

IT WAS HOT AT PINES BY THE LAKE CAMP.

The sounds of kids playing on the beach drifted up the hill to where Baron sat. *It doesn't seem fair that they can have all the fun while I have to sit here scrubbing off some old wall*, Baron thought.

Baron hadn't wanted to go to camp. His mother thought it would be a good idea for Baron to go to church camp with his cousin and get away from the gang of boys he had started to hang around with. *I don't know what the big deal is anyway*. Baron continued his argument in his mind. *It doesn't hurt anyone that we go around painting graffiti on walls. It's not like we're hurting someone by stealing or anything. At least the guys don't look down on me or tease me anymore*.

The counselor in Baron's cabin had tried to help Baron feel included. But Baron just ignored what they were doing. It didn't seem as if they had much in common anyway. So last night, when the rest of the cabin was playing flag football, Baron had snuck away and spray-painted graffiti on the side of the building that housed the camp store. His own cousin had ratted him out. Now he had to sit and scrub down the wall and repaint it while the other kids were playing by the lake.

As he scrubbed, Baron kept talking to himself. *It is so hot here. I'm really sick of scrubbing this wall. The camp director guy told me that the words on the building didn't show Jesus to others and he was so disappointed in me. He thinks he's disappointed? He should see how guilty I feel! My mom's disappointed in me . . . worse yet, she doesn't trust me anymore. My friends at school don't talk to me . . . it's as if they're scared of me. The guys I hang around with only accept me 'cause I can draw. I wish I could scrub away all the mistakes I've made the past couple of months as easily as I can get rid of the stuff on this wall*.

Baron started painting over all the graffiti. *I wonder if what they're saying at this camp is true. I wonder if Jesus can forgive my sins. They were talking about Him taking them all away. That's kinda like this paint covering up those words I put on—by the time I'm done painting, no one will know they were there. Maybe I should spend some time tonight talking to that counselor who's always nice to me. . . .*

KEY VERSE

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Ephesians 1:7

THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

Long ago, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to free His people. When Pharaoh refused, God sent nine terrible plagues. The tenth plague was death of the firstborn of all people and cattle. But God told the Israelites how to save themselves from the plague of death He would send upon the Egyptians.

Read Exodus 12:3, 5. What details did God say about the animals?



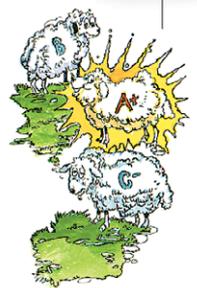
Exodus 12:21-24, 26-27

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at

once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb.¹ Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe.

None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

"Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. . . . And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.' "



¹God required animals without defect be used in sacrifices. The animal's blood, which represented life, was needed for forgiveness.



For the first time, I'm glad I'm not perfect!





Jesus was the perfect lamb for the sins of the world. He was sacrificed so that people can have eternal life. When people accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they too will be passed over when eternal death comes.

List three ways that the sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, and the sacrifice of the Passover lamb are alike.

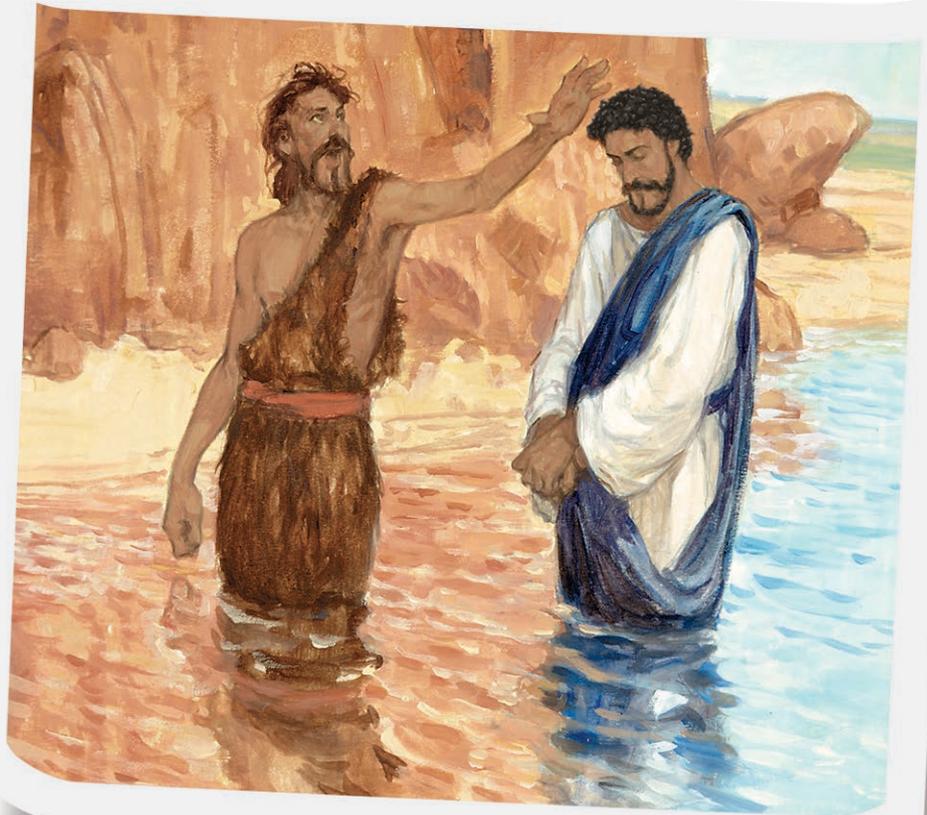


²John the Baptist was Jesus' relative.

How did God use the blood from the Passover lamb to save the Israelites from the last plague?

Read Exodus 29:15-18. What did the priests do to prepare the sacrifices?

Read John 1:29. Why did John the Baptist² call Jesus the "Lamb of God"?



CHECK-OUT TIME



To become a Christian, you have to decide what you believe about Jesus' sacrifice for your sins. This will be the most important decision you will ever make in life. Mark the box in the column that best describes what you believe right now about each statement. Then look up the Scriptures after each statement. Circle the statements that agree with the Scriptures.

I BELIEVE THIS.

I NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

1	I'm not a bad person. So I don't need God's forgiveness. (Rom. 3:23)				
2	I have to be perfect before I can be a Christian. (Rom. 5:8)				
3	I need to do good things in order for God to forgive me. (Eph. 2:8-9)				
4	Trusting in Jesus is the only way to God. (John 14:6-7)				
5	If I sin too many times, God won't forgive me anymore. (Ps. 103:12; 1 John 1:9)				
6	When I trust Jesus' sacrifice for my sins, God makes me a new person inside, even if I've done awful things. (2 Cor. 5:17)				

- How did the Bible verses help you understand what Jesus did for you?
- Are there any statements you believe now that you didn't believe before? Why?

