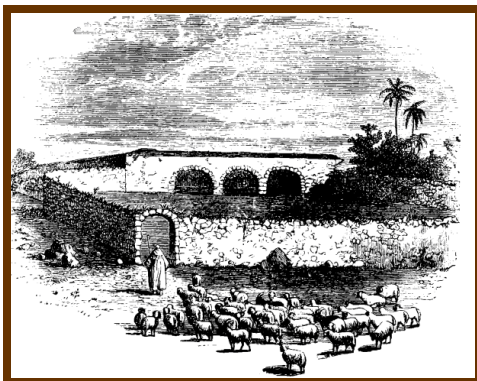
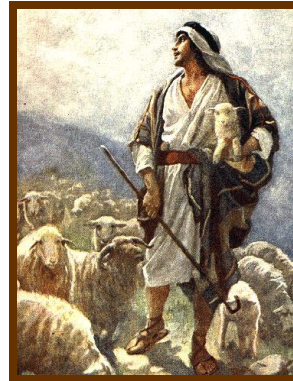
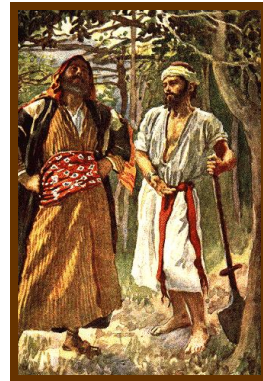
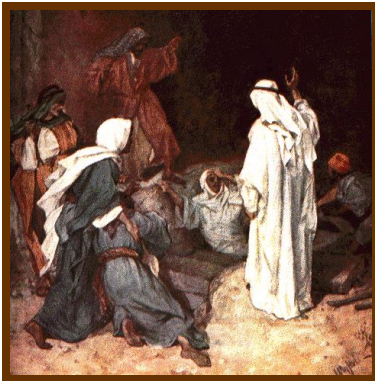
But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

2. John uses word pictures or metaphors throughout the book for us to understand Jesus.
 - Elicit from the learners what a metaphor is.

Note to Instructor: A *metaphor* is a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance. Something is used, or regarded as being used, to represent something else; an emblem or symbol.

3. Explain that John records seven (7) metaphors that Jesus applied to himself, by saying ‘I am...’
- In order to illustrate this point further hand out a set of **Picture Cards** and **Labels** to pairs of learners for them to match appropriately.
 - Elicit from each pair about one of the pictures and what it teaches them about Jesus Christ.

<i>Answer Key</i>			
	The Bread of Life <i>John 6:2-3,5-15,28-29, 33-35</i>		The Light of the World <i>John 9:1-38</i>
	The Resurrection and the Life <i>John 11:17-46,53</i>		The True Vine <i>John 15:1-8</i>
	The Way, the Truth, the Life <i>John 14:1-9</i>		The Good Shepherd <i>John 10:11-19</i>
	The Gate <i>John 10:1-10</i>		



Picture Cards

<p>The Bread of Life John 6:2-3,5-15,28-29, 33-35</p>	<p>The Light of the World John 9:1-38</p>
<p>The Resurrection and the Life John 11:17-46,53</p>	<p>The True Vine John 15:1-8</p>
<p>The Way, the Truth, the Life John 14:1-9</p>	<p>The Good Shepherd John 10:11-19</p>
<p>The Gate John 10:1-10</p>	

Labels

4. However, point out that John has one other major metaphor for Jesus that is foundational to his gospel: The Lamb of God.

- Hand out the **John 1 Text**. Read it aloud.
- Ask the learners why they think John the Baptist told his listeners that this Word (Jesus) that gives life & light is the Lamb of God?
- After the learners have presented some of their ideas, explain that the Passover Lamb is a key concept.

John 1 Text

In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God. He was in the beginning with God. He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make. Life itself was in him and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness and the darkness never extinguishes it.

God sent John the Baptist to tell everyone about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony . . .



So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. . .

John pointed him out to the people. . .

As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and then declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!"

John 1 Text

B. The Passover Celebration

Approx. Time: 20 min.	Materials: - Picture SLIDE - Sign Text for each learner - Question & Answer Cards for each pair of learners
---------------------------------	--

1. Present to the learners that we are going to look more closely at the events as recorded in John's gospel.
2. Display the **Picture SLIDE**. Point out that his death actually happened at the time of the Passover celebration: **John 13:1** ***Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He now showed the disciples the full extent of his love.***
3. Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. This is often referred to as the Last Supper. Display the title picture. Explain that Jesus, John the Baptist, Jesus' disciples and the people were primarily Jews.
 - The Jewish people are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - The history of these people is the Old Testament and all of these listeners would know that history.
 - The Israelites had come to Egypt at the invitation of Joseph and the existing Pharaoh, but as the years went by, subsequent Pharaohs began to resent the Israelites and eventually enslaved them.
 - At first, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites leave.
 - As a result, God brought a number of disasters on the Egyptian nation.
 - The original Passover was the deliverance of the Israelites from the last disaster that came on the Egyptians: **the death of the firstborn son.**
 - God through Moses freed the Hebrew people from slavery and took them out of Egypt.
 - The primary event in their lives is this deliverance of the Jews from slavery, oppression and death in Egypt.
 - There is an annual remembrance of that salvation called the Passover. (It is still celebrated today by Jews.)
 - Paul, another writer in the New Testament, also writes in 1 Corinthians 5: *Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*



Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He now showed the disciples the full extent of his love.

