

“TAKE 10 - Worship While Away” (Sunday, January 18, 2026)

Share:

To those who want to follow him, Jesus asks, “What are you seeking?”

Teacher, we do not seek worldly power, but a better way to live.

“What are you seeking?”

Teacher, we do not seek worldly wealth, nor the prizes of paradise, but simply to be with you.

“What are you seeking?”

Teacher, we do not seek worldly praise or fame, only that you call us by name.

Let us worship God as seekers.

Read these words from a hymn:

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Wild and lone the prophet's voice, echoes through the desert still,

Calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:

“Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.

Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control.

“Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.

Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.

Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:

Then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store.”

With such preaching stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold, words of hope to all who hear.

So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John, to behold the Lamb of God.

Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 49:1-7, The Message

¹⁻³ Listen, far-flung islands, pay attention, faraway people: God put me to work from the day I was born. The moment I entered the world he named me. He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate. He kept his hand on me to protect me. He made me his straight arrow and hid me in his quiver. He said to me, “You’re my dear servant, Israel, through whom I’ll shine.”

⁴ But I said, “I’ve worked for nothing. I’ve nothing to show for a life of hard work.

Nevertheless, I’ll let God have the last word. I’ll let him pronounce his verdict.”

⁵⁻⁶ “And now,” God says, this God who took me in hand from the moment of birth to be his servant, to bring Jacob back home to him, to set a reunion for Israel—what an honor for me in God’s eyes! That God should be my strength! He says, “But that’s not a big enough job for my servant—just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I’m setting you up as a light for the *nations* so that my salvation becomes *global!*”

⁷ God, Redeemer of Israel, The Holy of Israel, says to the despised one, kicked around by the nations, slave labor to the ruling class: “Kings will see, get to their feet—the princes, too—and then fall on their faces in homage because of God, who has faithfully kept his word, the Holy of Israel, who has chosen you.”

John 1:29-42, *The Message*

The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I’ve been talking about, ‘the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.’ I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God.”

³²⁻³⁴ John clinched his witness with this: “I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, ‘The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ That’s exactly what I saw happen, and I’m telling you, there’s no question about it: *This is the Son of God.*”

³⁵⁻³⁶ The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb.”

³⁷⁻³⁸ The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, “What are you after?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹ He replied, “Come along and see for yourself.”

They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

⁴⁰⁻⁴² Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard John’s witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, “We’ve found the Messiah” (that is, “Christ”). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, “You’re John’s son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas” (or Peter, which means “Rock”).

Talk Together:

- ☞ What is the significance of “the Lamb of God?”
- ☞ How did John the Baptist know Jesus?
- ☞ What did John the Baptist testify about Jesus?
- ☞ What are Jesus’ central questions? What do those questions reveal?
- ☞ What does “come and see” mean?
- ☞ Who are the first disciples? How are they invited to follow Jesus?
- ☞ What does this passage teach us about following Jesus?

Pray together:

Lamb of God, you take on the sins and suffering of the world. Call us into partnership with you, to love and serve your people by your side. Call us to witness to your goodness and to join your ongoing work of liberation. Call to us by name, and we will delight in your ways. Call to us by name, and we will follow you forever. Amen.