



BEHOLD

Week 1

BREAKING THE ICE

What's your favorite Christmas tradition?

How have you celebrated Advent in the past?

Do you have any new Advent traditions this year?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we started our Advent series called "Behold". Advent is the season of waiting for the celebration of Christ's birth. The good news is we already have the presence of Christ with us.

1. How good are you at waiting?

Behold means to pay close attention. When we come across behold in scripture it means we need to dig into what is being said. During the Christmas season, we tend to rush around and not behold what God wants us to show us. We have to intentionally be still and behold Christ this season.

Read John 1:29

John had been waiting his whole life to tell about Jesus. Our calling as followers of Jesus is to tell others about Him and His sacrifice for us. Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice but there were other sacrifices in the Old Testament that showed God's unending love for us. The very first sacrifice in history is from God to cover the sins of Adam and Eve.

2. Knowing God sacrificed from the very beginning shows how He cares for us and loves us. How have you seen God's sacrificial love for you in your life?

Another important sacrifice was from the Passover in the Old Testament. God asked the Jewish people to sacrifice a lamb and place the blood on the doorpost of their homes. After they did this, God saved them from the Egyptians. This sacrifice is still celebrated every year during Passover.

You may be asking "What do these sacrifices have to do with Christmas?"

Read Luke 2:10b-14

Jesus is the final sacrifice for us. When we behold the Lamb of God (Jesus) we see the free gift of Jesus's sacrifice and eternal life.

Beholding the Lamb changes how we see God. God always wants things to be right with us. God made the first move toward us when He gave us Jesus. (Romans 5:8) On our worst day, God is still moving toward us.

3. How do you view God? How do you see Him moving toward you in your life?

When we behold the Lamb it changes the way we see ourselves. In Christ, we become like Him. When God looks at us, God sees Jesus. How we see ourselves is a reflection of God.

4. What can you do to be more like Jesus and be a reflection of Him?

Beholding the Lamb changes the way we see others. Every person you see is someone Jesus died for. No one is better than another. Jesus is good news for all people. Because He was sacrificed for all people, we have the opportunity to tell others about Him.

5. How can you view others as someone Jesus died for? Who can you tell about Jesus?

When we behold the Lamb it changes the way we see eternity. We no longer have to be scared of what is to come but we can be confident knowing we get to spend eternity with Jesus because of His sacrifice for us.

6. Where can you be thankful for Christ's sacrifice in your life this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the sacrifices you make for us. Thank you for the gift of Jesus and how we can celebrate His birth and the ultimate sacrifice of His death for us. Holy Spirit, will you help us slow down and behold the Lamb of God in this season? Help us see God, ourselves, others and eternity by beholding you over these next few weeks. Give us a new glimpse of Jesus's birth and sacrifice. Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ Join us in beholding the lamb through our BEHOLD Advent Devotional. You can jump in anytime this month for free on the Cross Point App or by going to:
<https://crosspoint.tv/behold/>

+ Make plans to invite a friend and join us for Christmas at Cross Point on December 23 and 24 this year. You can find all the details by going to:
<https://crosspoint.tv/christmas/>

+ Take some time this week to meditate on the sacrifices God made for us. Think about what it looks like for you to behold the Lamb by how you view God, others, yourself and eternity. What changes do you need to make in order to behold the Lamb this week?