



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

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LOOK BACK:

Point: *Jesus is the beginning and the end and the in-between.*

- Share with the group where you fit.

Question: Do you have a special or even comical story from a school or church Christmas performance that you can share? Maybe one with a lamb involved?

LOOK UP: Watch this week's video on the 4G webpage.

Recap: Every culture throughout time has longed for something or someone bigger than themselves. This is because mankind is made in God's image, designed for relationship with Him. People seem to innately know that forgiveness and access to that "someone bigger" requires a sacrifice by means of an exchange – a payment for our sin without which there can be no real forgiveness. All religions are based on this exchange for access. The exception is Christianity. Though in the Old Testament God did require sacrifices for temporary atonement (or, at-one-ment with God), Jesus has come to make peace between God and man, permanently fulfilling the need for sacrifice— paying for our sins with His own life, as the perfect Lamb of God.

LOOK IN: Discussion

Read John 1:29-31.

- How does verse 29 speak about Jesus' purpose?
- How does verse 30 speak about Jesus' identity?
- How does verse 31 speak about process?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Jesus is the Lamb who makes peace between God and man. It's not what you did to make peace with God. It's what He did to make peace with you.*

Jesus is God's Gift – Merry Christmas.

Here's an easy way to share the gift of Jesus in four steps:

Step One: Get Connected

- Ask if and how they celebrate Christmas, and then ask why they celebrate in that way. Do they go to church? Which church?

Step Two: Get to God

- Ask: "Most religions, or denominations, are a lot alike, aren't they? We are all trying to please God, so we can get to heaven. We are all trying to pay off our sin debt. But we all sin, don't we? Even good people sin. Sinning is easy, but paying off our sin debt to God is much more difficult, isn't it?"

Step Three: Get to Lostness

- Ask: "In your religion, or denomination, how do you please God? How do you pay off your sin debt?" Listen attentively and encourage them in their desire to please God. Don't be afraid to ask questions along the way. Be a good listener.
- Wrap up by asking them three questions:
 1. "Are your sins paid off yet?"
 2. "When do you think your sins will be paid off?"
 3. "On Judgment Day, do you know for certain that your sin debt will be paid?"

Step Four: Get to the Gospel

- Say: "What I believe is different; I know that my sins are forgiven. It's not because I am a good person, although I do try. I know my sins are forgiven because God Himself has made a way for our sins to be forgiven. Can I show you?"
- Present the gospel using a method you are familiar with such as the 3-Circles or 1-Verse on our GO2 webpage (cbcfamily.net/go2) or share this 4G series with them.

Ask them if they see the difference. *It's not what you can do to make peace with God. It's what He did to make peace with you.*