Picture SLIDE

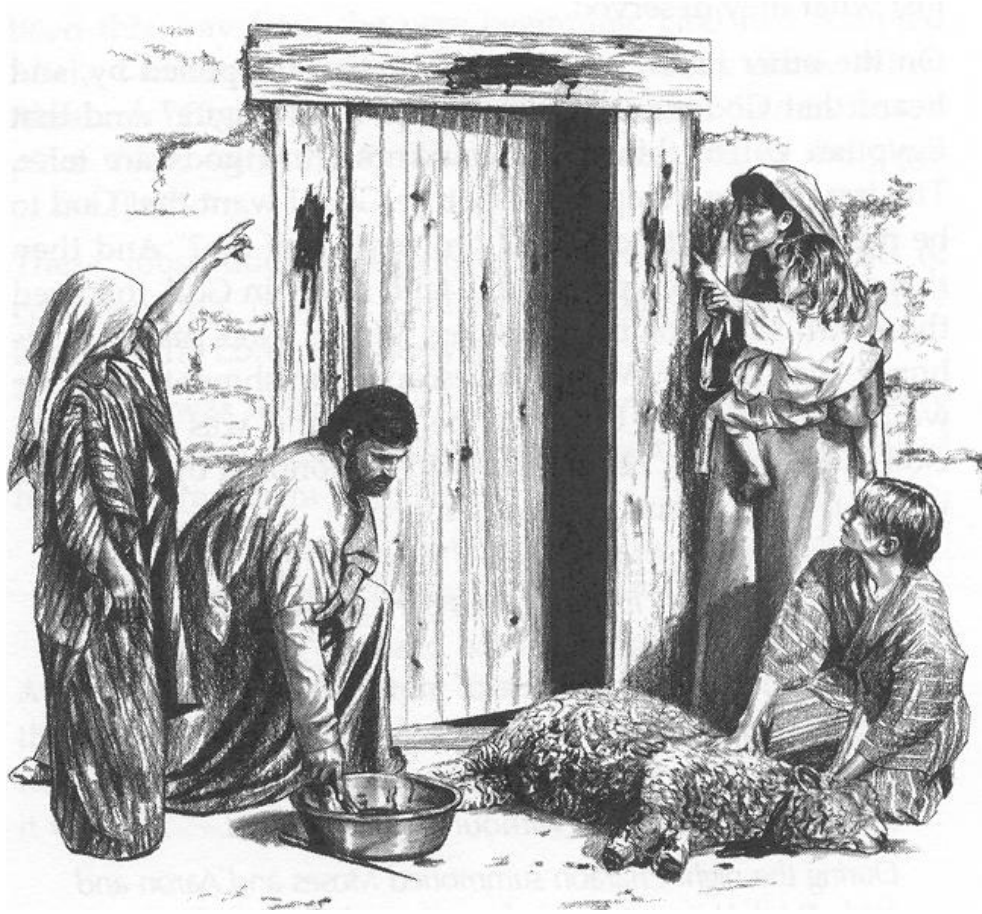
C. The Blood

<p>Approx. Time: 30 min.</p>	<p>Materials: - Sign Text for each learner - Question & Answer Cards for each pair of learners</p>
---	---

1. Explain that we will read the passage in Exodus 12:21-23 about the death of the Passover Lamb.
2. Hand out the **Sign Text** to each learner. Read it together.
3. Hand out the **Questions & Answer Cards** to each pair of learners. Have them match the cards. Discuss the matches as a whole class.

<i>Answer Key:</i>	
Question	Answer
<p>1. What is the main task that the Israelites had to do in preparation for the original Passover?</p>	<p>They had to kill a lamb and smear some of its blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the house in which they ate the lamb.</p>
<p>2. What did God do on that first night?</p>	<p>God passed through Egypt that night and struck down every firstborn – both human beings and animals - bringing judgment on the Egyptians.</p>
<p>3. How did the obedience of the Israelites affect God’s actions that night?</p>	<p>When God saw blood on the Israelite houses, he passed over them. As a result, the firstborn Hebrews were not killed when he struck Egypt.</p>

Exodus 12:21-23



Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, “Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning. For the Lord will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the Lord will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.”

Sign Text

1.

What is the main task that the Israelites had to do in preparation for the original Passover?

They had to kill a lamb and smear some of its blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the house in which they ate the lamb.

2.

What did God do on that first night?

God passed through Egypt that night and struck down every firstborn – both human beings and animals - bringing judgment on the Egyptians.

3.

How did the obedience of the Israelites affect God's actions that night?

When God saw blood on the Israelite houses, he passed over them. As a result, the firstborn Hebrews were not killed when he struck Egypt.

Question & Answer Cards

D. Jesus: the Lamb of God

Approx. Time: 30 min.	Materials: - Questions SLIDE
---------------------------------	--

1. Lead a discussion on the following two questions:

a) What is the purpose of the death of the Passover Lamb?

The lamb was to be sacrificed to provide blood to be used as a sign of the people's faith in God to save them from death.

b) Why do you think the Israelites were to put the blood on the door frame?

The actual blood placed on the doorposts was a physical action to show their obedience to God- they sacrificed a lamb as he commanded. When God saw the sign of their obedience (evidence of a sacrifice – a substitute death) the angel of death passed over that household so they were saved.

2. Elicit from the class any ideas as to the significance of Jesus' celebrating the Passover with his disciples at this time in light of the discussion of him as the Lamb of God.

a) What is the purpose of the death of the Passover Lamb?

b) Why do you think the Israelites were to put the blood on the door frame?

Questions SLIDE