life DISCOVERY groups

Week beginning:
Monday 23rd November 2026

Worship series:
Unboxing Christmas
#1 Lamb of God



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;
2 Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.
3 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
4 But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
5 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
6 I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
7 Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
8 He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Pray: Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent season, open our hearts to discover more of who you are through Jesus. Remind us of our need for your grace and the extraordinary love you have shown in sending the Lamb of God to take away our sin. Keep our hearts centred on Jesus as we prepare to celebrate his coming. Amen.

VERSE for the week

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Matthew 5John 1:29

SHARE life together

1. **What are your highs and lows since you last met?**
2. **What is one of the most memorable Christmas presents you have ever received? Was it something you were expecting or a complete surprise?**
3. **As we approach Christmas this y**

There's something exciting about a wrapped Christmas present. Before we open it, we often have an idea of what we hope to find inside.

REMEMBER this week

Jesus has to be the Lamb of God to deal with the sins of a broken world, just as he deals with yours.

Sometimes the shape or size of the package even convinces us we know exactly what we're getting. But occasionally, when we finally tear away the wrapping, what we discover is completely different from what we expected!

As we begin our Advent series, *Unboxing Christmas*, we're going to explore some of the names and titles Scripture gives to Jesus. Each one reveals something about who Jesus is and, through him, the character of the God who comes to us at Christmas.

This week, we begin with a particularly unexpected revelation. When Isaiah cries out for God to tear open the heavens and come down, he imagines a dramatic display of divine power. Yet when God comes among us in Jesus, John the Baptist points to him and declares, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" What does this unexpected revelation tell us about the God who comes to save us?

Read **Isaiah 64:1-5** and **John 1:29-34** HERE or in your own Bible.

4. **What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about them for you?**
5. **In Isaiah 64:1–3, the prophet cries out for God to come down and intervene. What does the imagery he uses tell us about the kind of intervention he is hoping for?**
6. **In verses 4–5, Isaiah acknowledges both God's faithfulness and Israel's sin. What does this reveal about the predicament God's people find themselves in?**
7. **When John sees Jesus, he declares, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). How does this announcement answer the desperate question Isaiah asks at the end of verse 5?**
8. **John also testifies that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and remained on him (John 1:32–34). What does this reveal about who Jesus is and the significance of his coming?**

GROW deeper

Isaiah's desperate cry for God to intervene is one we can probably all relate to. We look at the brokenness of our world, and sometimes our own lives, and long for God to come and put things right. But Isaiah also reminds us that we are not simply victims of a broken world; through our own sin, we contribute to its brokenness. We need God to intervene, but what would happen if he came simply to judge everything that is wrong? This is what makes John's announcement so extraordinary. God has come, but not in the way we might expect. Instead, he comes as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. As we explore what this means, we discover something profound about the character of the God who comes to save us.

9. **Isaiah cries out for God to intervene with a dramatic display of power, yet God comes to us in Jesus as the Lamb of God. How does this challenge our expectations of who God is and how he works in our world?**
10. **The image of a sacrificial lamb reminds us that sin has consequences and that reconciliation with God comes at a cost. What does God's willingness to provide the Lamb himself reveal about his character?**
11. **John declares that Jesus takes away the sin of the *world*, not just the sins of Israel or a particular group of people. What does this tell us about the extent of God's love and his desire for humanity?**
12. **Sometimes we imagine that Jesus came to persuade an angry God to forgive us. But Scripture tells us that God loved the world and therefore sent his Son (John 3:16). How does understanding Jesus as the expression of God's love, rather than the cause of it, shape the way we see and relate to God?**

LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:

Recognising Jesus as the Lamb of God changes more than just our understanding of who God is; it also changes how we live in relationship with him and with others. The God who has every right to judge our sin has instead come to us in love, offering forgiveness and reconciliation through Jesus. Having received such extraordinary grace, we are now called to reflect that same grace in our relationships. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, how might knowing the Lamb of God reshape the way we respond to the brokenness around us, the people we struggle to love, and the opportunities we have to share God's mercy with others?

13. **When we see suffering, injustice or brokenness in the world, we can find ourselves crying out for God to intervene, just as Isaiah did. How might knowing Jesus as the Lamb of God change the way we pray and respond to these situations?**
14. **God has shown us extraordinary grace by offering forgiveness and reconciliation through Jesus. Are there relationships in your life where you find it difficult to extend that same grace? How might God's mercy towards you help reshape your response?**
15. **As we approach Christmas, what practical opportunities might you have to reflect the love, forgiveness and mercy of the Lamb of God to the people around you?**

Plan your weekly devotions or download the Church Central app for the daily LifeWay Devotions

PRAY intentionally

You might like to pray together the following prayer, or spend time sharing together your prayer needs and praying for one another.

Heavenly Father, thank you for hearing our cries and coming into our broken world through Jesus, the Lamb of God. Thank you for your extraordinary love and mercy, and for the forgiveness and reconciliation you have given us through him. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, help us to recognise your presence and work in our lives. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might reflect your grace in our relationships, extend forgiveness where there is hurt, and share your love with those around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

[Name], May the gift of Jesus, the Lamb of God fill your heart this Christmas. Amen.