

Jesus fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies. He matched the fingerprint God had provided so that people could know when the Savior had arrived.

Jesus was real. He was really born to a real mother in a real place. He really grew up and lived a real life. Jesus isn't a myth or a fairytale. Jesus was a real person.



And Jesus really died—not as a very old person, dying a natural death. One of the most important ways we can think of and understand Jesus is as "the Lamb of God."

Hundreds of years before Jesus lived among us, the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt. The LORD had sent nine terrible plagues against stubborn Pharaoh and the Egyptians, but when Pharaoh decided to stay stubborn, God promised the most terrible plague of all—the death of the firstborn—and there was just one way to be safe.

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select <u>lambs</u> for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the <u>Passover</u> lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the <u>blood</u> on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you." (Exo 12:21-23)

As long as blood was on the lintel and doorposts of the house, the LORD would "pass over" and all inside would be safe.

Hundreds of years later, notice what the prophet Isaiah said—not about a lamb, but about a person.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he opened not his mouth;

<u>like</u> a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he opened not his mouth. (Isa 53:7)

Who is this person that would be "like a lamb"? Jesus! In fact, that's how he was introduced from the beginning of his ministry—"Behold, the Lamb of <u>God</u>, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Jesus Christ is "<u>our</u> Passover lamb" (1 Cor 5:7). Jesus Christ "has been sacrificed." How? On a cross. Why? For sins. Not for his own sins. For *our* sins. Let's talk about it…



For Class & Family Discussion:

for us?

Can you remember all ten plagues that were sent by God to stubborn Pharaoh and the Egyptians in Exodus 7-12? According to Hebrews 11:28, Moses and the children of Israel had the blood of lambs and doorposts to keep them safe, but they also had something else. What was it and what does that mean? Let's go back and read Isaiah 53:4-7 together. What does God through the prophet Isaiah want us to see and understand about the great Servant who would eventually come to save us? In John 1:29, we heard the words of John the Baptist—"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" In order for any lamb in the Old Testament to "take away" sin, what had to happen to it? What is John telling us about Jesus from the very beginning of Jesus' ministry? And who was going to provide this Lamb? Let's open our Bibles back to Acts 8 and read a really important story together from 8:26-39. - In 8:32-33, what passage from the Old Testament is the eunuch reading? - Acts 8:35 tells us that Philip told the eunuch "the good news about Jesus." What sort of things do you think he shared? Why was Jesus willing to "lay down" his life for the sins of other people, especially when he had done nothing wrong? 1 Peter 1:18-19 is another great Bible passage to help us understand Jesus as the Lamb of God. If you had all of the gold and silver in all the world, what would you do with it? But according to that passage, would couldn't you buy with it? What does that tell us about Jesus and his sacrifice