Growth Group Lesson Plan

John 1:19–34 “Behold the Lamb of God”

Background & Context

John's gospel is his theological argument that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30–31). This passage has two parts:

- vv. 19–28: Who is John NOT? (not the Christ, not Elijah, not the Prophet)
- vv. 29–34: Who is Jesus? (the Lamb of God and Son of God)

Key Old Testament background:

- Isaiah 9 & Daniel 7: the promised Messiah/Christ
- Malachi 4: the return of Elijah before the Day of the Lord
- Deuteronomy 18: a prophet like Moses
- Isaiah 40: the voice crying in the wilderness
- Isaiah 11: the Spirit resting on the Messiah

Discussion Questions

1. Has someone ever introduced you in a way that felt totally 'off'? How does John the Baptist’s self-description (‘just a voice’) strike you by comparison?

Read John 1:19-28

2. John says he is not worthy to untie Jesus’ sandal, an act even slaves found degrading. What does that level of humility say about how John understood Jesus? Where is that kind of humility hardest for you?

Read John 1:29-34

3. The crowd expected a conquering king. John introduces Jesus as ‘the Lamb of God.’ How does the image of a lamb, a sacrifice, reframe what kind of victory God was bringing?
4. John’s identification of Jesus was grounded in scripture (Isaiah 11) and direct revelation (v. 33). What is the foundation of your own confidence that Jesus is who he claimed to be?
5. John recognized Jesus immediately while others missed him. What distractions or habits make it hard for you to recognize what Jesus is doing in your daily life?
6. John’s entire purpose was to behold Jesus and bear witness to him; the story was never about John. Where are you most tempted to make the story about yourself? What would it look like this week to redirect that toward Jesus?
7. “Behold” requires attention and time. What is one specific way you could spend more intentional time with Jesus in Scripture, prayer, or silence this week?

Key Takeaways

- Behold: Spend time with Jesus in the Word, prayer, and creation. We are changed by what we consistently behold. The clearer our view of him, the more our lives are shaped by him.
- Bear Witness: The story is not about us; it’s about him. Like John the Baptist, our calling is to point others to Jesus; what he has done, what he is doing, and what he has promised to do.

Prayer Focus

- Praise: Thank God that Jesus came as the Lamb, not to condemn, but to take away the sin of the world.
- Confession: Confess the ways we make the story about ourselves rather than about Jesus.
- Mission: Think of one person you want to bear witness to this week. Pray for them by name and for opportunities to intentionally love and point them to Jesus.

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” — John 1:29